

WAR, PEACE, & STRATEGIC DEFENSE

Political Science (PSCI) 3123-001 Fall 2017
Class Times: MWF 12:00-12:50 pm in HUMN 1B80

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Office Hours: MW 2:00-3:00 pm in Ketchum 114F or by appointment
Course Website: <https://learn.colorado.edu>

Course Description

This course examines the conditions that make for war and peace in international relations and takes a social science approach to investigating the conditions. The course begins with a discussion of the scientific study of interstate warfare. Later sections of the course examine the causes of war, the conduct and termination of war, the outcomes and consequences of war, and solutions that have been offered to help prevent or limit war at individual, organizational, state, dyadic, and system levels. Throughout the course, we will discuss concepts, theories, research designs, and findings in the literature as well as apply a social science approach in your papers. This course puts emphasis on developing your analytical capacity to examine and assess scholarly arguments, not on simply memorizing factual material. Also, this is not a current events course although current events will be incorporated when relevant to learning about and evaluating theories and empirical investigations.

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to:

- *Recall and reproduce* factors that mitigate or exacerbate military conflict between states and
- *Apply* these factors in examining real-world scenarios, such as studying historical cases of war or assessing the prospects for future conflict in troubled areas of the world.

Course Prerequisites

This is an advanced course in the political science subfield of international politics. The formal prerequisite for this course is PSCI 2223: Introduction to International Relations. Throughout the course, we will also use some concepts from statistics, economics, and mathematics. So, it will be necessary to be familiar with basic concepts from the three fields. If you have not taken courses in the fields, you may need to do additional preparation for the class sessions.

Reading Materials

- **Required Textbook:** Mitchell, Sara McLaughlin, and John A. Vasquez. 2013. *Conflict, War, and Peace: An Introduction to Scientific Research*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage/CQ Press. ISBN: 978-1-4522-4449-5. This book is widely available online for you to order as well as at the CU Bookstore.
- **Additional Readings on D2L:** The textbook will be complemented by journal articles and other book chapters. They are available on the course D2L site. You are responsible for downloading and reading them.

Course Requirements

Attendance		5%
Participation		5%
Group Project	Co-authored Paper	20 %
	3 Co-authored Paper Outlines	10 %
	Project Presentation	5 %
	Peer Evaluations	5 %
	Experience with the Group Project	5 %
	<i>Late submissions will be marked down one letter grade for each day late (i.e., B+ → C+)</i>	
Examination	Midterm Exam	20 %
	Final Exam	20 %
	Quizzes	5 %
		= 100%

1. **Attendance (5%):** Class attendance is *mandatory*. I will be taking attendance at the beginning of class. Students present at the start of class are credited with full attendance points for the day. Those who arrive more than ten minutes late to class will be counted as absent. Absences will be excused only in cases of serious health conditions, family emergencies, religious observances, or other legitimate reasons (e.g., travel for a school-sponsored sport), and appropriate evidentiary documentation (e.g., a doctor's note) will be required. Please communicate attendance issues with me in advance. Note that if you are *absent on the date an assignment is due, you are still responsible for submitting the assignment on time* unless prior arrangements have been made. Also, keep in mind that excessive excused or unexcused absences will negatively impact your participation grade.
 - **Freebies** You will be given two “freebies”, meaning that you are permitted to miss two class periods during the semester without being penalized. Use these freebies wisely for family affairs, job interviews, minor health problems, etc. Each unexcused absence beyond the allotted two will result in a penalty on your final attendance grade.
2. **Participation (5%):** Participation in class discussion is an essential part of any discussion seminar. For active participation, you are expected to come to class having read all assigned reading materials. The participation portion of the grade is based on your active engagement during class meetings. I will be taking note each day as to who participates. I reward participation points based on the *frequency* and the *quality* of participation in class discussion. Quality participation refers to comments that are based on readings, lecture materials, and personal experiences. Participation credit will also be rewarded for participating in in-class activities and small group discussions as I recognize that not all students feel comfortable speaking in class. For many classes, I will incorporate some clicker questions. While the answers will not be graded, students are expected to answer clicker questions consistently. For full credit, you need to answer all the questions.
3. **CU Clicker:** We will use CU clickers for attendance and participation. If you have not, please purchase a CU clicker at the CU bookstore and visit <http://www.colorado.edu/oit/node/778> for information on how to register your clicker. If you forget to bring your CU clicker to class, or miss class or your clicker is not functioning, you *cannot* make up for potential clicker points from that day. It is your responsibility to bring your clicker to class and to make sure it functions correctly.
4. **Group Project (45%):** During the semester, you and your collaborators will work toward

writing a research paper that meets the standards of a political science article. You will be placed in a group consisting of approximately four students. Lectures throughout the term will discuss how to approach the paper assignment.

- **Co-authored Paper (20%):** Each group will predict whether a pair of countries (e.g., India and Pakistan) will fight with each other in the near future, using diverse statistical datasets that have information on factors that cause interstate peace or conflict. In this project, you will draw upon the theoretical material covered in class to make predictions as well as take a social science approach to making those predictions. The datasets will be posted on D2L.
- **3 Co-authored Paper Outlines (10%):** Each group will submit 3 co-authored paper outlines: outline I - writing a hypothesis, outline II - collecting data, and outline III - making graphs & tables.
- **Project Presentation (5%):** Each group will be required to make a Power Point presentation (10 minutes for presentation and 5 minutes for Q & A) during one of the last four classes.
- **Experience with the Group Project (5%) and Peer Evaluations (5%):** *Each* member will submit a short paper (1 page single spaced) describing your experience with the project, and peer evaluations.
- Precise instructions for each project assignment will be distributed before its due date and posted on D2L. This group project will be due in several stages, so please check due dates. While I will accept late submissions, they will be penalized. *Late assignments will be marked down one letter grade for each day late.* If you need to miss an assignment due to a medical or personal emergency, you need to notify me *before* the assignment's due date *and* provide a documented excuse in writing on the following day.

5. Examination (45%)

- **Midterm & Final Exams (40%, 20% each exam):** Two exams will be given during the term. The exams will be administered in class. Each exam will be comprised of 10 short identifications (1-2 sentences) and 1 essay question (1 page) based on the required readings and lecture slides. Recommended readings will help reinforce concepts and theories, but you will not be directly tested on these readings unless covered in lecture slides. The exams are not cumulative. Details of the exams will be given in class, and there will be a review session for each exam. Note that there will be no make-up exams offered for sickness/medical reasons/personal reasons including a death in the family unless you are able to: 1) provide documentation *and* 2) give me advance notice that you will miss the exam on the scheduled date. You will need to contact me *before* the exam, or you will receive zero credit.
- **Quizzes (5%):** Several days throughout the semester, you will take a quiz at the beginning of class. The quiz will not contain questions related to the assigned reading on the day in which it is administered. There will be no make-up quizzes.

Grading and Plagiarism Policies

- You must *complete all* course requirements laid out above to receive a non-failing grade in the course. There will be *no extra credit assignments* offered in this class. Your course grade will be calculated based solely on the assessments/assignments described above.
- All due dates are known well in advance, so you need to plan accordingly. Late assignments will be penalized. *Late submissions will be marked down one letter grade for each day late.*

- Here is my numerical grade scale:
 - A 100-94, A- 90-93, B+ 87-89,
 - B 83-86, B- 80-82,
 - C+ 77-79, C 73-76, C- 70-72,
 - D+ 67-69, D 63-66, D- 60-62,
 - F: <60
- If you think that your paper or exam answers have been graded unfairly, we can talk about it during my office hours (but not in the classroom during or right after class). However, before we meet in my office to talk about your grade, you must submit to me a typewritten request for re-evaluation along with the assignment. The written statement must specifically explain where and why you think that you received insufficient credit for your answer. Re-evaluation will be conducted *de novo*.
 - *Be forewarned:* I will not accept explanations arguing that your grade was just not high enough because you studied hard for the test, you should keep your scholarship, or your education is expensive. You need to be able to show specific grading errors on my part.
- If I suspect plagiarism on an assignment or an assessment, I will turn the matter over to the CU Honors Council. Should you be found to have plagiarized, you will receive a zero on that assignment or assessment, in addition to whatever penalty that the Honors Council imposes.

Class Schedule

* MV = Mitchell & Vasquez.

* Readings marked with an asterisk (*) can be found on the course site.

* This schedule is subject to change throughout the semester.

Dates	Topical Coverage & Assigned Readings	Group Project
8/28	Course Overview • Syllabus*; MV Ch. 1	
I. Introduction to the Social Scientific Study of Conflict		
8/30	Social Scientific Research - Elements and Procedure • Donovan & Hoover 2014 pp. 12-37*	
9/1	No Class: American Political Science Association Conference in San Francisco	Choose States and Form Project Groups
9/4	No Class: Labor Day	
9/6	Sovereignty as a Concept and Research Question • Snow 2015 Ch. 1*; Krasner 2001*	
9/8	War and MIDs as a Concept and Variations in Outcomes • Eck 2005 pp. 5-15*; Sarkees pp. 1-11*; Jones, Bremer & Singer 1996* (recommended)	
II. System Level Explanations: Realism		
9/11, 13, 15	Neorealism and Explanations • Waltz 1988* Offensive Realism and Explanations • Mearsheimer 2001 Ch. 2*	

Dates	Topical Coverage & Assigned Readings	Group Project
III-1. Dyadic Level Explanations: Rationalist Perspective		
9/18	Rational Choice Theory and Normal Form Game • Quackenbush 2004*; Axelrod & Keohane 1985*	
9/20	Bargaining Model of War and Hypotheses • Fearon 1995*	Instructions for Co-authored Paper Outline I (Writing a Hypothesis)
III-2. Dyadic Level Explanations: Dangerous Dyads		
9/22, 25, 27	Geography - Contiguity, Territoriality, and Operationalization • Vasquez 1995*; Senese 2005* (recommended) Geography - Territorial Issues vs. Other Contentious Issues, and Operationalization • MV Ch. 3	9/27 Instructions for Co-authored Paper Outline II (Collecting Data)
9/29	Social Scientific Research - Correlation and Regression Analysis • Donovan & Hoover 2014 pp. 71-75, 103-117*	Deadline: Co-authored Paper Outline I (Writing a Hypothesis)
10/2, 4, 6	Alliances and Regression Analysis • MV Ch. 4 Rivalry • MV Ch. 5 10/6 Possible Exam Questions on D2L	
10/9	Pivotal States and the U.S. • Snow 2015 Ch. 7*	
10/11	Divisionary Uses of Force • MV Ch. 8	
Mid-Term Exam (Coverage: 8/30 – 10/11)		
10/13	In-class Study Session	Deadline: Co-authored Paper Outline II (Collecting Data)
10/16	Midterm Exam	
III-3. Dyadic Level Explanations: Peaceful Dyads		
10/18		Instructions for Co-authored Paper Outline III (Making Graphs & Tables) and Co-authored Paper • Minkoff 2012*
10/20, 23, 25	Democratic Peace and Research Question • Maoz & Russett 1993*; Rosato 2003* Economic Interdependence and Research Question • MV Ch. 10; Gartzke 2007*	

Dates	Topical Coverage & Assigned Readings	Group Project
10/27, 30	International Institutions and Variations in Outcomes • Russett, Oneal, & Davis 1998*; Mearsheimer 1994/1995 pp. 5-26*; Bearce 2003* (recommended) Kantian Peace Tripod • MV Ch. 9	
11/1, 3, 6	UN and Peace Keeping Operations • Karns and Mingst 2010 Ch. 4 & 8 pp. 311-346*	Deadline: 11/6 Co-authored Paper Outline III (Making Graphs & Tables)
11/8	Territorial Peace and Explanations • MV Ch. 12	
11/10, 13	Deterrence, Nuclear Weapons, and Hypotheses • MV Ch. 13; Tannewald 2003*	
IV. State Level Explanations		
11/15, 17	Conflict Outcomes & Consequences - Leader Survival and Operationalization • MV Ch. 15	
V-1. Decision-Making Model: Organizational Level Explanations		
11/17	Bureaucratic & Organizational Process Models • Allison 1969*	
11/20, 22, 24	No Class: Fall Break	
11/27	Bureaucratic & Organizational Process Models • Allison 1969*	
V-2. Decision-Making Model: Individual Level Explanations		
11/29	Psychological Model - Prospect Theory • McDermott & Kugler 2001*	Instructions for Project Presentations
VI. Project Presentations		
12/1	Writing Day, Office Hours from 10 am – 5 pm	
12/4		Project Presentations Deadline: 1) Co-authored Paper, 2) Experience with the Group Project, and 3) Peer Evaluations
12/6	Possible Exam Questions on D2L	Project Presentations
12/8		Project Presentations
12/11		Project Presentations
Final Exam (Coverage: 10/20 – 11/29)		
12/13	In-class Study Session	
TBA	Final Exam	

Classroom Policies

1. **Disability Arrangements:** Accommodations based on disability will be made whenever possible. If you qualify for course adaptations or special accommodations under the Americans With Disabilities Act, please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in **the first two weeks of class** so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities. Contact: 303-492-8671, Center for Community, N200, and <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices>. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see guidelines at <http://www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices/go.cgi?select=temporary.html>.
2. **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, this requires you to notify me at the beginning of the semester of any quiz, exam, or due date/s that conflict with a religious holiday that you observe. In that case, we will determine alternative arrangements for the quiz, exam, or due date/s. For additional information, please refer to the following website: http://www.colorado.edu/policies/fac_relig.html.
3. **Discrimination and Harassment:** The University of Colorado 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://hr.colorado.edu/dh/Pages/default.aspx>.
4. **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 members 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, creed, politics, veterans status, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, 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 www.colorado.edu/policies/classbehavior.html and www.colorado.edu/studentaffairs/judicialaffairs/code.html#student_code.
 - In this class, appropriate classroom behavior includes arriving on time and remaining for the entire class. Do not sleep, read the newspaper, send email or text messages, play games, have private conversations, watch movies & ESPN, etc. during lectures. Be sure to turn off your cell phones before class begins.
 - The classroom is an environment for civil discussion. Because the matters of this course inevitably touch on fundamental approaches to politics and the economy, you might find yourself disagreeing vehemently with some of the material we discuss and some points

students raise. This provides an excellent opportunity to hone debating skills. Attacking others for their viewpoints will not be tolerated. Each occurrence of unprofessional behavior will result in the deduction of a letter grade from your final grade.

5. **Academic Honesty:** All students of the University of Colorado Boulder are responsible for knowing and adhering to the academic integrity policy of this institution. 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, and attempting to turn in assignments used in previous classes, along with all other possible infractions noted in the University's policy on academic dishonesty (e.g. lying, bribery, threatening behavior). Moreover, all incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code Council (303- 735-2273). Students who are found to be in violation of the academic integrity policy will be subject to both academic sanctions from me and non-academic sanctions (including but not limited to university probation, suspension, or expulsion). I will not tolerate academic dishonesty, and you will face the harshest punishment possible if you attempt it. Please refer to <http://honorcode.colorado.edu> to view the specific guidelines. If you have any questions related to this policy, please contact the Honor Code Council at honor@colorado.edu.
6. **Writing:** Although this is not a writing/composition class, I strongly encourage you to spend a substantial amount of time on perfecting your writing skills. Good and concise writing is one of the key skills you can develop during a curriculum in political science/international affairs, and it will be an essential skill in your professional portfolio. I will deduct points from assignments that suffer from bad writing, fail to make coherent arguments, and do not cite sources properly. You may consult Henry Farrell's guide on essay writing in Political Science http://www.henryfarrell.net/pol_sci_essay.html.