

**Political Science 4053: War and World Politics
Fall 2016**

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Office Hours:
M 9:00-12:00
or By Appointment

Time and Location:
R 4:30-7:10
T-NCB 121

Course Description

For millennia, human society has been shaped by war. At its most basic level, war has meant survival; it has led to the creation and downfall of empires, countries, and tyrants. The outcomes and agreements of past conflicts shape the future and often provide the fodder for future, and more destructive, conflagrations. And at an esoteric level, the technology of war pervades our day-to-day lives as many of the items we take for granted got their start on the battlefield.

The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with the concept of war, its causes and purposes, aftermath, and the role it has had in shaping events to the present. We will also discuss how conflict has evolved and how it may shape our future. To understand all these elements, we will look at explanations offered by International Relations experts as well as scholars in History, Sociology, Psychology, and numerous other fields. We will also go outside of academic to read the words of those that have experienced war. The course will conclude with a discussion of the future of war.

Required Readings

Boot, Max. 2006. *War Made New*. New York: Gotham Books.

I have also assigned various other readings. These are all available on D2L. I reserve the right to change reading (articles, not books) at my discretion. If that does occur, I will provide ample warning.

Course Requirements

	<u>Grade Weight</u>	<u>Date</u>
Attendance & Participation	10%	-
Quizzes	20%	Various
Midterm Exam	20%	Thursday, September 29
Research Project	25%	Various
Final Exam	25%	Thursday, December 8 th 6:00-7:50

Attendance & Participation - Students are expected to attend class and complete all of the required readings prior to class. I will take attendance at the beginning of class. Late arrivals will be noted. Each student is allowed two (2) "grace days" before absences (excused or unexcused) begin to impact the final grade. This grade will be calculated proportionally to your actual attendance. If you miss class, you are responsible for obtaining notes from a classmate.

Quizzes - I will randomly assign 5 (or more) 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.

During the quiz, you may use 1 page of notes (both sides of the page can be used) to assist you. This is to encourage you to take notes while you read and to build up a supply of notes to assist you in preparation for the exams. An additional bonus is that these questions have a habit of showing up on the two exams. I will drop the lowest quiz score.

Midterm Exam- The test will be taken in class and consist of 20-25 questions (of various types) and a short essay.

Research Project - To give students an opportunity to apply the concepts we learn in class, a 10-page research paper will be required. Students will select an interstate war from the 19th or 20th century, discuss the belligerents and history of the war, what its outcome and consequences were, its causes, and justify its validity versus other causes. In particular, students should address which level of analysis they believe is most responsible for the conflict and which theories from the course could be used to explain its outbreak. We will do this project in stages:

- Selection:
 - o I will ask you to select, from a list of interstate conflicts, your top 5 preferences and bring that list to class on Week 3.
- First Draft (5 pages) (5%)
 - o On Week 6, a rough draft of your first five pages is due at the beginning of class. This rough draft should largely cover the historical aspects of your conflict. I will review these drafts, and provide written comments.
- First Draft (Entire paper) (5%)
 - o On Week 13, a rough draft of your entire paper is due in class. I will review these and also provide written comments.
- Peer Review (5%)
 - o I will randomly distribute anonymized papers to your classmates. They will provide anonymous, quality comments. Your grade here will be determined by the quality and thoroughness of your comments.
- Final Submission (10%)
 - o A finished, hardcopy version of the paper will be due at the beginning of class on April 24.

Late stages or papers will be immediately penalized 10%. Another 10% will be deducted for each additional day late.

Final Exam - The final exam will be taken in class and is cumulative. It will also consist of 20-25 questions, a short essay, and a longer essay integrating everything we have learned.

All assignments are to be submitted to the dropbox on D2L. I will not accept emailed attachments. Compatibility with my office computer (Windows 7 PC & Microsoft Office) is the responsibility of the student. Late assignments are penalized 10 points each day late.

Grades

Grades will be based on a 100 point scale:

<u>Point Range</u>	<u>Final Course Letter Grade</u>
90 - 100	A
80 - 89.99	B
70 - 79.99	C
60 - 69.99	D
59.99 or below	F

I will not round grades to the nearest whole number. I believe that this is the fairest way to determine your earned grade. I will not entertain requests to “bump up” your grade. Any concerns that you have about your grade need to be discussed with me during the semester, not after it has ended (with the exception of the final exam). Any requests for grade changes on tests, assignments, etc. during the semester must be accompanied by a written statement detailing the request and the nature of the problem. The request must detail a substantive issue (clerical error, unclear question, mathematical error, etc...), frivolous requests will be denied. This will be followed up by an office meeting between the instructor and student. Grading challenges will never result in a lower grade.

Note

Technology Policy - There will be a website for the class on D2L (online.okstate.edu). Non-text book readings, the syllabus, and information about deadlines, assignments, etc... will be posted there. Each student is responsible for checking the website for announcements and to retrieve any assignment in a timely manner. The instructor is not responsible for any technical difficulties encountered when accessing the course website. Technical difficulties with the course website do not serve as an excuse for late assignments. If you do experience technical problems, there is a “Student Help” link on D2L. Please feel free to see me if you have any questions or concerns.

Email Policy - Please note that all class-wide emails will be sent to your school email address. If this mail is forwarded to another account, it is your responsibility to receive messages that I send. Failure to adequately and periodically check your email does not serve as an excuse for late/incomplete assignments or absences. Please also be aware that email is not necessarily a secure medium so, as a result, I will not provide grade information via email. If you have a question/concern about your grade, it is your responsibility to meet with me during office hours.

Incomplete Policy – University Policy states that “a student must satisfactorily complete the *majority* of course work, and average ‘D’ or better on work to date, but has been ‘unavoidably prevented from completing the remaining work of the course’”.

Class Cancellations - In the event that class must be cancelled (instructor illness, inclement weather, surprise Benedict Cumberbatch visit, etc.), I will contact you via your OSU email and I will make note of the cancellation on the D2L course site.

Meeting with Students – Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. Please note that questions and concerns about grades are easier to solve early in the semester rather than late. I will have Skype on during the times that I am in my office (this is beyond my normal office hours). If

you are in Stillwater, my office is located in 208 Murray Hall. If you cannot meet me during that time, I will attempt to accommodate an alternative meeting time. Please feel free to see me if you have any questions or concerns.

Course Outline

Part I – The Causes of Conflict

Week 1: Introduction

- Review Syllabus

Week 2: Preliminaries

Readings:

- von Clausewitz, Carl. 1832. *On War*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, Book I, Chapter 1.
- Mueller, John. 1994. "The Obsolescence of Major War." In *Conflict After the Cold War: Arguments on Causes of War and Peace*, ed. Richard K. Betts. New York: Macmillan, 19-32.
- Goldstein, Joshua and Steven Pinker. 2011. War Really is Going Out of Style. *New York Times*, December 17: SR4.

Week 3: Psychological/Biological Explanations for War

Readings:

- Mead, Margaret. 1940. Warfare is Only an Invention - Not a Biological Necessity. *Asia* 40(8): 402-405.
- Yetiv, Steve A. 2004. *Explaining Foreign Policy: U.S. Decision-Making & the Persian Gulf War*. Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, Chapter 3.
- Hamby, Alonzo. 1991. An American Democrat: A Reevaluation of the Personality of Harry S Truman. *Political Science Quarterly* 106(1): 33-56.

Week 4: Domestic Explanations for War

Readings:

- Bremer, Stuart. 1992. Dangerous Dyads: Conditions Affecting the Likelihood of Interstate War, 1816-1965. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 36(2): 309-341.
- Morgan, T. Clifton and Kenneth N. Bickers. 1992. Domestic Discontent and the External Use of Force. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 36(1): 25-52.
- 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.

Week 5: Systemic Explanations for War

Readings:

- Maoz, Zeev and Bruce Russett. 1993. Normative and Structural Causes of Democratic Peace, 1946-1986. *American Political Science Review* 87(3): 624-638.

- Jack S. Levy and William R. Thompson. 2010. Balancing on Land and at Sea: Do States Ally Against the Leading Global Power? *International Security* 35(1): 7-43.
- Modelski, George and William Thompson. 1989. "Long Cycles and Global War," in Manus Midlarky (ed.) *Handbook of War Studies*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 23-54.

Week 6: Realism & Liberalism

Readings:

- Snyder, Jack. 2004. One World, Rival Theories. *Foreign Policy* 145: 52-62.
- Thucydides. 431 BCE. *The History of the Peloponnesian War*. Harmondsworth: Penguin, "The Melian Dialogue".
- Mearsheimer, John J. 2001. *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*. New York: Norton. Chapter 2.
- Kant, Immanuel. 1996. "Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch." In *Classics of International Relations*, ed. John Vasquez. Upper Saddle River, NJ: Prentice Hall, 368-376.

Week 7

Midterm

Part II – Decisive Battles

Week 8: Fighting Spirit and Democracies

Readings:

- Reiter, Dan and Allan Stam. 1998. Democracy and Battlefield Military Effectiveness. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 42(3): 259-277.
- Hanson, Victor Davis. 2001. *Carnage and Culture: Landmark Battles in the Rise of Western Power*. New York: Anchor Books, Chapters 2.

Week 9: Technology & The Gunpowder Revolution

Readings:

- Van Evera, Stephen. 1998. Offense, Defense, and the Causes of War. *International Security* 22(4): 5-43.
- Boot, Part I except Chapter 2.

Week 10: The First Industrial Revolution

Reading:

- Boot, Part II except Chapter 4

Week 11: The Second Industrial Revolution

Reading:

- Boot, Part III

Week 12: The Information Revolution

Reading:

- Boot, Part IV except Chapter 10

Part III – War: Past, Present, and Future

Week 13: Experiences in War

Readings:

- Keegan, John. 1976. *The Face of Battle*. New York: Penguin, 246-275.
- Assorted Poems
- Naylor, Sean. 2006. *Not a Good Day to Die: The Untold Story of Operation Anaconda*. New York: Berkley Publishing Group, Chapters 1,2, 4-8

Week 14: Terrorism

Readings:

- Hoffman, Bruce. 1998. *Inside Terrorism*. New York: Columbia University Press. Chapters 1 & 4.

Week 15: Thanksgiving

- NO CLASS

Week 16: Some Potential Futures

Readings:

- Boot, Chapter 13.
- Cooley, John. 1994. "The War Over Water." In *Conflict After the Cold War: Arguments on Causes of War and Peace*, ed. Richard K. Betts. New York: Macmillan, 413-424.
- Homer-Dixon, Thomas. 1994. "Environmental Changes as Causes of Acute Conflict." In *Conflict After the Cold War: Arguments on Causes of War and Peace*, ed. Richard K. Betts. New York: Macmillan, 425-441.

FINAL – 6:00-7:50 Thursday, December 8th