

PSCI 3123: War, Peace, and Strategic Defense

Spring 2009

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Section 002: 10AM MUEN E113

Section 003: 11AM KTCH 235

Course Website: sobek.colorado.edu/~kellyz/3123.html

Office: Ketchum 5b

Office Hours: Mon/Weds 12-1pm

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

What are the causes of war; why do nations fight and how do wars end? How can nations best secure peace? Are nuclear weapons a source of peace or conflict? These are some of the questions this class will address. We will cover different theories that political science has used to explain war and peace including realism, liberalism, and rationalism and how those approaches apply to past and current events. We will also look at some of the data sources frequently used in empirical studies of conflict. By the end of the semester students should be able to classify major approaches to studying conflict and apply those approaches to current events and public policy.

II. READINGS

There are 3 required texts; all should be available at the bookstore (Clausewitz can also be found online). These books will be supplemented with reading materials such as academic and news articles.

1. Blainey, Geoffrey. 1988. *The Causes of War*, 3rd Ed. The Free Press
2. Clausewitz, Carl von. 2007. *On War*. Oxford University Press.
3. Kaplan, Robert. 2001. *The Coming Anarchy*. Vintage.

I also expect you to keep up on current events, therefore I expect you to read the *New York Times* before class and be aware of major issues related to the class. You do not have to read it cover to cover, focus on issues related to war and peacemaking and issues affecting US security.

III. REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

This is an upper division political science course that places a heavy emphasis on student participation and writing. Regular class attendance is strongly recommended. NOTE: repeated absences (more than 10%) may result in a low class participation grade. Students are expected to attend class and complete assigned readings prior to class. Furthermore, all assignments should be turned in on time. I will not accept late assignments without a university approved reason.

E-mail will be a primary form of communication for this class. Students are expected to check their CU e-mail accounts regularly and will be held accountable for all e-mailed information.

The final grade is based on participation, attendance, short writing assignments, 3 exams, and a final paper; the grade is determined as follows.

- **Class participation: 15%.** This grade will be determined by the student's contributions and participation during class discussions. You should always come to class prepared to discuss the assigned readings AND prepared to talk about relevant current events. Each Friday we will discuss the weekly reading assignments, it is essential that you keep up with assigned coursework. Participation is a large chunk of your grade, be aware that if you merely attend and do not participate the best you can earn is an 88%. Students may be called on to answer questions about readings and current events.
 - **Attendance: 5%.**
 - **Midterm Exams 1, 2, and final exam: 15% each.** Midterms will be on Friday of the weeks listed.
 - **Final Paper: 17%.** You will write a 7-8 page term paper that focuses on one of the interstate wars from a list posted on the course website. Your paper will be based on tracing the events related to a specific war from newspapers from 90 days. I am limiting the news sources you can use to the *New York Times* and *The Economist*. After finding events relating to your case in the paper(s) you will be asked to write an essay on the causes of your case referring to material we have covered over the semester. NOTE: you will need to draw on the explanations for war covered during the class; a 'timeline' paper alone will earn, at best, a C.
- A 1 page outline of your paper is due by the end of week 10. Failure to turn in this outline on time will result in an automatic 1-grade reduction.
- **Short writing assignments (3): 18%.** 3 short written assignments will be due. Each counts for 6% of your course grade. I will provide topics 2 weeks before the due date for each. Papers should be approximately 3-4 pages with 1" margins, double-spacing, and 12pt font. The papers are due:
 - 1) Friday week 4
 - 2) Friday week 8
 - 3) Friday week 12

IV. READING SCHEDULE

NOTE: Readings marked with an asterisk (*) are available for download from the course website. A PDF reader is required.

Week(s)	Heading	Topics	Assigned Readings / Events
1 (Jan 12)	1. Introduction	Course Introduction What is war? What is the 'scientific study of war?' Some definitions and data Friday reading discussion	Clausewitz, book 1 *Waltz, Theory of International Politics, ch 1
2 (Jan 19)	2. Searching for the origins of war	A multi-causal phenomenon Levels of analysis – where are the causes of war located? Friday reading discussion	Monday – no school Clausewitz, book 2 Blainey, ch 1 Look at “MID” and “COW” datasets online
3 (Jan 26)		The individual level The state level The interstate level Friday discussion	*Walt, “International Relations: One World, Many Theories” *Gourevitch, “The Second Image Reversed”
4 (Feb 2)	3. Structural theories	Power based theories: Neorealism Balance of Power Balance of Threat Friday discussion	Blainey, ch 8 Kaplan, ch 3
5 (Feb 9)		Economics and War: pacification or the path to war? Review	Blainey, ch 2, ch 6 Kaplan, ch 1 <u>Midterm 1 (15%)</u>
6 (Feb 16)		20 th century conflicts, many explanations – WWI, WWII, the Cold War Friday cont. movie	*Kennedy, “The First World War and the International Power System” *Van Evera, “The Cult of the Offensive and the Origins of the First World War” Movie: “The Fog of War”

7 (Feb 23)		Monday discussion Power transition theory and power cycles	*Kennan, "The Sources of Soviet Conduct" *Doran and Parsons, "War and the Cycle of Relative Power"
8 (Mar 2)	5. Political Systems and domestic politics	Domestic explanations for war Democratic peace? Authoritarian peace? Friday discussion	Kaplan, ch 2 *Peceny et al. "Dictatorial Peace?" Clausewitz, bk 1, ch 2
9 (Mar 9)		Terrorism Friday discussion	*Pape, "The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism" *Cause, "Can Democracy Stop Terrorism?" Kaplan, ch 6
10 (Mar 16)		Geography and War Review	Blainey, ch 7 <u>Midterm 2 (15%)</u>
11 (Mar 23)	6. Structure vs. Strategy: strategic choice and strategic explanations for war	Rationalist explanations for war Bargaining Friday discussion	*Fearon, "Rationalist Explanations for War" *Reiter, "Exploring the Bargaining Model of War"
12 (Mar 30)		Perceptions at War Strategic interaction Friday discussion	Blainey, ch 4 and ch 9
13 (Apr 6)		Interdependent decision making and war as an interdependent process Alliances and war Friday discussion	Blainey, ch 11 Kaplan, ch 9

14 (Apr 13)		Limited War, offense and defense Friday discussion	Clausewitz, books 6 and 8
15 (Apr 20)		Deterrence and nuclear deterrence Friday discussion	*Waltz, "Nuclear Myths and Political Realities" *Huth, "Deterrence and International Conflict"
16 (Apr 27)		Review	Readings TBD

V. ADDITIONAL POLICIES

Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Willard 322, and www.Colorado.EDU/disabilityservices

Disability Services' letters for students with disabilities indicate legally mandated reasonable accommodations. The syllabus statements and answers to Frequently Asked Questions can be found at www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices

Religious Observance

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, *requests for special accommodations need to be presented in a timely manner: at least one week prior to scheduled exams/ assignments.* See full details at http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html

Classroom Behavior

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Students who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Faculty have the professional responsibility to treat all students with understanding, dignity and respect, to guide classroom discussion and to set reasonable limits on the manner in which they and their students express opinions. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with differences of race, culture, religion, politics, sexual orientation, gender, gender variance, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may

make appropriate changes to my records. See policies at
<http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at
http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_cod

Discrimination and Harassment

The University of Colorado at Boulder policy on Discrimination and Harassment, the University of Colorado policy on Sexual Harassment and the University of Colorado policy on Amorous Relationships apply to all students, staff and faculty. Any student, staff or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Judicial Affairs at 303-492-5550. Information about the ODH, the above referenced policies and the campus resources available to assist individuals regarding discrimination or harassment can be obtained at <http://www.colorado.edu/odh>

Academic Integrity

All students of the University of Colorado at Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. Violations of this policy may include: cheating, plagiarism, aid of academic dishonesty, fabrication, lying, bribery, and threatening behavior. All incidents of academic misconduct shall be reported to the Honor Code Council (honor@colorado.edu; 303-725-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from the faculty member and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). Other information on the Honor Code can be found at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/honor.html> and at <http://www.colorado.edu/academics/honorcode/>