

**PSCI 3123
War, Peace, Strategic Defense
University of Colorado, Boulder
Fall 2018, DUANG2B47, 9:30-10:45am**

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or by appointment**

Course Description:

State made war and war made the state. Man created the utmost means to destroy his fellowmen and states institutionalized and monopolized the means of destruction for political survival in the international and domestic realm. This course dwells on the key controversies in the history of nations; namely international conflict and war as the most severe form of conflict that claimed millions of deaths from mankind. Our goal will be to learn the theories of interstate conflict (though there are times we will talk about civil war) and have a better understanding of its underlying causes. The central goal in this course is to approach international conflict from a number of perspectives that include its structural and strategic explanations. Kenneth N. Waltz's (2001) classic book "Man, The State and War" is a seminal example of structural perspectives on war. Geoffrey Blainey's (1988) overly popular book "The Causes of War" includes a much broader spectrum of structural approaches and is a very critical read of Waltz's approach to war. We will talk extensively about this terminology and by the end of the semester, you will have a clear understanding of where these terms and approaches stand in relation to one another.

Course Requirements:

Grades for the course will consist of a midterm exam (25%), a final exam (25%), a quiz (15%), semester report (25%), and in-class participation (10%). Final letter grades will be determined using the following percentage scale: A=100-94, A-=93-90, B+=89-86, B=85-82, B-=81-78, C+=77-74, C=73-70, C-=69-66, D+=65-62, D=61-58, D-=57-54, F=<54.

(1) Exams: Exams may consist of multiple choice, short answer and fill-in-the-blank type questions that draw on the readings, lectures and the discussion in class. Class notes and keywords will be posted D2L after lecture. You will be responsible from all the readings regardless of whether they are lectured in the classroom or not. All exams are cumulative. The quiz is scheduled to be held on Sept. 27 (Thursday); the midterm, on Nov.1 (Thursday); and, the final exam, on the date announced by the University administration (please check the registrar's website). Make-ups for the exams will be possible ONLY if your absence on the exam day is due to health-related issues (a doctor's note –not appointment-- will be required) or religious obligations (in the latter case, the instructor should be informed early in the semester to make appropriate accommodations, see pg. 3-4 of the syllabus).

(2) Semester Report: You will write a 9-10 page (app. between 2,000 and 2,200 words) paper that focuses on one of the bills discussed in Congressional committees related to war and peace (terrorist financing, cybersecurity, sanctions, etc). The paper will present the existing views on the paper and discuss your position. You are expected to upload an electronic copy of your paper to the dropbox on D2L by 5:00pm on Dec.14 Friday). A late paper will be penalized as 10% reduction in the paper grade for each day that it is late (includes weekends). Detailed paper guidelines will be announced later in the semester.

(3) Attendance and Participation: Students are expected to come to class on a regular basis, read the course material and contribute to the discussion in a reasonable manner. The material is supposed to be read before you come to class because they will constitute the core of the discussion. Active learning in the classroom requires active participation and participation requires that you read the material and try to get involved in the class discussion. 10% of your grade will be based on your contribution to in-class discussion.

Reading Material

The books assigned for this course are available in the University Bookstore. The titles are:

Required:

- Blainey, Geoffrey. 1988. *The Causes of War*. New York, NY: Free Press. 3rd Edition. ISBN 0-02-903591-0
- Waltz, Kenneth. 2001. *Man, the State and War: A Theoretical Analysis*. New York, NY: Columbia University Press. *Latest Edition*. ISBN 0-231-12537-2

Highly Recommended:

- Schelling, Thomas C. 1980. *The Strategy of Conflict*. Cambridge, Mass.; Harvard University Press. *Latest Edition*. 0-67408403103
- Betts, Richard. 2012. *Conflict after the Cold War*. Taylor&Francis. *4th Edition*. ISBN 9780205851751.

Articles that we will read this semester will be posted on the course website on D2L.

Grade Appeals

All grade appeals should be made in writing. If you believe that a grade you were assigned does not reflect your performance, you can dispute it. You will be asked to write a brief memo explaining why you should have received a higher grade on that assignment. This should be done within a week after the grade is announced. You can hand the memo and the related assignment to me during office hours or after lecture. I will respond to you in writing and address each of your concerns in detail.

Students with Disabilities

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services website](#). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or dsinfo@colorado.edu for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) under the Students tab on the Disability Services website.

Cheating and Plagiarism

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code (honor@colorado.edu); 303-492-5550). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found at the [Honor Code Office website](#).

Religious Observances

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.

Please review the syllabus closely and try to find out whether you have time conflicts with any of the assignments. We encourage you to do so in the first two weeks of the semester and inform us about your concerns either during our office hours or after lecture. See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.

Classroom Behavior

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. 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. For more information, see the policies on [classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

Discrimination and Harassment

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering a positive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct (including sexual assault, exploitation, harassment, dating or domestic violence, and stalking), discrimination, and harassment by members of our community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or cureport@colorado.edu. Information about the OIEC, university policies, [anonymous reporting](#), and the campus resources can be found on the [OIEC website](#).

Please know that faculty and instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about options for reporting and support resources.

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CLASS SCHEDULE:

WEEK 1 (AUG. 28): ORGANIZATION AND INTRODUCTORY MEETING (NO CLASS ON AUG.30, APSA ANNUAL MEETING)

WEEK 2 (SEPT. 4-6): APPROACHES IN THE STUDY OF CONFLICT

WEEK 3 (SEPT. 11-13): LOOKING FOR THE CAUSES OF WAR

Is war predictable?

- Blainey, Chapter 1
- Waltz, Introduction and Conclusion

WEEK 4 (SEPT. 18-20): INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT AND THE LEADERS

The First Image

- Waltz, Chapter II and III
- Freud, *Why War* (part of the correspondence with Einstein, please read Einstein's piece as well) and Jervis, *War and Misperception*

WEEK 5 (SEPT. 25-27): CLASS WRAP-UP AND QUIZ

WEEK 6 (OCT. 2-4): ANARCHY AND HEGEMONIC WAR(S): RESTART THE SYSTEM!

The Third Image

- Gilpin, *Hegemonic War and International Change*
- Waltz, Chapter V

WEEK 7 (OCT. 9-11): POWER POLITICS AND BALANCE OF POWER (THIRD IMAGE, AGAIN)

Power Based Theories of War

- Blainey, Chapter 8
- Waltz, Chapter VII

WEEK 8 (OCT. 16-18): ARE LIBERALS STILL RIGHT?

Second Image and Liberalism

- Doyle, *Liberalism and World Politics*

Economics and War: the Pacifying Effect

- Blainey, Chapter 2

WEEK 9 (OCT. 23-25): TERRITORIAL CONFLICTS AND RIVALRIES

Geography and War

- Blainey, Chapter 7
- NYTimes Op-ed: Learning to Live With a Changing World Map, Sept.22, 2017
- Think about *Balkan Wars* and other territorial disputes that spiral into extensive wars

Dangerous Dyads?

- Bremer, *Dangerous Dyads*
- Let's also think about *Rivalry* this week; states that have repeated conflicts with each other.

WEEK 10 (OCT. 30-NOV.1): CLASS WRAP-UP AND MIDTERM

WEEK 11 (NOV. 6-8): PRESIDENTIAL USES OF FORCE AND WAR POWERS RESOLUTION

Diversionsary Conflict

- Blainey, Chapter 5
- NYTimes Op-ed: Stop the Unconstitutional War in Yemen, Oct.10, 2017.

WEEK 12 (NOV. 13-15): AMERICAN STRATEGISTS IN COUNTERINSURGENCY WARS (FROM VIETNAM TO AFGHANISTAN)

- NYTimes Op-ed: How I didn't Dismantle Iraq's Army, Sept. 6, 2007.
- NYTimes Op-ed: Waging War, One Police Precinct at a Time, Oct.15, 2010.
- Jason Lyall and Isaiah Wilson III. 2009. "Rage against the Machines: Explaining Outcomes in Counterinsurgency Wars," *International Organization* 63(1): 67-106.

WEEK 13 (NOV. 20-22): FALL BREAK

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WEEK 14 (NOV. 27-29): DEMOCRATIC PEACE AND EXPORTING DEMOCRACY ABROAD

Political Systems and War: Democracy

- Mansfield and Snyder, *Democratization and War*
- Blainey, Chapter 4
- The War to End All Wars? Let's think about Wilsonian ideals and the WWI this week

WEEK 15 (DEC. 4-6): DETERRENCE: IS NUCLEAR WAR FUNNY (OR NOT?)

Deterrence as a Genuinely Strategic Move:

- Huth, *Extended Deterrence and the Outbreak of War*

Conventional or Nuclear Deterrence?

- NYTimes Op-ed: Nuclear War Doesn't Seem So Funny After All, Nov.18, 2017.

WEEK 16 (DEC. 11-13): CLASS WRAP-UP AND SEMESTER REPORT DUE ON DEC.14 (NO CLASS ON DEC.13: OFFICE HOURS ON TUESDAY BETWEEN 8-9:15AM TO TROUBLESHOOT FOR REPORTS)