

**PSCI 3123**  
**War, Peace, Strategic Defense**  
**University of Colorado, Boulder**  
**Spring 2018, HUMN 135 TTh 2:00-3:15pm**

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**Professor Aysegul Aydin**  
**Office: Ketchum 228**  
**Voice: (303) 492-7802**  
**Email: aydin@colorado.edu**  
**Office Hours: T 3:30-4:30pm**  
**or by appointment**

**Professor Robert Kaufman**  
**Office: Kittredge 217**  
**Voice: (303) 492-0406**  
**Email: robert.kaufman@colorado.edu**  
**Office Hours: MW 11:30am-1:00pm**  
**or by appointment**

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**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 including Waltz's approach to war. Thomas Schelling's (1980) "The Strategy of Conflict" will give us an excellent background on how strategic treatments of international relations build on structural approaches but enhance our understanding of interstate outcomes by taking us one step further. 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 February 15; the midterm, on March 15; 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. 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 counterinsurgency wars from the list that will be provided on D2L. You are expected to upload an electronic copy of your paper to the dropbox on D2L by 5:00pm on May 4. 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. 3<sup>rd</sup> 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
- Kagan, Donald. 1996. *On the Origins of War and the Preservation of Peace*. Knopf Doubleday. ISBN 9780385423755.

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. *4<sup>th</sup> Edition*. ISBN 9780205851751.

Articles that the students are required to read 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 one of the instructors during their office hours or after lecture. We will respond to you in writing and address each of your concerns in detail.

### **Students with Disabilities**

According to the Americans with Disabilities Act, students with disabilities should ask for “reasonable and timely” accommodations. If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit to your instructors a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner (for exam accommodations provide your letter at least one week prior to the exam) so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or by e-mail at [dsinfo@colorado.edu](mailto:dsinfo@colorado.edu). If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see Temporary Injuries under Quick Links at [Disability Services website](#) and discuss your needs with me or your TA.

### **Cheating and Plagiarism**

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](mailto:honor@colorado.edu); 303-735-2273). 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/>

### **Religious Observances**

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to reasonably and fairly deal with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. Students in this situation can ask for “reasonable and timely” accommodations. 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. Full details can be found at [http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac\\_relig.html](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, color, culture, religion, creed, politics, veteran's status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and gender expression, age, disability, and nationalities. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. We will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise us of this preference early in the semester so that we may make appropriate changes to my records. See polices at <http://www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html> and at [http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student\\_code](http://www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code).

### **Discrimination and Harassment**

The University of Colorado at Boulder Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures, the University of Colorado Sexual Harassment Policy and Procedures, and the University of Colorado Conflict of Interest in Cases of Amorous Relationships policy apply to all students, staff, and faculty. Any student, staff, or faculty member who believes s/he has been the subject of sexual harassment or discrimination or harassment based upon race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status should contact the Office of Discrimination and Harassment (ODH) at 303-492-2127 or the Office of Student Conduct (OSC) 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>

Aysegul Aydin

**CLASS SCHEDULE:**

**WEEK 1 (JAN. 16-18): ORGANIZATION AND INTRODUCTORY MEETINGS**

**WEEK 2 (JAN. 23-25): APPROACHES IN THE STUDY OF CONFLICT**

**WEEK 3 (JAN.30-FEB.1): LOOKING FOR THE CAUSES OF WAR**

Is war predictable?

- Blainey, Chapter 1
- Waltz, Introduction and Conclusion
- Kagan, Introduction

**WEEK 4 (FEB.6-8): 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*
- Kagan, Chapter 4, *Hitler in Power* and *Hitler's Plans* and Chapter 2, *Bismark's Era*

**WEEK 5 (FEB.13-15): CLASS WRAP-UP AND QUIZ**

**WEEK 6 (FEB. 20-22): ANARCHY AND HEGEMONIC WAR(S): RESTART THE SYSTEM!**

The Third Image

- Gilpin, *Hegemonic War and International Change*
- Waltz, Chapter V
- Kagan, Chapter 1

**WEEK 7 (FEB. 27-MARCH 1): POWER POLITICS AND BALANCE OF POWER (THIRD IMAGE, AGAIN)**

Power Based Theories of War

- Blainey, Chapter 8
- Waltz, Chapter VII
- Kagan, Chapter 4

**WEEK 8 (MARCH 6-8): ARE LIBERALS STILL RIGHT?**

Second Image and Liberalism

- Doyle, *Liberalism and World Politics*
- Kagan, Chapter 2

Economics and War: the Pacifying Effect

- Blainey, Chapter 2

**WEEK 9 (MARCH 13-15): CLASS WRAP-UP AND MIDTERM**

**WEEK 10 (MARCH 20-22): TERRITORIAL CONFLICTS AND RIVALRIES**

Geography and War

- Blainey, Chapter 7
- NYTimes Op-ed: Learning to Live With a Changing World Map, Sept.22, 2017
- Revisit Kagan Chapter 2, *Balkan Wars* and other territorial disputes

Dangerous Dyads?

- Bremer, *Dangerous Dyads*
- Revisit Kagan, Chapter 1 *The Origin of the Rivalry*

**WEEK 11 (MARCH 27-29): SPRING BREAK**

**WEEK 12 (APRIL 3-5): 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 13 (APRIL 10-12): 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 14 (APRIL 17-19): DEMOCRATIC PEACE AND EXPORTING DEMOCRACY ABROAD**

Political Systems and War: Democracy

- Mansfield and Snyder, *Democratization and War*
- Blainey, Chapter 4
- Revisit Kagan Chapter 2, The War to End All Wars?

**WEEK 15 (APRIL 24-26): DETERRENCE: IS NUCLEAR WAR FUNNY (OR NOT?)**

Deterrence as a Genuinely Strategic Move:

- Kagan, Chapter 5

Conventional or Nuclear Deterrence?

- Huth, *Extended Deterrence and the Outbreak of War*
- NYTimes Op-ed: Nuclear War Doesn't Seem So Funny After All, Nov.18, 2017.

**WEEK 16 (MAY 1-3): CLASS WRAP-UP AND SEMESTER REPORT**