

PSCI 3123-001 – War, Peace, and Strategic Defense

HLMS 201

MWF – 10:10 AM - 11:00 AM

Instructor Contact Information

Instructor – Michael D Kanner

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Office Hours

Communication Policy

I am best contacted by email. If you do not hear from me within 24 hours, contact the political science office (303 492-7871) and ask them to call me.

Instructor Biography

I have been a lecturer and instructor in political science and international affairs since 2001 and have taught most international relations subjects from security to economics. My bachelor's degree was in science from the U.S. Military Academy with a concentration in engineering. I also have a master's in managerial science from Troy State University, international relations from Salve Regina University, and a Ph.D. from the University of Colorado, Boulder. I focused on political psychology and its effect on foreign policy decision-making.

Before joining academia, I served in the U.S. Army, including assignments as operations officer and analyst from brigade to theater army level in the United States, Latin American and Europe. I also spent a short time as a contract employee for SAIC, a think tank doing work for the Defense Department. My activity as an analyst included studies on expert decision-making, low-intensity conflict, and preventive diplomacy.

Course Description (from the catalog)

Analyzes employment, or the threat of employing force, in securing American interests in the post-Cold War world. Gives special attention to utilities claimed for nuclear weapons, and alternatively, to weapons control and disarmament.

Recommended prerequisite: PSCI 2223. Similar to PACS 3800.

Course Objectives

1. Summarize the issues involved in understanding strategic theory.
2. Evaluate causal theories at different levels of analysis.
3. Describe how interstate relations influence the possibility of war.
4. Assess the prospects of war in the future.

Overview

There is a reading assigned for each day except when there is an exam. These should be read in advance of the class. The reading comes from either the textbook or an article you will need to access on Canvas. Articles on Canvas are linked to the day they will be discussed.

Classes will start with administrative announcements (if any) and some foreign policy-related news. There will then be a short discussion of the news. After that, I will give a short talk on the day's readings. These talks are not summaries. Instead, they will highlight sections of the readings and add historical and theoretical aspects to the readings. You are expected to contribute with questions and comments during these talks and after. I will sometimes interrupt my talk to ask opinions or prompt a discussion.

Student Responsibilities

Your first responsibility is to show up.

Readings and course notes are only part of the course. Additional material will be presented in the lectures. Therefore, the most benefit will come from participating in the class discussions.

Be prepared to participate.

Discussion and the exchange of ideas are part of an intellectual journey. You will be asked to offer and defend positions about the topics we discuss. I believe that the only way to sharpen an argument is to grind away at it; you can expect me to criticize your position.

I am offering these warnings because this is not typical in many classes.

- Your defense should be based on theory or history. Arguments built on beliefs or a moral argument are subjective and assume a universality of views that may only result from cultural hegemony.
- If you are not prepared to question your fundamental beliefs about the world and people, this is not the class for you.
- Do NOT take it personally. I have been known to criticize positions with which I agreed.
- *Ad Hominem* attacks will not be tolerated. That means criticisms should be based on counterarguments or counterfactuals and not the status of the individual making the argument. Violators will be warned. Persistent violators will be asked not to attend class. These will count as unexcused, missed classes.

Be on time.

Late arrivals disrupt the class. I also consider lateness a sign of disrespect to other students because it says that your convenience is more important than their desire to learn.

Keep up with the news.

To paraphrase Shakespeare, 'There are more things in heaven and earth than show up in your newsfeed.' There are new threats and changes to the security world every day. You should be familiar with these changes.

There are several sources for news. I recommend a mix of domestic and international news. Here are some of my recommendations.

- The Hill - <https://thehill.com/> - The Hill's focus is on what is going on in Washington, D.C. It is free to subscribe to, and you can select specific newsletters (<http://www.email.thehill.com/thehillreg/thehillreg/pref.action>).
- The Economist Magazine. In my opinion, this is the best international news magazine. In addition, they have a discounted student subscription (<https://subscribenow.economist.com/na-us/student/>).
- The Wall Street Journal. As University students, you also have free access to The Wall Street Journal. You can go to <https://libguides.colorado.edu/databaseguide/wallstreetjournal/home> for information on how to access it.
- The New York Times. You also have access to the New York Times through the library. Information on how to activate this account is at <https://libguides.colorado.edu/databaseguide/newyorktimes/home>.

Required Texts (do NOT use earlier editions)

Cashman, Greg. 2013. *What Causes War?: An Introduction to Theories of International Conflict*. 2nd Edition. Boulder, CO: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc.

Mahnken, Thomas G., and Joseph A. Maiolo. 2014. *Strategic Studies: A Reader*. 2nd Edition. New York: Routledge

Both are available through the CU Bookstore in hard copy and the Bookstore's "Day 1 Digital Access" program. If you buy it somewhere else (e.g., Amazon), ensure you have the correct edition.

Day 1 Digital Access

To keep the cost of your course materials *as low as possible* and access to those materials *as convenient as possible*, we have collaborated with the CU Book Store and the publisher to deliver those materials through a program called "Day 1 Digital Access", which will appear on your tuition and fee bill as "Day 1 Digital Access".

What does this mean for you?

1. You will receive access to all your course materials digitally, on the first day of classes, through the course Canvas page.

2. You will see a "Day 1 Digital Access" charge on your tuition and fee bill
 - a. What Causes War? (180-day) \$56.35
 - b. Strategic Studies (180-day) \$43.98
 - c. Student price (before tax): \$100.33
3. This is a guaranteed lowest price, discounted by the publisher, and not available outside this course
4. **You have the option to opt out.** This means you won't pay for anything, but you lose all access to the course materials, including homework managers like Connect or Mindtap.
 - a. You can opt-out by using a link in a reminder email you will receive with the subject heading "Day 1 Digital Access".
 - b. **You must opt-out no later than** ?????, otherwise you will be charged for the materials.
5. Please keep in mind that "opting out" means that your access to these materials will be turned **OFF**, and you will have no way to complete assignments.

Troubleshooting tips from VitalSource:

VitalSource Support: <https://support.vitalsource.com/hc/en-us>

Email: support@vitalsource.com

Call: 1-855-200-4146

VitalSource Support is available 24/7 and can troubleshoot most issues

If you have questions about **BILLING**, email: digital@cupbookstore.com

Grading Criteria

Your final grade will be based on how many points you accrue and this grading scale. Because Canvas uses a default grading scheme, there may be a difference between the final grade and what is listed. I will post your Final Grade on CANVAS before posting it to the Registrar's office.

A	94-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69	F	0-59
A-	90-93	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66		
		B-	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62		

Grades are based on these elements.

Module Exams – 3 at 20 points each	60 points
Final Exam	25 points
Attendance	15 points
Total	100 points

Module Exams.

There will be four exams (this includes the final). The first three will consist of five questions (one paragraph questions) from which students will select four. The final will consist of six questions from which students will select five.

Attendance.

Absences will only be excused based on illness, incarceration, religious observation, work/sports/ROTC commitments, or family emergencies. Documentation for the absence may be requested. Attendance will not be taken until we start in-person classes.

Course Outline and Schedule.

Pay attention to the page numbers for chapters in *What Causes War?* Because of the chapter lengths, I have split most of the readings into two parts.

Reading assignments that need to be downloaded are listed as "Canvas: [Author]."

Module 1. Strategic Theory

Objective – summarize the issues involved in understanding strategic theory.

1. August 22
 - a. Objective – identify the course requirements and expectations
 - b. Reading Assignment – Syllabus (Available on Canvas)
2. August 24
 - a. Objective– recognize how knowledge is accrued (i.e., epistemology)
 - b. Reading Assignment – *What Causes War?* – Chapter 1 (entire chapter)
3. August 26
 - a. Objective– identify the difficulties in studying and developing a strategy
 - b. Reading Assignment – *Strategic Studies Reader* – Chapter 1
4. August 29
 - a. Objective – identify the difficulties in studying and developing a strategy
 - b. Reading Assignment – *Strategic Studies Reader* – Chapter 3
5. August 31
 - a. Objective – evaluate the continued relevance of traditional security issues
 - b. Reading Assignment – Canvas: Mead
6. September 2
 - a. Objective – evaluate arguments about the existence of a new global political environment
 - b. Reading Assignment – Canvas: Ikenberry

September 5 – Labor Day – No Class

7. September 7
 - a. Objective – examine the relevance of *On War*
 - b. Reading Assignment – *Strategic Studies Reader* – Chapter 4
8. September 10
 - a. Objective – discuss the purpose of strategy
 - b. Reading Assignment – *Strategic Studies Reader* – Chapter 6
9. September 12
 - a. Objective – discuss the 'diplomacy of violence.'
 - b. Reading Assignment – *Strategic Studies Reader* – Chapter 7
10. September 14
 - a. Objective – question the need for a strategy
 - b. Reading Assignment – Canvas: Betts

September 16 – Module 1 Exam – Review to be published.

Module 2. Individual, substate, and state level

Objective – evaluate causal theories at different levels of analysis

11. September 19
 - a. Objective – identify the effect of evolution on war
 - b. Reading Assignment – *What Causes War?* – Chapter 2, pages 13-30
12. September 21
 - a. Objective – identify the effect of environment on behavior
 - b. Reading Assignment – *What Causes War?* – Chapter 2, pages 30-48
13. September 23
 - a. Objective - examine how individual traits influence conflict decisions
 - b. Reading Assignment – *What Causes War?* – Chapter 3, pages 49-84
14. September 26
 - a. Objective - examine how individual traits influence conflict decision
 - b. Reading Assignment – *What Causes War?* – Chapter 3, pages 84-114
15. September 28
 - a. Objective – examine the flaws in group decision making
 - b. Reading Assignment – *What Causes War?* – Chapter 4, pages 115-127
16. September 30
 - a. Objective – examine the flaws in bureaucratic decision making
 - b. Reading Assignment – *What Causes War?* – Chapter 4, pages 128-168
17. October 3
 - a. Objective – examine the democratic peace and liberal peace theories
 - b. Reading Assignment – *What Causes War?* – Chapter 5, pages 169-190
18. October 5
 - a. Objective – examine how domestic conditions affect conflicts
 - b. Reading Assignment – *What Causes War?* – Chapter 5, pages 190-198

19. October 7

- a. Objective - question whether internal conflicts lead to external wars
- b. Reading Assignment – *What Causes War?* – Chapter 6, pages 199-218

20. October 9

- a. Objective – explore how internal conflicts and nationalism lead to war
- b. Reading Assignment – *What Causes War?* – Chapter 6, pages 218-236

October 12 – Module 2 Exam – Review to be published.

Module 3. Dyadic and Balance of Power Theories

Objective – describe how interstate relations influence the possibility of war

21. October 14

- a. Objective – analyze the effect of dyads on conflict behavior
- b. Reading Assignment – *What Causes War?* – Chapter 7 (entire chapter)

22. October 17

- a. Objective – question whether there is a relationship between arms races and conflicts
- b. Reading Assignment – *What Causes War?* – Chapter 8 (entire chapter)

23. October 19

- a. Objective – explore the application of game theory to conflict behavior
- b. Reading Assignment – *What Causes War?* – Chapter 9, pages 319-338

24. October 21

- a. Objective – examine the relevance of deterrence theory
- b. Reading Assignment – *What Causes War?* – Chapter 9, pages 339- 369

25. October 24

- a. Objective – evaluate strategic competition and deterrence theory
- b. Reading Assignment – Canvas: Rudolf

26. October 26

- a. Objective – consider factors in nuclear deterrence
- b. Reading Assignment – *Strategic Studies Reader* – Chapter 12

27. October 28

- a. Objective – examine the relevance of deterrence
- b. Reading Assignment – *Strategic Studies Reader* – Chapter 13

28. October 31

- a. Objective – evaluate the strategy of attacking nuclear weapons
- b. Reading Assignment – *Strategic Studies Reader* – Chapter 14

29. November 2

- a. Objective – review the types of realism
- b. Reading Assignment – *What Causes War?* – Chapter 10, pages 371-388

30. November 4

- a. Objective – recognize the effect of polarity on conflict and peace
- b. Reading Assignment – *What Causes War?* – Chapter 10, pages 388-406

November 7 – Module 3 Exam – Review to be published.

Module 4. Hegemonic and Future Wars

Objective – Assess the prospects of war in the future.

31. November 9

- a. Objective – analyze the effect of power changes on conflict
- b. Reading Assignment – *What Causes War?* – Chapter 11, pages 407-427

32. November 11

- a. Objective – compare the historical cyclical theories
- b. Reading Assignment – *What Causes War?* – Chapter 11, pages 427-459

33. November 14

- a. Objective – examine the decision process to pursue terrorism
- b. Reading Assignment – *Strategic Studies Reader* – Chapter 17

34. November 16

- a. Objective - discuss the new challenges associated with emerging forms of warfare
- b. Reading Assignment – *Strategic Studies Reader* – Chapter 18

35. November 18

- a. Objective – examine the rise of new weapons and warfare
- b. Reading Assignment – *Strategic Studies Reader* – Chapter 19

November 21 to 25 – Fall Break/Thanksgiving

36. November 28

- a. Objective – explain the direction of conflicts
- b. Reading Assignment – *Strategic Studies Reader* – Chapter 22

37. November 30

- a. Objective – discuss the reality of cyber-warfare
- b. Reading Assignment – *Strategic Studies Reader* – Chapter 23

38. December 2

- a. Objective – discuss the future of strategy
- b. Reading Assignment – *Strategic Studies Reader* – Chapter 24

39. December 5

- a. Objective – summarize war and peace theories
- b. Reading Assignment – *What Causes War?* – Chapter 13 (entire chapter)

40. December 7

- a. Objective – examine American strategy
- b. Reading Assignment – Canvas: Porter

Date to be determined – Final Exam – Review to be published.

Policies (as established by the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education)