

Political Science 597.01
Issues of the Contemporary World: War and Conflict in the Modern Era
Autumn Quarter, 2006

Monday & Wednesday 8:30 AM – 10:18 AM

Room: 0080 Derby Hall (DB)

Instructor: M. J. Reese

Office: 2043 Derby Hall (DB)

Office Hours: Monday & Wednesday
1:25pm–3:25pm

or by appointment

E-mail: reese.150@osu.edu

Course Description

Issues of the Contemporary World: War and Conflict in the Modern Era is an advanced undergraduate course in International Relations. In this course, we will wrestle with one of humanity's most enduring problems: war. Exactly what is "war"? Why is violent conflict an accepted element of international politics, but considered taboo in other contexts? How has the nature of war changed in the modern world? Perhaps most importantly, can war be stopped? In pursuit of these central questions, this course will unfold in two parts.

In the first half of the course, we will deal with theories that relate to the causes of war. In this portion of the class, we will discuss central concepts in the study of International Relations. We will introduce concepts such as "the state," "sovereignty," "rationality," and "power." We will then look at several approaches to understanding why states end up in violent conflict. The purpose of this journey will be to gain a basic understanding of existing scholarship on the nature of war.

In the second half of the course, we will turn to an examination of violent conflict in the contemporary world. We will discuss how the nature of war has changed...and how it has remained the same. This portion of the course will also touch on major world problems such as terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, and ethnic conflict. We will, in the process, contemplate whether war can become a relic of the past or, if it cannot be eliminated, how it can at least be managed.

In the end, the focus of this course will be to provide the necessary theoretical and analytical background for students to critically examine and interpret the evolution of international conflict as they continue their lives the twenty-first century – a period where the very nature of international relations may fundamentally change.

Readings

There are three required books for this course. The books should be available at the University Bookstore, Local Booksellers (Long's, SBX, etc.) and Internet bookstores such as at Amazon.com, Half.com, Barnesnoble.com, and the like. I highly suggest you attempt to find the books online as you will likely find the best prices there. However, you are responsible for

performing the required readings on time – no leeway will be given to compensate for shipping delays.

Mingst, Karen A. and Jack L. Snyder [editors] (2004). *Essential Readings in World Politics* (2nd Edition). W. W. Norton & Company.
ISBN: 0-393-92406-8

Blainey, Geoffrey (1988). *The Causes of War*. Simon and Schuster.
ISBN: 0-02-903591-0

Ikenberry, G. John [editor] (2002). *America Unrivaled*. Cornell University Press.
ISBN: 0-8014-8802-8

Also, it is highly suggested that you get in the habit of monitoring the international news. While I personally prefer *The Economist* (www.economist.com), other reputable publications such as the *New York Times* (www.nytimes.com) or *Newsweek* (www.newsweek.com), among others, will suffice. Connecting current events to the material presented in this course, while not strictly required, is the surest way to achieve high grades in exams.

The Determination of Grades

The final course grade will be determined by weighting your performance in four areas:

1. In-class Participation	20%
2. Midterm Exam	20%
3. Term Paper	30%
4. Final Exam	<u>30%</u>
FINAL GRADE	100%

My grading scale for the quizzes, exams, and final course grades is as follows:

A	=	100% - 92%	C+	=	80% - 78%
A-	=	92% - 90%	C	=	78% - 72%
B+	=	90% - 88%	C-	=	72% - 70%
B	=	88% - 82%	D+	=	70% - 68%
B-	=	82% - 80%	D	=	68% - 60%
		E (also known as "F")	=		Less than 60%

GEC-Mandated Goals & Objectives for this Course

Political Science 597.01: Capstone Experiences

Goals/Rationale:

Thematic upper-division course work, drawing upon multiple disciplines, enriches students' experiences of the contemporary world.

Learning Objectives:

1. Students synthesize and apply knowledge from diverse disciplines to contemporary issues.
2. Students write about or conduct research on the contemporary world.

Student Responsibilities

Attendance & Participation:

This course will combine lectures with opportunities for students to react to the material. This course will therefore require your active participation. As a result, you are expected to attend every class session and to do so prepared to contribute. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of every class and your participation score will be negatively impacted by more than one unexcused absence. If you do happen to miss a class session for whatever reason, you will still be held responsible for the material covered. It is up to you to acquire notes from a classmate. This is important because we sometimes cover material in class not contained in the assigned reading. You may therefore miss something crucial for passing an exam if you do not make the necessary arrangements. However, it is obviously in your interest to attend class on the days tests are administered. You will be allowed to take a make-up exam only if you present me with a documented excuse for your absence on the day of administration. In cases of illness, for instance, a documented excuse would consist of a signed note from your doctor or the OSU Medical Center.

Reading:

As noted above, you will be asked to complete a reading assignment in preparation for each lecture. Ideally, you are to complete this reading *before* each class begins. Please try to perform the readings in the order listed in the "Course Schedule" portion of your syllabus (there usually is a reason behind the ordering). It is important to keep up with this reading. Getting too far behind is a recipe for doing badly in class discussion and on exams. I cannot emphasize enough that although we will not discuss everything in class covered in your readings you will be expected to answer exam questions that may involve these reading-only points and issues (i.e. merely showing up for class will *not* be enough to do well in this course).

Term Paper:

You will be asked to complete a 12-15 page typed term paper (12-point font, 1 inch margins, double spaced) discussing a war of your choosing. At the end of the second week (September 27th), I will distribute a handout to provide you with some paper ideas and further

guidelines. You will be expected to turn in a brief (less than 1 page) proposal of your planned paper topic one week later on **Wednesday, October 4th**. Your final paper will be due **3pm on Wednesday, November 15th**. Unless you have a legitimate documented excuse that has been approved by me *before* that deadline has passed, every calendar day the paper is late will result in a full letter grade deduction (10 points) on your term paper score.

Exams:

There will be two *closed book* exams held during this course: a midterm and a final exam. Each exam will be structured similarly with an “identification of terms” section and an “essay” section. One week before each exam, I will hand out a study guide to assist you in your preparations. If you know the guide well, you should do well on the exam. We shall discuss the exams more as they draw closer.

Communication with Your Instructor:

I encourage every student to feel free to contact me with any problems, concerns, or questions about the course. I am easiest to contact via e-mail (reese.150@osu.edu) which I do check with consistent regularity. I will make myself available every week for regular office hours (Monday and Wednesday 1:25-3:25pm) and will also be available for additional meetings by appointment if you have other obligations during these regular hours. If you do wish to make an appointment to meet outside of my regularly scheduled office hours, I request that you give me at least 24 hours notice to make sure I can accommodate you.

It is unfortunate that many students wait until finals week to contact me about their performance. If you run into problems with the course material, or are not achieving the grades you believe yourself capable of, please contact me sooner rather than later. If you wait too long, you may have little or no opportunity to turn your performance around and achieve the A grade I know each of you are capable of.

Academic Honesty:

I expect all of the work you do in this course to be your own. I will tolerate absolutely no cheating or plagiarism (using someone else’s words or ideas without proper citation). I will report any cases of cheating or plagiarism to the university committee on academic misconduct, and they will be handled according to university policy.

Disability:

If you need accommodation based on the impact of a disability, it is your responsibility to contact me no later than October 2nd to schedule an appointment. At the appointment we can discuss the course format, anticipate your needs, and explore potential accommodations. I rely on the Office for Disability Services for assistance in verifying the need for accommodations and developing accommodation strategies. If you have not previously contacted the Office for Disability Services, I encourage you to do so.

Course Schedule

September 20 Introduction

THEORIES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, WAR, AND CONFLICT

25 Basic Concepts in International Relations

Read: - Gaddis, J. L. "History, Theory, and Common Ground" in Mingst & Snyder, *Essential Readings in World Politics*

- Krasner, S. D. "Sovereignty" in Mingst & Snyder, *Essential Readings in World Politics*

- Walt, S. M. "International Relations: One World, Many Theories" in Mingst & Snyder, *Essential Readings in World Politics*

- Bull, H. "Does Order Exist in World Politics?" in Mingst & Snyder, *Essential Readings in World Politics*

27 War in International Relations

Read: - von Clausewitz, C. "War as an Instrument of Policy" in Mingst & Snyder, *Essential Readings in World Politics*

- Blainey, G. "Book Two: The Web of War" in *The Causes of War*

*******Note: Please concentrate on Chapters 3 'Dreams and Delusions of a Coming War' and 8 'The Abacus of Power' and you can skim over the rest*******

- Blainey, G. "Book Four: The Varieties of War" in *The Causes of War*

*****Note: Just skim over these chapters – get a basic idea of Blainey’s ‘Types of War’ *****

October 2

Rationalism in International Politics

Read: - Blainey, G. “Book Three: The Elusive Warmongers (Chapters 9, 10, & 11)” in *The Causes of War*

- Schelling, T. C. “The Diplomacy of Violence” in Mingst & Snyder, *Essential Readings in World Politics*

4 **Realism, Power, and Security**

(***Term Paper Proposals Due In Class Today***)

Read: - Morgenthau, H. “A Realist Theory of International Politics” in Mingst & Snyder, *Essential Readings in World Politics*

- Mearsheimer, J. “Anarchy and the Struggle for Power” in Mingst & Snyder, *Essential Readings in World Politics*

- Morgenthau, H. “The Balance of Power” in Mingst & Snyder, *Essential Readings in World Politics*

9 **Liberalism and the Roots of War**

Read: - Thucydides “Melian Dialogue” in Mingst & Snyder, *Essential Readings in World Politics*

- Kant, I. “To Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch” in Mingst & Snyder, *Essential Readings in World Politics*

- Doyle, M. W. “Liberalism and World Politics” in Mingst & Snyder, *Essential Readings in World Politics*

- Ikenberry, G. J. “Democracy, Institutions, and American Restraint” in Ikenberry, *America Unrivaled*

- Sen, A. “Universal Truths: Human Rights and the

Westernizing Illusion” in Mingst & Snyder,
Essential Readings in World Politics

11 **Neoliberal Institutionalism and International Conflict**

Read: - Blainey, G. “Chapter 2: Paradise is a Bazaar” in *The Causes of War*

- Wilson, W. “The Fourteen Points” in Mingst & Snyder,
Essential Readings in World Politics

- Slaughter, A. “The Real New World Order” in Mingst & Snyder,
Essential Readings in World Politics

- Mearsheimer, J. “The False Promise of International Institutions” in Mingst & Snyder,
Essential Readings in World Politics

16 **Alternative Systemic Views of Conflict**

Read: - Risse, T. “U.S. Power in a Liberal Security Community” in Ikenberry,
America Unrivaled

- Gunder-Frank, A. “The Development of Underdevelopment” in Mingst & Snyder,
Essential Readings in World Politics

- Wallerstein, I. “The Rise and Future Demise of the World Capitalist System: Concepts and Comparative Analysis” in Mingst & Snyder,
Essential Readings in World Politics

18 **Individualistic Theories of War**

Read: - Jervis, R. “Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma” in Mingst & Snyder,
Essential Readings in World Politics

- Hermann, M. and Hagan, J. “International Decision Making: Leadership Matters” in Mingst & Snyder,
Essential Readings in World Politics

- Jervis, R. “Hypotheses on Misperception” in Mingst &

23 **Midterm Review**

25 **MIDTERM II**

The exam will held at the regular class time & location

TOPICS ON WARFARE AND CONFLICT IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD

30 **Violent Conflict in the Post-World War Two Era**

Read: - Blainey, G. "Chapter 16: War, Peace and Neutrality" in
The Causes of War

- Gaddis, J. L. "The Long Peace: Elements of Stability in
the Postwar International System" in Mingst &
Snyder, *Essential Readings in World Politics*

- Mueller, J. "The Essential Irrelevance of Nuclear
Weapons: Stability in the Postwar World" in Mingst
& Snyder, *Essential Readings in World Politics*

-Waltz, K. N. "Structural Realism after the Cold War" in
Ikenberry, *America Unrivaled*

November 1 **Unipolarity and American Hegemony**

Read: - Jervis, R. "The Compulsive Empire" in Mingst & Snyder,
Essential Readings in World Politics

- Wohlforth, W. C. "U.S. Strategy in a Unipolar World" in
Ikenberry, *America Unrivaled*

- Kupchan, C. "Hollow Hegemony or Stable
Multipolarity?" in Ikenberry, *America Unrivaled*

- Walt, S. M. "Keeping the World "Off Balance": Self
Restraint and U.S. Foreign Policy in Ikenberry,
America Unrivaled

6 **Weapons of Mass Destruction and International Violence**

Read: - Sagan, S. and Waltz, K. N. "Indian and Pakistani Nuclear Weapons: For Better or Worse?" in Mingst & Snyder, *Essential Readings in World Politics*

- Glennon, M. J. "Why the Security Council Failed" and Luck, E. C., Slaughter, A. Hurd, I. "Responses" in Mingst & Snyder, *Essential Readings in World Politics*

- Rotberg, R. "Failed States in a World of Terror" in Mingst & Snyder, *Essential Readings in World Politics*

8 **Terrorism and Violent Non-State Actors**

Read: - Pape, R. A. "The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism" in Mingst & Snyder, *Essential Readings in World Politics*

- Cronin, A. K. "Behind the Curve: Globalization and International Terrorism" in Mingst & Snyder, *Essential Readings in World Politics*

- Fuller, G. E. "The Future of Political Islam" in Mingst & Snyder, *Essential Readings in World Politics*

13 **Globalization and Economic Conflict**

Read: - Huntington, S. P. "The Clash of Civilizations?" in Mingst & Snyder, *Essential Readings in World Politics*

- Held D. and McGrew, A. with Goldblatt, D. and Perraton, J. "Globalization" in Mingst & Snyder, *Essential Readings in World Politics*

- Scott, B. R. "The Great Divide in the Global Villiage" in Mingst & Snyder, *Essential Readings in World Politics*

- Friedman, T. "The Backlash" in Mingst & Snyder,
Essential Readings in World Politics

15 *******TERM PAPERS DUE TODAY BY 3PM*******

(**NO CLASS TODAY**)

20 **Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict**

Read: - Posen, B. R. "The Security Dilemma and Ethnic Conflict"
in Mingst & Snyder, *Essential Readings in World
Politics*

- Power, S. "Bystanders to Genocide: Why the United
States Let the Rwandan Tragedy Happen" in Mingst
& Snyder, *Essential Readings in World Politics*

22 *******THANKSGIVING TRAVEL DAY*******

(**NO CLASS TODAY**)

27 **Humanitarian Intervention and "Legitimate" War**

Read: - Finnemore, M. "Constructing Norms of Humanitarian
Intervention" in Mingst & Snyder, *Essential
Readings in World Politics*

- Kissinger, H. A. "The Pitfalls of Universal Jurisdiction"
in Mingst & Snyder, *Essential Readings in World
Politics*

- Roth, K. "The Case for Universal Jurisdiction" in Mingst
& Snyder, *Essential Readings in World Politics*

29 **Course Wrap-up & Final Exam Review**

Tuesday, December 5th

*******FINAL EXAM*******

**THE FINAL WILL BE HELD FROM 7:30 AM –
9:18 AM AT THE REGULAR CLASS LOCATION**