This seminar will concentrate on a particular cause and focus of conflict between nations: territory. Conflicts over territory are believed to be among the most contentious and intractable in international relations. The basic goal will be to develop an understanding of when, why and how territory has played a role in the history of international conflict and how that role may have changed over time.

Specifically, states engage in active policies of expansion and conquest at some times while at others they adopt policies that support reducing the size of the state or maintaining the status quo. States also appear willing to fight harder for some pieces of territory than others. What accounts for these variations in policies towards territory over time and place? Is it the changing value of territory within a changing economic environment? Is it that fighting for territory acts as a means to a reputation for resolve? Or are leaders simply adhering to norms of acceptable policies towards territory as laid out by the international system? The literature covered in this class will address state attitudes towards territory through the lenses of economic, political, normative, and domestic variables. While we will look at some particular cases of territorial conflict, this is not a current events class. We will think about territory more generally through a broader theoretical lens.

Seminar objectives:
1. To develop historical knowledge of cases of territorial conflict.
2. To develop an understanding of how attitudes towards conflict have changed over time.
3. To explore primary theoretical perspectives that might explain these changing attitudes towards territory.
4. To provide students an opportunity to individually apply the theoretical explanations to actual cases of territorial conflict.
5. To assist students in analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of theoretical explanations by gauging how well they explain the real world.
6. To develop reading skills such that students read not only to master content but also to critique the approach and validity of the work.
The course will take the form of a seminar. Students will be expected to show up having read all required texts and to be ready to talk about them. This means that students should be prepared to not only summarize the articles, but also be ready to analyze the value of their content. The course will focus on establishing both historical knowledge of territorial conflict through readings and individual projects as well as understanding of analytical approaches to thinking about these patterns as presented by political scientists. There will be between 50 and 100 pages of reading per class. All readings will be on the course moodle. The syllabus may be altered as we go along. Please check the course website for the most recent syllabus and readings.

In addition to class participation, two short papers and one longer paper are required. The two short papers will summarize and critique the arguments made in the readings for a particular class. The longer paper will apply the analytical concepts covered in class to one historical case. Each student will be required to present their findings in a short presentation during the last week of class. There will also be one mid-term exam.

**Grade Breakdown**
Participation counts for 20% of your grade.
Mid-term exam counts for 20% of your grade.
Two short papers count 15% each.
The long paper counts as 30%.

**Participation**
A participation grade will be given based on the degree to which a student has demonstrated they have read the course material, the quality and insight of their comments, and the degree to which they respond to the comments of others. It isn’t all about quantity. A well thought-out comment or question which gets to the heart of the matter can count more than numerous off-hand and unconsidered remarks. If you are interested in how you are doing with this segment of the course, please come by office hours and talk to me about it.

**Mid-term Exam**
An exam will be given in week 6. It will have both short and long essay questions covering all material to that point.

**Short Papers and Discussion Leadership**
For each class session, two or three students will write 2-3 page summary papers on the readings for that class. These papers will summarize as succinctly as possible the arguments made in each paper we read for class, will summarize the evidence the author provides for their case, will relate the arguments to each other, and will lay out policy implications of the arguments or offer historical cases that appear
to support or refute the arguments. Each student will write two of these papers over the course of the quarter. Assignments for the weekly papers will be made on Thursday of Week One. Students writing short papers will also be responsible for discussion leadership for those classes. Students will write down a list of cogent and important questions about the material to generate class discussion and will serve as discussion moderator. Students may coordinate with others also writing papers for that section to generate questions and discussion format. Questions must be submitted to me at least 24 hours before class time.

**Long Paper**

Each student will write a long paper roughly 15-pages in length. The task will require both your research and your analytical skills. The objective of this paper is to apply the theoretical approaches we cover in class to a particular current or historical instance of international territorial dispute. The paper should address the following: which arguments should apply to your case? Which theoretical approach best explains your case? Which arguments appear to be refuted by your case? While a very brief historical review of your case is fine, you should assume your reader has sufficient knowledge of your case to go without it. Focus instead should be placed creating a theoretical story for the case.

By *Thursday of Week 4*, students should have selected their conflict. Bibliographies will be due on *Thursday of week 8*. The final draft will be due on Friday of the last week of classes. Short presentations of the case and the findings in the paper will also be presented that week.

**Class Conduct**

A few guidelines to ensure the seminar will run smoothly and will adhere to basic notions of respect for others.

- Arrive on time so as not to disturb others and to ensure you don’t miss the comments of others.
- No eating.
- No texting, surfing, making or answering calls, or any other form of electronic disturbance during class. This also means no open laptops during class if they aren’t being used to access to course materials.
- Turn off all cell phones or don’t even bring them.

**Attendance**

You are allowed two free absences throughout the quarter. This means you do not have to contact me to notify me of your absence and they will not count against
your grade. Use these days wisely - for illness or during exam time.

**Academic Integrity**
A fundamental tenet of all educational institutions is academic honesty; academic work depends upon respect for and acknowledgment of the work and ideas of others. Misrepresenting someone else’s work as one’s own is a serious offense in any academic setting and it will not be condoned.

**Course Outline**

I. Laying Out the Patterns: What Do We Seek to Explain?
*Questions:* What are the questions we should ask about territory and conflict? What historical patterns characterize territorial expansion, contraction, and conflict?

**Week One:**
*Tuesday, September 3rd: Course Introduction*
- Syllabus review
- Introductory thoughts
- How to read academic papers

*Thursday, September 5th: The Map In Historical Perspective*
*Questions:* How has territory been thought of throughout history? How has the frequency of different types of territorial change changed over time?
- Assignment of short papers
- In Class: Centennia Software
- Holsti, Kalevi J., *Taming the Sovereigns: Institutions Change in International Relations*, Ch. 3, pp. 73-92

**Week Two: Changes Over Time**
*Tuesday, September 10th: The Rise of the Nation State*
Thursday, September 12th: Definitions and Empirical Findings

Questions: What do we know about the relationship between conflict and territory? How has this relationship changed over time?


II. Causes of Expansion: Great Powers in Action

Questions: Why are the explanations for imperial expansion and great power conquest? What is the evidence for these explanations?

Week Three: Profit

Tuesday, September 17th: Offensive Realism and the Profit Motive

- Mearsheimer, John, The Tragedy of Great Power Politics, ch. 5, pp. 138-152
- Lenin, V.I. Imperialism, The Highest Stage of Capitalism Moscow (Progress Publishers, 1982), Chs. VI

Thursday, September 19th: Evidence for Profit-Motivated Arguments

Questions: What are the economic benefits and costs of holding territory? Is all territory valued equally? How well does desire for economic gains explain cases of expansion?


**Week Four: Security, Prestige and Domestic Politics**

*Tuesday, September 24th: Defensive Realism and the Security Motive*


*Thursday, September 26th: Domestic Politics and Prestige ¡¡Paper Topic Due Today!!*

• Snyder, Jack, *Myths of Empire: Domestic Politics and International Ambition*, Ch. 1 and 2, pp. 1 - 60


• Barnhart, Joslyn, “Prestige and Territorial Change: The Case of the Scramble for Africa,” unpublished manuscript.

**Week Five: Territorial Norms**

*Tuesday, October 1st*

*Questions: What role do international norms and international institutions play in governing state attitudes about territory?*


• Fazal, Tanisha, State Death: The Politics and Geography of Conquest, Occupation, and Annexation, (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2007); Ch. 7, through p. 198

Thursday, October 3rd: Historical Justifications


• Norman Hill, Claims to Territory in International Law and Relations, (Oxford University Press: 1945), pp. 81-91.


Week Six: State Size
Questions: Are there general structural forces that shape the optimal size of states? Does it make sense to think of an optimal state size?

Tuesday, October 8th:


• Lake, David and O’Mahony, Angela, “Territory and war: state size and patterns of interstate conflict” in Miles Kahler and Barbara Walter, eds., Territoriality and Conflict in an Era of Globalization, (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2006), Ch. 6.

Thursday, October 10th: In-class Mid-Term Exam

III. What Else Affects How Borders Are Drawn?

Week Seven: Nationalism
Tuesday, October 15th: Nationalism

• In Class : TED Talk on Territory and Conflict
• George C. White, Nationalism and Territory, Constructing Group Identity in Southeastern Europe. (New York: Rowman Littlefield), 2000; Chs. 1, 2, pp. 1 - 44.


• Anderson, Benedict, Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism, (London: Verso, 1998); Ch. 6, pp 83 - 111.

**Thursday, October 17th:** Other Sources of Identity


**Week Eight: Indivisibility and Borders as Institutions**

**Tuesday, October 29th:** Geography and Borders as Institutions


• Simmons, Beth, “Trade and Territorial Conflict: International Borders as Institutions,” Unpublished manuscript.

**Thursday, October 31st:** What Makes Territory Indivisible?

¡Paper bibliography due Thursday!!


**Week Nine: Case Studies of Borders**

*Questions*: How do these theories play out in the following important cases?

**Tuesday, November 5th**: The Treaty of Versailles and the Post World War I World

• Maps from Paris 1919


**Thursday, November 7th**: Decolonization and French Cerdanya


• history of African boundaries - compare colony map with post map

• Peter Sahlins, Boundaries: The Making of France and Spain in the Pyrenees. (Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press), Ch. 7, pp. 238 - 266. SKIM.

**IV. Enduring Disputes and their Resolution**

**Week Ten:**

**Tuesday, November 12th**: Enduring Territorial Disputes


**Thursday, November 14th**


**Week Eleven: Domestic Politics and Contraction**

**Tuesday, November 19th**: Domestic Responses to Secessionist Movements


*Thursday, November 21st:* Regime Type and Territorial Disputes


• Gibler, Douglas and Tir, Jaroslav, “Settled Borders and Regime Type”

**Week Twelve:**
*Tuesday, November 26th:* Open

**Week Thirteen: Paper Presentations**

*Questions:* What have you learned about your particular case? What features can be explained with theories presented in class and what aspects were left unexplained? What research obstacles did you encounter in applying the theoretical approaches to your particular case?

*Tuesday, December 3rd*
*Tuesday, December 5th*

**Final papers due On Monday of Exam Week**