

PSC/IR 270

Mechanisms of International Relations

Fall 2014

Instructor: Phil Arena

Office: 326 Harkness Hall
Email: larena99@gmail.com
URL: [http:// larena.weebly.com/](http://larena.weebly.com/)

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday
1:00-3:00pm
and by appointment

This course consists of two parts. First, we will explore the logic of several causal mechanisms that help us to better understand patterns of international cooperation (such as coordination and collaboration problems), discussing several empirical applications. Second, we will explore the logic of several causal mechanisms that help us to better understand patterns of international conflict (such as commitment and information problems), discussing several empirical applications. Game-theoretic and statistical models will appear throughout the course, but no prior background in either is assumed or required.

To construct theoretical arguments, we will utilize game theory. To evaluate general empirical claims, we will sometimes employ statistical analysis. No mathematical training beyond high school algebra is necessary, but be advised there will be technical material in this class.

The goal of this course is to give you a deep appreciation of some very general explanations for

The first exam must be turned in before 5:00 pm on Friday, October 24th. The second exam must be turned in before 5:00 pm on Friday, December 19th.

Letter grades are determined as follows:

A 92:50+

B 82:50

Class sequence

Cooperation

- 1: Mechanisms, Models, and Explanation
 - 2: Coordination Problems
 - 3: Collaboration Problems
 - 4: Trust Problems
 - 5: Norms and Institutions
 - 6: Hegemony and Selective Incentives
 - 7: Issue-Linkage and Reassurance
- Student presentations

Conflict

- 8: Commitment Problems
 - 9: Information Problems
 - 10: Manipulating Incentives
 - 11: Manipulating Beliefs
- Student presentations