

Political Science 642: International Conflict
Spring 2012

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Office Hours:
M, T, W 10:00-11:00
Or by Appointment

Time and Location:
M, W, F. 1:30-2:20
KF 120

Course Description:

The primary objective of this course is to familiarize students with the issues and conditions that lead to war in the international system. The course is divided into three sections. First, we will discuss how scholars define war, how they quantify (or measure) war, and the ways wars are studied. The second section evaluates war using levels of analyses. These levels are conceptual lenses that we use to evaluate political phenomena. The four levels of analysis we use are individual, state, dyadic, and systemic. The last section considers the evolution of the scientific study of war as well as the political implications of war. We will address issues such as civil war, terrorism, the use of violence, and the consequences (both political and personal) that result from war.

Readings:

Butler, Smedley. 2003. *War is a Racket*. Los Angeles: Feral House

Cashman, Greg and Leonard Robinson. 2007. *An Introduction to the Causes of War: Patterns of Interstate Conflict from World War I to Iraq*. Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield.

Nye, Joseph and David Welch. 2011. *Understanding Global Conflict and Cooperation: An Introduction to Theory and History*. Boston: Longman.

I have also assigned article readings. They are available on JSTOR and on k-state online. I reserve the right to add/drop readings if warranted.

Course Requirements/Grading:

Test 1: 20% - The test will be taken in class and consist of 20-25 questions and a short essay.

Test 2: 25% - The final exam will be taken in class and is cumulative. It will also consist of 20-25 questions, a short essay about a topic covered after midterm, and another short essay integrating everything we have learned.

Quizzes: 15% - I will randomly assign 5 quizzes throughout the semester. These will be given in class and will concern the reading that is due for that day. I will assign them based on participation and feedback. The format will be multiple choice. These are meant to ensure that you do the reading. If you read, these should be relatively simple. An additional bonus is that these questions have a habit of showing up on the two exams. The four highest quiz scores will be used to calculate your grade.

Research Project 25% - Students will complete an audio/visual project that applies the concepts and theories addressed in the course to any conflict. Specifically, students will select a war, identify the

causes – particularly using one of the four levels of analyses, discuss the cause, and justify its validity versus other causes. A proposal for your project – consisting of the conflict you chose, the cause, the level of analysis you are using, and a bibliography is due on Friday, March 9. We will have an informational session during the week prior to spring break to help familiarize everyone with the software we will be using. The completed visual project will be posted on K-State Online and everyone will hand in their accompanying paper on Monday, April 30. **PLEASE** see me if you have any questions regarding the project.

I will provide more information about format and requirements in a handout during class and on k-state online.

Attendance and Participation 15% - Students are expected to participate actively in class and contribute to class discussion. In addition, attendance is obviously important. Late arrivals will be noted and repeated instances of being late will negatively affect your grade. In regards to absences, please contact me before class if you are unable to attend.

Note:

All assignments are to be hard-copy, word-processed documents. No emailed attachments are accepted. Late assignments are penalized 10 points each day late.

Please feel free to see me if you have any questions or concerns. Concerns about grades are much easier to rectify early in the semester than late.

University Policies:

Academic Honesty

The following is taken verbatim from <http://www.k-state.edu/honor/faculty/syllabusstate.htm>:

Kansas State University has an Honor & Integrity System based on personal integrity which is presumed to be sufficient assurance in academic matters one's work is performed honestly and without unauthorized assistance. Undergraduate and graduate students, by registration, acknowledge the jurisdiction of the Honor & Integrity System. The policies and procedures of the Honor System apply to all full and part-time students enrolled in undergraduate and graduate courses on-campus, off-campus, and via distance learning.

A component vital to the Honor & Integrity System is the inclusion of the [Honor Pledge](#) which applies to all assignments, examinations, or other course work undertaken by students. The Honor Pledge is implied, *whether or not* it is stated: **"On my honor, as a student, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this academic work."**

The default in this class is that ALL work will be accomplished individually, UNLESS my permission is given in advance of an assignment/quiz/exam/take-home exam/final. If you are in doubt, please ask

A grade of **XF** can result from a breach of academic honesty. The F indicates failure in the course; the X indicates the reason is an Honor Pledge violation.

For more information, visit the Honor & Integrity System home web page at: <http://www.ksu.edu/honor>

Classroom Conduct

The following is taken verbatim from <http://www.k-state.edu/provost/resources/teaching/course.htm>:

All student activities in the University, including this course, are governed by the Student Judicial Conduct Code as outlined in the Student Governing Association By Laws, Article VI, Section 3, number 2. Students who engage in behavior that disrupts the learning environment may be asked to leave the class.

Disability Services

The following is taken verbatim from <http://www.k-state.edu/provost/resources/teaching/course.htm>:

"Any student with a disability who needs a classroom accommodation, access to technology or other academic assistance in this course should contact Disability Support Services (dss@k-state.edu) and/or the instructor. DSS serves students with a wide range of disabilities including, but not limited to, physical disabilities, sensory impairments, learning disabilities, attention deficit disorder, depression, and anxiety."

Course Outline

Wednesday, January 18: Review Syllabus

Reading:

None

Introduction

Friday, January 20: Thinking about War

Reading:

None

Week 1 (January 23 - January 27): The Basics

Readings:

Nye, Joseph and David Welch. 2011. *Understanding Global Conflict and Cooperation: An Introduction to Theory and History*. Boston: Longman. Pages 33-64

Walt, Stephen. 1998. International Relations: One World, Many Theories. *Foreign Policy* 110: 29-46.

"The Melian Dialogue" in Thucydides. 1954. *The History of the Peloponnesian War*. Harmondsworth: Penguin.

"Political Power" in Morgenthau, Hans. 1960. *Politics Among Nations*. New York: Knopf

Week 2 (January 30-February 3): Individual –Level Explanations for War

Readings:

Hobbes, Thomas. 2008. The State of Nature and the State of War. In *Conflict after the Cold War : Arguments on Causes of War and Peace* , edited by R. Betts. New York: Pearson Longman.

Freud, Sigmund. 2008. Why War? In *Conflict after the Cold War: Arguments on Causes of War and Peace* , edited by R. Betts. New York: Pearson Longman.

Mead, Margaret. 1940. Warfare is Only an Invention - Not a Biological Necessity. *Asia* 40(8): 402-405

Milgram, Stanley. 2008. How Good People Do Bad Things. In *Conflict after the Cold War : Arguments on Causes of War and Peace* , edited by R. Betts. New York: Pearson Longman.

Jervis, Robert. 1988. War and Misperception. *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 18(4): 675-700.

Kahneman, Daniel and Jonathan Renshon. 2008. Why Hawks Win. In *Conflict after the Cold War : Arguments on Causes of War and Peace* , edited by R. Betts. New York: Pearson Longman.

Cashman, Greg and Leonard Robinson. 2007. *An Introduction to the Causes of War: Patterns of Interstate Conflict from World War I to Iraq*. Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield. Pages 74-84

Week 3 (February 6-February 10): State-Level Explanations for War

Readings:

Stoll, Richard J. 1984. The Guns of November: Presidential Reelections and the Use of Force, 1947-1982. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 28(2): 231-246.

Levy, Jack S. 1988. Domestic Politics and War. *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 18(4): 653-673.

Nye, Joseph and David Welch. 2011. *Understanding Global Conflict and Cooperation: An Introduction to Theory and History*. Boston: Longman. Pages 85-102

Cashman, Greg and Leonard Robinson. 2007. *An Introduction to the Causes of War: Patterns of Interstate Conflict from World War I to Iraq*. Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield. Pages 89-102

Week 4 (February 13-February 17): State-Level Causes of War II - Bureaucratic Politics

Readings:

Cashman, Greg and Leonard Robinson. 2007. *An Introduction to the Causes of War: Patterns of Interstate Conflict from World War I to Iraq*. Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield. Pages 155-167, 350-363.

Film - *Wag the Dog*

Week 5 (February 20 - February 24): Dyadic Explanations for War

Readings:

Maoz, Zeev and Bruce Russett. 1993. Normative and Structural Causes of Democratic Peace. *American Political Science Review* 87: 624-38.

Bremer, Stuart. 1992. Dangerous Dyads: Conditions Affecting the Likelihood of Interstate War, 1816-1965. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 36(2): 309-341.

Peceny, Mark, Caroline Beer, and Shannon Sanchez-Terry. 2002. Dictatorial Peace? *American Political Science Review* 96(1): 15-26.

Week 6 (February 27 - March 2): Systemic-Level Causes of War

Readings:

Modelski, George and William Thompson. 1989. "Long Cycles and Global War," in Manus Midlarsky (ed.) *Handbook of War Studies*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press. Pages 23-54.

Walt, Stephen. Alliance Formation and the Balance of World Power. *International Security* 9(4): 3-43 (Read Pages 3-8).

Van Evera, Stephen. 1998. Offense, Defense, and the Causes of War. *International Security* 22(4): 1-30.

Cashman, Greg and Leonard Robinson. 2007. *An Introduction to the Causes of War: Patterns of Interstate Conflict from World War I to Iraq*. Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield. Pages 27-36, 102-106

Week 7 (March 5 - March 9): Dyadic & Systemic Explanations - Can Trade Save the World?

Readings:

Nye, Joseph and David Welch. 2011. *Understanding Global Conflict and Cooperation: An Introduction to Theory and History*. Boston: Longman. Pages 239-257.

Russett, Bruce and John Oneal. 2001. *Triangulating Peace*. New York: W.W. Norton. Chapter 4.

March 9 – Review & Proposals Due

March 12 – Midterm

Week 8 (March 14 - March 16): Issues in Conflict

Readings:

Van Evera, Stephen. 1994. Hypotheses on Nationalism and War. *International Security* 18(4): 5-39.

Davis, David and Will H. Moore. 1997. Ethnicity Matters: Transnational Ethnic Alliances and Foreign Policy Behavior. *International Studies Quarterly* 41(1): 171-184.

Fox, Jonathan. 2001. Two Civilizations and Ethnic Conflict: Islam and the West." *Journal of Peace Research* 38(4): 459-472.

Cashman, Greg and Leonard Robinson. 2007. *An Introduction to the Causes of War: Patterns of Interstate Conflict from World War I to Iraq*. Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield. Pages 155-167, 205-223.

Week 9 (March 19 - March 23): Spring Break – No Class

Week 10 (March 26 – March 30): On the Conduct of War

Readings:

Downes, Alexander B. 2006. Desperate Times, Desperate Measures: The Causes of Civilian Victimization in War. *International Security* 30(4): 152-195

Valentino, Benjamin, Paul Huth and Dylan Balch-Lindsay. 2004. 'Draining the Sea': Mass Killing and Guerrilla Warfare. *International Organization* 58(2): 375-407

Horowitz, Michael and Dan Reiter. 2001. When Does Aerial Bombing Work?: Quantitative Empirical Tests, 1917-1999. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 45(2): 147-173

Week 11 (April 2 – April 6): Civil War

Readings:

Fearon, James D. and David Laitin. 2003. Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War. *American Political Science Review* 97(1): 75-90.

Ross, Michael L. 2004. How Do Natural Resources Influence Civil War? Evidence from Thirteen Cases. *International Organization* 58: 35-67.

Thyne, Clayton L. 2007. Cheap Signals with Costly Consequences: The Effect of Interstate Relations on Civil War, 1945-1999. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 50(6): 937-961.

Week 12 (April 9 – April 13): Consequences of War

Film - The Fog of War

Week 13 (April 16 – April 20): Terrorism

Readings:

Crenshaw, Martha. 1981. The Causes of Terrorism. *Comparative Politics* 13(4): 379-399.

Krueger, Alan and Jitka Maleckova. 2003. Education, Poverty, and Terrorism: Is There a Causal Connection? *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 17(4): 119-144.

Atran, Scott. 2003. Genesis of Suicide Terrorism. *Science* 299(7): 1534-1539.

Week 14 (April 23 – April 27): Conclusion & What to Expect

Readings:

Cashman, Greg and Leonard Robinson. 2007. *An Introduction to the Causes of War: Patterns of Interstate Conflict from World War I to Iraq*. Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield. Chapter 8.

Nye, Joseph and David Welch. 2011. *Understanding Global Conflict and Cooperation: An Introduction to Theory and History*. Boston: Longman. Chapter 9.

Week 15 (April 30 – May 4): Project Presentations

Readings:

None

Friday, May 4: Review

*Friday, May 11: **Final** (11:50-1:40)*