Course Description and Goals

This course examines contemporary problems of war and peace from a historical and theoretical perspective. What were the causes of war in the past and what can we learn from that experience? What strategies do actors in the international system use to employ force, and how have they changed in the nuclear age? What are the current problems facing decisionmakers today? The course begins with a review of political, psychological, organizational, economic, and nationalist theories of the causes of war, then uses these theories to examine the origins and character of both historical and contemporary conflicts, including the First and Second World Wars and the Iraq War. It continues by examining the effects on conflict of the nuclear revolution. The course concludes by examining the major contemporary threats to national and international security that may be faced in the coming decade.

Students will learn to perform basic research and analysis through writing and thinking about conflict from multiple different perspectives. Readings are drawn from historic and contemporary scholars of strategy, war, and politics, cover a wide variety of issues, and are presented in context with historical and contemporary events. Assignments are a mixture of analysis, research, and experiential learning.

Requirements

Class Participation
Students will have the opportunity participate in the class both during and outside of classroom hours. Each student will be assigned to three days during the semester in which they will co-author a short memo comparing and contrasting that day’s readings and posing questions for discussion. These memos should be posted in the forums on the course website by 8 PM the day before the readings are to be discussed. The posters will also start off the next day’s session with a short presentation and will open up discussion. ALL students are required to read the memos and be prepared to answer the questions the next day in class; they are also encouraged to respond to the memos in the forum as part of their participation.

Readings
Readings for the course are drawn from books available at the bookstore as well as E-Readings, which can be downloaded off the course website. For the lazy, the E-Readings can even be downloaded directly from the links on the syllabus. Readings marked “Further” are other relevant articles; they are not required for class.

Four books are for sale at the bookstore and are also on reserve at the library; Note that the Betts volume is the 2002 second edition, not the 2005 updated second edition. The relevant part (that is, all of it minus the initial commentary) of The Art of War is available on E-Readings as well, so purchasing the book is recommended, not required. Similarly, since those of you who have taken POL 240 from me already have a copy of Sagan and Waltz (and because we only use it one day), it is also recommended. Finally, those who are generally interested in the study of war classics may wish to purchase a copy of Clausewitz; make sure that you get the version edited by Michael Howard and Peter Paret, not the bowdlerized version by Anatol Rapoport.

Required

Recommended

Optional

Course Website
Frequent reading of the course website will be helpful for success in the class. Discussion and collaboration with your peers is available to you through the website as well as in class; supplemental and core readings will be made available there; and assignments will be turned in electronically using the site.

Assignments and Quals
There are two formal assignments for this course. More details regarding the assignments will be available later. If you intend to qual in this course, you must let me know the first day.

- The first assignment (due March 10) will be a short (1600-2000 word) essay
- The second assignment (due the end of week 14) will be a longer (3000-3500 word) essay

Citation and Plagiarism
A major goal of this course is to encourage good reading, research, and citation habits. Good research requires good documentation of sources and the ability to put one’s own analysis and thoughts into a paper rather than relying on others. Plagiarism and cheating are violations of academic integrity and thus violations of Reed’s Honor Principle. As specified by Reed’s academic conduct policy, such violations will result in disciplinary actions, including suspension or permanent dismissal from the College. For the purposes of this class, plagiarism is submitting a piece of work which in part or in whole is not entirely the student’s own work without attributing those same portions to their correct source. For examples of plagiarism and how to avoid it, see <http://www.csub.edu/ssric-trd/howto/plagiarism.htm> For more information on Reed’s policies see: <http://web.reed.edu/academic/gbook/comm_pol/acad_honesty.html>.

Accommodations
If you’d like to request academic accommodations due to a disability, please contact Associate Dean of Student Services, Sarah Parshley, Eliot 218, 503/777-7521, parshles@reed.edu. If you have a letter from Student Services, please let me know so we can discuss those accommodations.
1/29/08: 00.1. Introduction (26 Pages)

  <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0043-8871(196004)12:3%3C453:ICTLOA%3E2.0.CO;2-J>, ISSN 00438871
  ERReading
  1–17, ISBN 0201083493 ERReading

1/31/08: 00.2. Is War Inevitable? (54 Pages)

- Immanuel Kant (1795) Perpetual Peace. In Betts *Conflict 2nd Ed.*, 103–109
- Edward Hallett Carr (1939) Realism and Idealism. In Betts *Conflict 2nd Ed.*, 51–67
- Margaret Mead (1940) Warfare Is Only an Invention - Not a Biological Necessity. In Betts *Conflict 2nd Ed.*, 165–169

Review

- Niccolò Machiavelli (1512) Doing Evil in Order to Do Good. In Betts *Conflict 2nd Ed.*, 42–46

Part I: The Causes of War: WWI and Iraq

2/5/08: 01.0. Grand Theories of War (119 Pages)

- Carl von Clausewitz; Michael Eliot Howard and Peter Paret, editors (1993) Chap. 1.1-1.2 In von Clausewitz *On War*,
  83–114 ERReading

Further


2/7/08: 01.1. Guns of August (133 Pages)

  6-7, and 9, skim 1, 5, and 8 ERReading

2/12/08: 01.2. International Politics-Power Balancing (74 Pages)

  ISBN 0321209478, 96–103 ERReading
  ERReading
  <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0015-7228(200307/08)0:137%3C82:TCE%3E2.0.CO;2-O>, ISSN 0015–7228
  ERReading

Further

2/14/08: 01.3. International Politics-Power Transitions (80 Pages)


Further

- V. I. Lenin (1939) Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism. In Betts Conflict 2nd Ed., 242–248

2/19/08: 01.4. International Politics-Money (94 Pages)

- V. I. Lenin (1939) Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism. In Betts Conflict 2nd Ed., 242–248

Further

- Niccolò Machiavelli (1517) Money Is Not the Sinews of War, Although It Is Generally So Considered. In Betts Conflict 2nd Ed., 229–231

2/21/08: 01.5. International Politics-Technology (110 Pages)


4
2/26/08: 01.6. Domestic Politics (113 Pages)

  <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0022-1953(198821)18:4%3C653:DPAW%3E2.0.CO;2-Q> EReading

Further

2/28/08: 01.7. Organizations (115 Pages)


3/4/08: 01.8. Nationalism (130 Pages)

- Hedley Bull (1968) Society and Anarchy in International Relations. In Betts Conflict 2nd Ed., 110–120

3/6/08: 01.9. Psychology (131 Pages)

- Sigmund Freud (1932) Why War? In Betts Conflict 2nd Ed., 152–159
Part II: From WWII to Nuclear Weapons

3/11/08: 02.1. Deterrence (98 Pages)
- George Sansom (1948) Japan’s Fatal Blunder. In Art and Waltz The use of force, 153–164

Further

3/13/08: 02.2. Compellence (80 Pages)

Further

Spring Break

3/25/08: 02.3. Nuclear Proliferation (182 Pages)

3/27/08: —-. No Class

3/30/08: 02.4. Nuclear Crises (makeup class) (100 Pages)

4/1/08: 02.5. Nuclear Diplomacy (92 Pages)

Further


Further

• Samuel P. Huntington (1958) Arms Races: Prerequisites and Results. In Betts *Conflict 2nd Ed.*, 379–399

Further


Part III: Contemporary Problems

4/8/08: 03.0. American Empire (85 Pages)


4/10/08: 03.1. Terrorism (87 Pages)

• Brian M. Jenkins (1975) International Terrorism. In Art and Waltz *The use of force*, 77–84
4/15/08: 03.2. Insurgencies (103 Pages)


4/17/08: 03.3. Ethnic Conflict (116 Pages)


Further


4/22/08: 03.4. Ending Civil Wars (120 Pages)

- Stephen D. Biddle (2007) Evaluating Options for Partial Withdrawals of US Forces from Iraq. Testimony before the Committee on Armed Services, Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee, United States House of Representatives, First Session, 110th Congress EReading
- David H. Petraeus (2007) Report to Congress on the Situation in Iraq. EReading

Further

4/24/08: 03.5. Rogue States (109 Pages)


4/29/08: 03.6. Future Causes (77 Pages)


5/1/08: 03.7. Future of War (63 Pages)


- John J. Mearsheimer (1990) Why We will Soon Miss the Cold War. In Betts *Conflict 2nd Ed.*, 17–32


Further


