

PSCI 4243 Modern Warfare: Terrorism, Ideology, Identity / May 2020

Meeting time: M-F 9 am-12 noon (see Canvas for the specific schedule and daily activities)

Instructor: Jaroslav Tir, PhD

email: jtir@colorado.edu

Office hours: stay on Zoom after the lecture

Internet: sites.google.com/site/jaroslavtir/

Teaching assistant: Ken Stallman

email: ken.stallman@colorado.edu

Office hours: see Canvas

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores key changes in the nature of warfare over the past century. Even though terrorist attacks may be thought of as very recent phenomena, their evolution can be traced back to the shifting nature of warfare. Specifically, ideological (e.g. liberalism, fascism, communism, religion-based world-views) and identity (i.e. ethnicity, culture, religion) differences have come to the forefront of political conflicts involving the use of force. Moreover, the doctrine of warfare has experienced a shift as well, in that civilians have developed the intertwined roles as the forces that fight wars, targets of war, and as war juries. We systematically explore these changes, starting with the identification of the nature of “traditional” warfare. We then explore the shift toward conflicts with ideological and identity overtones and then move to the topics of guerilla warfare and terrorism. As warfare evolves, we track potential changes in the means of and reasons for fighting, roles of civilians and media, and rules of war.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Reading Materials

1. Betts, Richard K. 2017. *Conflict After the Cold War*. 5th ed. Pearson.

2. Supplementary materials, available through Canvas: <https://cuboulder.instructure.com>

3. Recommended textbooks:

- Cashman, Greg. 1993. *What Causes War?* Lexington Books.
- Cashman, Greg and Leonard C. Robinson 2007. *Introduction to the Causes of War: Patterns of Interstate Conflict from World War I to Iraq*. Rowman.
- Ziegler, David W. 2000. *War, Peace, and International Politics*. 8th ed. Longman.

Student Initiative

Students should be alerted to the obvious fact that it will not be easy to summarize the complexity of our topics in terms of a few concepts and theories. Students should acquire the habit of regularly reading news magazines, opinion journals, and national newspapers. It is important that students **read assigned materials thoughtfully and thoroughly** and that they **attend classes regularly**.

Final Exam

The exam will consist of multiple choice and essay questions. Late policy: penalty of 10% per hour.

Quizzes

The students are expected to take a short quiz on each of the assigned theoretical readings, before that reading is discussed. Deadlines and details are available on Canvas. Late policy: 10% penalty if submitted within 9 hours after the deadline; 50% penalty for up to 24 hours past the deadline; no points awarded for the quiz thereafter.

Discussion Worksheets

You are expected to fill out a worksheet for each of the six conflicts we discuss. Then turn in polished and typewritten (single-spaced, 11 pt. Times New Roman, 1" margins) versions of the **six** worksheets by **9 am on Friday, May 29** (last class period). Worksheet template is posted on Canvas. Late policy: 10% penalty if submitted by 5 pm Friday, 20 % if submitted by 9 am Saturday, 50% if submitted by 5 pm Saturday; no points awarded for the assignment thereafter.

Participation

Participation in the class is essential to the success of this course, as it is discussion- and not lecture-oriented. The students are expected to offer their own insights based on assigned class materials. To encourage participation, the instructor may use random questioning.

Attendance

Attendance will be taken every time we meet. This grade will be calculated by dividing the number of classes attended by the total number of class meetings. Absences will be excused only in cases of serious health or family emergencies and appropriate documentation will be required. Please note that excused or unexcused absences will also hurt your participation grade, because one cannot participate in class discussions if one is not present.

COURSE RULES

Grading Policy

Final Exam	25%	Attendance	15%
Discussion Worksheets	25%	Participation	10%
Quizzes	25%		

Class Policies

1. Assignments are to be turned in by the stated deadline. Failure to meet an assignment deadline does not entitle the students to make up the work at a later time.
2. Exceptions to the class requirements and rules are granted at the instructor's discretion, only under circumstances of extreme personal emergency or serious illness. In all instances, appropriate evidentiary documentation will be requested and must be turned in within 3 days of the original absence.
3. All academic work must meet the University's standards for academic honesty. Each student is responsible to inform themselves of these standards before conducting any academic work. My academic dishonesty policy is very simple: you will receive a failing grade for the class if you are found cheating on examinations, plagiarizing the work of others or attempting to turn in assignments used in previous classes, along with all other possible infractions noted in the University's policy on academic dishonesty. I **will not** tolerate academic dishonesty and you **will** face the harshest punishment possible if you attempt it.
4. Requests for assignments re-evaluation must be submitted to the instructor in **typewritten form**, along with the assignment, within 3 days after it has been returned to the class. The written statement must explain specifically why the student thinks that the grade should be reconsidered and what grade the assignment deserves. Important: the re-evaluation will be conducted *de novo*, which may result is the same, lower, or higher grade.
5. Accommodations based on disability and/or religious beliefs will be made whenever possible. But, it is the student's responsibility to let the instructor know about **needing such accommodations within the first 3 days of the Maymester start date**. Accommodation requests after this time period may not be granted.

6. Please see the Canvas page for the university-mandated statements on accommodations and related issues.

7. The syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations may be necessary and will be announced.

8. All students are expected to complete assigned readings before they are discussed in class and they are expected to discuss and respond to random questioning by the instructor.

COURSE OUTLINE: TOPICS AND READINGS

Note #1: Unless otherwise specified with the Canvas mark, all the readings are in the Betts book.

Note #2: The exact class schedule is posted on Canvas and will be updated as needed.

I. TRADITIONAL WARFARE AND VIEWPOINTS

A. Case Study: World War I

- Canvas: WW I (1) general and (2) focused background readings

B. Why do people fight: realism and neorealism

- Thucydides “The Melian Dialogue”
- Carr “Realism and Idealism” (esp. the “Military Power” section)
- Waltz “The Origins of War in Neorealist Theory”
- Gilpin “Hegemonic War and International Change”
- Optional: Hobbes “The State of Nature”, Mearsheimer “Why We Will Soon Miss...”

II. ALTERNATIVE THEORIES AND VIEWPOINTS

A. Why do people fight: economic, anthropological, and ideological perspectives

- Lenin “Imperialism”
- Mead “Warfare is Only an Invention”
- Fukayama “The End of History”

B. Why do people fight: identity

- Gellner “Nations and Nationalism”
- Kaufmann “Possible and Impossible Solutions ...” (esp. pp. 394-400)
- Huntington “The Clash of Civilizations”

C. Case Studies

- Canvas: WW II (1) general and (2) focused background readings
- Canvas: Cambodia (1) general and (2) focused background readings

III. GUERRILLA WARFARE AND TERRORISM

A. Theoretical Views

- Lawrence “Science of Guerilla Warfare”
- Mao Tse-tung “On Guerilla Warfare”
- Crenshaw “The Strategic Logic of Terrorism”
- Optional: Betts “The Soft Underbelly of Primacy”

B. Case Studies

- Canvas: Ireland (1) general and (2) focused background readings
- Canvas: Israeli-Palestinian conflict (1) general and (2) focused background readings