

This course is scheduled for Fall 2005 (Aug. 29 – Nov. 28, 2005)
Please check back for syllabus updates.

PLSC 486L State Strategy in a Modern Era

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Room: SW328
Meets: Tues. 4.25 – 7.25PM
Office Hrs: Tues. 2-4 PM & by appt.

1. Seminar Description:

This seminar is aimed at evaluating how states pursue national goals and attain security in the complex international environment. As states and external environments vary across time so too will the strategies that states pursue. The goals of this course are specifically related to understanding the strategies that states pursue to ensure their security, but more broadly we will examine the varieties of cooperative endeavors in which states engage. We will start by exploring how states produce security, how we might measure security, and why the allocation of resources within states shapes foreign policy behavior. Then we will examine why states cooperate and how interests and preferences are integrated into cooperation. Further, we will explore how the differential capacities of states and the domestic constraints they face shape their foreign policy behavior. Subsequently, our attention will focus on why unobservable strategic factors are consequential and why flexibility in institutions encourages cooperation. Finally, we will link security strategies to economic strategies and discuss the broader implications.

2. Reading Materials: *All books below are **required** for the course. They are available at the University Bookstore.*

1. Keohane, Robert. 1989. *After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy*. Princeton UP.
2. Lake, David and Robert Powell. 1999. *Strategic Choice and International Relations*. Princeton UP.
3. Martin, Lisa. 2000. *Democratic Commitments: Legislatures and International Cooperation*. Princeton UP.
4. Milner, Helen. 1997. *Interests, Institutions and Information: Domestic Politics and International Relations*. Princeton UP.
5. OPTIONAL Book –Baldwin, David A. 1985. *Economic Statecraft*. Princeton UP. (also in Reserve Room)

Additionally, a number of articles and book chapters will be available in the Reserve Room (RR) and online at the course's blackboard website (BB). Further, you are required to remain up-to-date on the current events by reading either a major news magazine (e.g. *Newsweek*, *Time*, *US News & World Report*, *The Economist*) or a major newspaper (e.g. *New York Times*, *Washington Post*) regularly. Finally, the instructor reserves the right to add reading assignments from other sources as necessary.