

# **INR 4083: War and Peace**

Department of Political Science, University of Florida  
Spring 2015

## **Instructor**

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## **Course Information**

Meeting Times: MWF 7<sup>th</sup> period (1:55pm–2:45pm)  
Classroom: CSE E221  
Office Hours: F 12:00pm-1:30pm

## **Course Description**

This course aims in familiarizing the student with current research on the onset, involvement, escalation, and termination of war and international conflict, in general. Our main goal is to understand why people and states fight each other, and, by extension, to reveal those conditions necessary to maintaining peace. In doing so, we will analyze and evaluate contemporary scholarly works devoted to uncovering empirical patterns and determinants of international conflict. Indicatively, some of the topics we will address are: arms and military power, alliances, territory and geography, rivalries, and domestic influences, among others.

The course begins by introducing the student to the concept of war, its definition, the different types of conflict, and the specialized terminology associated to each type. The main bulk of the course is concerned with the causes and correlates of international violence, as well as with its impact and outcomes. We will end the semester with a discussion on the possibilities of detecting, predicting, avoiding, or preventing future wars and the chances of achieving perpetual peace. Upon completion of this course, students should possess a thorough understanding of international conflict processes and should be able to apply this knowledge in explaining current and past events.

## **Course Objectives**

This course is intended to provide students with the ability to:

- Identify recurring patterns of international conflict;
- Critically evaluate the merits of each individual approach to the study of war;
- Assess the importance of different causes/correlates of conflict;
- Discuss the advantages/disadvantages of empirically investigating global violence;
- Generate and substantiate theoretical arguments regarding international conflict.

## **Grade Weights**

Class Participation	20%
Review Essays	20% (10% each)
Final Exam	30%
Final Paper	30%

## Course Requirements

### I) Class Participation

You are expected to attend all class meetings and be prepared for an in-depth discussion of the assigned course material. A portion of your final grade will be based on your participation. Note that your physical presence in the classroom (attendance) is not a substitute for active participation. Your grade will reflect both the quality of your contributions and your willingness to engage in the discussion. When participating you are expected not only to demonstrate a firm grasp of the assigned material, but also to challenge your peers and the instructor by emphasizing potential shortcomings in the readings and by asking critical questions. If you feel uncomfortable speaking in the class, make sure to compensate for that by discussing the readings with the instructor either during office hours or via email.

Attendance will be checked regularly. You are allowed to a maximum of two (2) unexcused absences for the duration of the course, so spend them wisely. Each additional unexcused absence will be penalized with 2% of your overall course grade. Absences due to illness are excused only when accompanied by a doctor's note. If you know you are going to miss a session for a reason that justifies your absence, inform the instructor via email beforehand.

### II) Review Essays

During the course of the semester you are required to write two short review essays (about 4-6 pages, double-spaced) on two topics of your choice out of those introduced in the course. We will assign topics during our first meeting. The review essays will be due at midnight before the day each topic is to be discussed in class.

The review essays should discuss, compare, and contrast the readings assigned to a specific topic. A great review essay is not a summary of the material; on the contrary, you are expected to summarize as little as possible so that you will have enough space left for a thorough critical evaluation of the arguments and evidence present in the readings. What is more, you are expected to go a step further and offer your own perspective on the caveats of the assigned literature by emphasizing aspects that were – intentionally or unintentionally – ignored by the author(s).

### III) Final Exam

The final exam will be administered on **April 22, 2015 at 1:55 in CSE E221**. Students will be presented with five prompts, of which they will have to choose and write about two. The exam is cumulative, meaning that you are expected to apply everything you have learned throughout the course of the semester in answering the questions. There is no length limit or requirement in regards to your answers; you should provide as big or small an answer you wish, as long as it adequately addresses the question at hand. You are required, however, to bring a blank bluebook. Please note that in case you miss the exam, you will be allowed to take a make-up if and only if there is a significant reason for your absence, accompanied by appropriate documentation.

### IV) Final Paper

One final paper is required for this class (10-15 pages, double-spaced). The paper may take one of the following forms:

- An extensive literature review on a topic of your choice that will go beyond what has already been covered in class;
- A research proposal on a generalized empirical question, approved by the instructor;
- A research paper on a specific instance of war or conflict, approved by the instructor, which will examine and analyze the causes, determinants, and outcomes of the selected event.

The final paper is due on **April 19, 2015**. More details about the final paper are provided at the end of this syllabus.

## **Course Policies**

### **I) Late Assignments**

A review essay is late if it has not been submitted (via email to the instructor or on E-learning) by midnight before the topic is to be discussed in class. A final paper is late if it has been submitted on E-Learning after April 19, 2015. In both cases, a late assignment will be downgraded a letter grade even if it is only a minute late. An additional letter grade will be deducted for each additional day the assignment is late up to a maximum of three days, after which it will receive a 0. You are strongly encouraged to email/upload your assignment early so that you will avoid last minute complications. Excuses for late assignments will not be accepted.

Please note that passing the course requires you to complete all assignments. I generally do not assign “incompletes,” unless presented with extraordinary circumstances, given proper documentation.

### **II) Professional Conduct**

Always be courteous and polite towards your peers and the instructor, addressing them with respect and in a professional manner. Although you are entitled to your own views and opinions, the use of offensive/derogatory language will not be tolerated.

The use of laptops/tablets is allowed during our meetings only if they are used to take notes or review readings. If I detect that you are using your device in any other capacity (i.e. emails, facebook, twitter etc.) you will be asked to leave the classroom and no attendance points will be awarded to you for that meeting. Repeat offenders will experience a significant reduction of their overall course grade.

The use of cellphones (talking/texting) is absolutely prohibited during our meetings. Professional etiquette dictates that your cellphone is silent and out of reach when in class. If it rings and I hear it, you will be asked to set it on silent. If it rings again you will be asked to leave the classroom.

### **III) Academic Integrity**

As a University of Florida student you are expected to abide by the UF Student Conduct & Honor Code. This means that you have pledged to avoid giving or receiving unauthorized aid when performing an academic task. Possible violations of the Honor Code include – but are not limited to – plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, and misrepresentation.

I employ a zero tolerance policy in regards to academic dishonesty. If you cheat you will get an F for the course, while I reserve the right to initiate further disciplinary action against you depending on the severity of your offense. If you are unsure whether a specific action constitutes a violation of the Honor Code make sure to ask the instructor or review the Academic Honesty guidelines at: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/index.php/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code>.

### **IV) Disabilities**

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

### **V) Counseling**

Resources are available on campus for students having personal problems or lacking career and academic goals, which interfere with their academic performance. These resources include:

- University Counseling Center, 301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575, personal and career counseling;
- Student Mental Health, Student Health Care Center, 392-1171, personal counseling.

## Course Materials

There are two required texts for this course, available for purchase in the UF Bookstore or from your favorite online retailer. Note that we will supplement these texts with scholarly articles (E-Learning Resources) and/or with scanned chapters from other sources (available in e-reserves).

- Vasquez, John A. (2012). *What Do We Know About War?* (2<sup>nd</sup> Ed). Rowman & Littlefield.
- McLaughlin-Mitchell, Sara, Diehl, Paul F., and James D. Morrow (2012). *Guide to the Scientific Study of International Processes*. Willey-Blackwell.

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## Class Schedule

### PART I: INTRODUCTION TO THE STUDY OF INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT

#### Week 1 (January 7-9): Overview, Introduction to Empirical Research

- W. Overview of the course. Assigning topics for the review essays. No readings.
- F. Thinking empirically. Assumptions.
  - a. Pp. 2-13 in Quackenbush, Stephen L. (2015). *International Conflict: Logic and Evidence*. CQ Press. (E-Learning Resources).
  - b. "Empirical Theory and the Causes of War," in Greg Cashman (2014). *What Causes War?* Rowman & Littlefield (pp. 1-12). (E-Reserves).

#### Week 2 (January 12-16): Developing Explanations, Basic Concepts, and Definitions

- M. Logic of inquiry.
  - a. "Introduction," in Most, Benjamin A. and Harvey Starr (1989). *Inquiry, Logic, and International Politics*. University of South Carolina Press (pp. 1-22). (E-Learning Resources).
- W. Developing explanations.
  - a. Chapter 5 in *Guide to the Scientific Study of International Processes* (pp. 81-90).
- F. Defining conflict and types of conflict.
  - a. Pp. 166-177 in Daniel M. Jones, Stuart A. Bremer and J. David Singer (1996). " Militarized Interstate Disputes, 1816-1992: Rationale, Coding Rules, and Empirical Patterns." *Conflict Management and Peace Science*, 15(2). (E-Learning Resources).
  - b. "Appendix to Chapter 4," in Most, Benjamin A. and Harvey Starr (1989). *Inquiry, Logic, and International Politics*. University of South Carolina Press (pp. 92-96). (E-Learning Resources).

### PART II: CAUSES AND CORRELATES OF WAR

#### Week 3 (January 21-23): Power Politics

- M. No Class – MLK Day.**
- W. Systemic Theories of Conflict.
  - a. Chapter 6 in *Guide to the Scientific Study of International Processes* (pp. 93-114).
- F. Recent Arguments.
  - a. Wohlforth, William C. (2009). "Unipolarity, Status Competition, and Great Power War." *World Politics* 61(1): 28-57. (E-Learning Resources).
  - b. Optional: Sakwa, Richard (2008). "New Cold War or Twenty Years' Crisis? Russia and International Politics." *International Affairs* 84(2): 241-267. (E-Learning Resources).

#### **Week 4 (January 26-30): Material Capabilities**

- M. Arms races.
  - a. Chapter 6 in *What Do We Know About War?* (pp. 111-138).
- W. Nuclear weapons.
  - a. Chapter 7 in *What Do We Know About War?* (pp. 139-163).
- F. Power balance vs. power preponderance.
  - a. Chapter 4 in Danilovic, Vesna (2002). *When the Stakes Are High*. University of Michigan Press (pp. 71-97). (E-reserves).
  - b. Hegre, Halvard (2008). "Gravitating Towards War: Preponderance May Pacify, but Power Kills." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 52.4: 566-589. (E-Learning Resources).

#### **Week 5 (February 2-6): Alliances**

- M. General patterns.
  - a. Chapter 2 in *What Do We Know About War?* (pp. 27-44).
  - b. Chapter 8 in *Guide to the Scientific Study of International Processes* (pp. 135-150).
- W. Deterrence.
  - a. Chapter 3 in *What Do We Know About War?* (pp. 45-62).
- F. Extended deterrence.
  - a. Gibler, Douglas M. (2008). "The Costs of Reneging: Reputation and Alliance Formation." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 52(3): 426-454. (E-Learning Resources).

#### **Week 6 (February 9-13): Rivalries**

- M. Becoming rivals.
  - a. Chapter 4 in *What Do We Know About War?* (pp. 63-82).
- W. Rivalry maintenance and termination.
  - a. Chapter 5 in *What Do We Know About War?* (pp. 83-110).
- F. Empirical findings.
  - a. Dreyer, David R. (2010). "Issue Conflict Accumulation and the Dynamics of Strategic Rivalry." *International Studies Quarterly* 54(3): 779-795. (E-Learning Resources).

#### **Week 7 (February 16-20): Geography and Territory**

- M. Overview.
  - a. Chapter 7 in *Guide to the Scientific Study of International Processes* (pp. 115-134).
  - b. Chapter 1 in *What Do We Know About War?* (pp. 3-26).
- W. Territory as a facilitating condition for conflict.
  - a. Starr, Harvey and Thomas Dale (2005). "The Nature of Borders and International Conflict: Revisiting Hypotheses on Territory." *International Studies Quarterly* 49(1): 123-140. (E-Learning Resources).
  - b. Starr, Harvey (2005). "Territory, Proximity, and Spatiality: The Geography of International Conflict." *International Studies Review* 7(3): 387-406. (E-Learning Resources).
- F. **No Class – DF Conference.**

#### **Week 8 (February 23-27): Geography and Territory (cont'd)**

- M. More on proximity.
  - a. Reed, William and Daina Chiba (2009). "Decomposing the Relationship between Contiguity and Militarized Conflict." *American Journal of Political Science* 54(1): 61-73. (E-Learning Resources).
- W. More on territoriality.
  - a. Hensel, Paul R. and Sara McLaughlin-Mitchell (2005). "Issue Indivisibility and Territorial Claims." *GeoJournal* 64(4): 275-285. (E-Learning Resources).
  - b. Vasquez, John A. and Marie T. Henehan (2001). "Territorial Disputes and the Probability of War, 1816-1992." *Journal of Peace Research* 38(2): 123-138. (E-Learning Resources).

- F. Territorial peace.
  - a. Chapter 10 in *What Do We Know About War?* (pp. 211-234).

### **Week 9 (March 9-13): Regime Type and War**

- M. Democratic peace.
  - a. Chapter 9 in *Guide to the Scientific Study of International Processes* (pp. 151-170).
- W. The role of norms.
  - a. Chapter 8 in *What Do We Know About War?* (pp. 167-188).
- F. Criticisms.
  - a. Rosato, Sebastian (2003). "The Flawed Logic of Democratic Peace Theory," *American Political Science Review* 97(4): 585-602. (E-Learning Resources).

### **Week 10 (March 16-20): Regime Type and War Revisited**

- M. Trade Interdependence.
  - a. Hegre, Havard, John R. Oneal & Bruce Russett (2010). "Trade Does Promote Peace: New Simultaneous Estimates of the Reciprocal Effects of Trade and Conflict." *Journal of Peace Research* 47(6): 763-774.
  - b. Peterson, Timothy T. (2014). "Dyadic Trade, Exit Costs, and Conflict." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 58(4): 564-591.
- W. Capitalist peace.
  - a. Chapter 9 in *What Do We Know About War?* (pp. 189-210).
- F. Alternative explanations.
  - a. Bennett, D. Scott (2006). "Towards A Continuous Specification of the Democracy-Autocracy Connection," *International Studies Quarterly* 50: 313-338. (E-Learning Resources).

## **PART III: FROM WAR TO PEACE**

### **Week 11 (March 23-27): War Expansion, Termination, and Outcomes**

- M. Intervention.
  - a. Shirkey, Zachary C. (2012). "When and How Many: The Effects of Third Party Joining on Casualties and Duration in Interstate Wars," *Journal of Peace Research* 49(2): 321-334. (E-Learning Resources).
- W. Termination.
  - a. Ramsey, Kristopher W. (2008). "Settling It on the Field: Battlefield Events and War Termination," *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 52(6): 850-879. (E-Learning Resources).
- F. Outcomes.
  - a. Sullivan, Patricia L. (2007). "War Aims and War Outcomes: Why Powerful States Lose Limited Wars," *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 51(3): 496-524. (E-Learning Resources).

### **Week 12 (March 30 – April 3): After War**

- M. Consequences.
  - a. Chapter 12 in *Guide to the Scientific Study of International Processes* (pp. 209-232).
- W. Maintaining peace.
  - a. Durch, William J. and Tobias C. Berkman (2006). "Restoring and Maintaining Peace: What We Know So Far," in *Twenty-First-Century Peace Operations*, Durch William J. (ed.), U.S. Institute of Peace Press (pp. 1-48). E-reserves.
- F. Durability of peace.
  - a. Chapter 13 in *Guide to the Scientific Study of International Processes* (pp.233-249).

### **Week 13 (April 6-10): What Have We Learned About War**

- M. Reflections.

- a. Chapter 13 in *What Do We Know About War?* (pp. 271-280).
- b. Chapter 14 in *Guide to the Scientific Study of International Processes* (pp.253-270).
- W. Future directions.
  - a. Chapter 12 in *What Do We Know About War?* (pp. 257-270).
- F. Conclusion.
  - a. Chapter 16 in *What Do We Know About War?* (pp. 301-330).

#### **Week 14 (April 13-17): Current Issues**

- M. A world in conflict?
  - a. Chapters 10 and 11 in Black, Jeremy (2015). *A Century of Conflict*. Oxford University Press. (E-Learning Resources)
- W. **No Class – MPSA.**
- F. **No Class – MPSA.**

#### **Week 15 (April 20-22): Exam Preparation**

- M. Exam preparation.
- W. Final Exam.

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### **Grading Scale**

- A =93.00+
- A- =90.00-92.99
- B+ =87.00-89.99
- B =83.00-86.99
- B- =80.00-82.99
- C+ =77.00-79.99
- C =73.00-76.99
- C- =70.00-72.99
- D+ =67.00-69.99
- D =63.00-66.99
- D- =60.00-62.99
- E =59.99 and below

For information of UF grading policy see: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

## Final Paper Assignment

The final paper of this course gives you the opportunity to apply the knowledge you have acquired on a research topic of your choice. This assignment aims in testing your ability to think critically, as well as to perform an analysis of scholarly quality. To this end, you are presented with three format options, each of which accompanied by specific requirements and expectations. These options are:

- An extensive literature review on a topic of your choice that will go beyond what has already been covered in class;
- A research proposal on a generalized empirical question, approved by the instructor;
- A research paper on a specific instance of war or conflict, approved by the instructor, which will examine and analyze the causes, determinants, and outcomes of the selected event.

### Details

#### 1) Literature Review

You are to choose one of the weekly topics in this syllabus (e.g. alliances) and write a literature review that will expand on the material we covered. The sources that you are to analyze should be no less than 10, and should include articles, books, and/or edited volumes. Since the aim of the course is to familiarize you with contemporary research on war, you should refrain from using sources published more than fifteen years ago, unless you deem them critical to the advancement of your paper. You are strongly encouraged to use articles published in highly regarded academic journals or books published by respectable presses (such as the ones in this syllabus). If you are unsure about the reliability or appropriateness of a source, consult the instructor.

Note that a good literature review is not only a summary of selected works. You are expected to delve deep into the arguments developed by the authors in order to contrast and compare them. Since there is more than one view to any of the subjects covered in this course you will more than likely encounter dissent in the opinions expressed by the scholars you select to include in the literature review. Hence, I expect you to analyze and constructively critique these differences of opinions, commenting on the strengths/weaknesses and the convincingness of each. Remember that our overall aim is to understand why wars occur and how to stop them, so the literature review should be geared towards this goal.

#### 2) Research Proposal

You are to develop and write a research proposal that addresses a clearly formulated research question of your choice. The proposal should include the research question, a justification of the importance of the question to the study of war, a limited literature review that is relevant to the subject you wish to research, a brief theory section, a number of indicative hypotheses (not more than four), and a discussion of the research design. In other words, the only element you are to exclude is the actual analysis.

The research question itself should be concerned with an empirical or theoretical puzzle. The question should address inconsistency in regards to theory or empirical findings. For example, the fact that we observe great variation on the behavior of democracies towards nondemocracies is an interesting empirical puzzle. A relevant research question, therefore, would be: "what are the dynamics that influence the behavior of democracies towards nondemocracies and how do they affect the prospects of interstate conflict?" Note that a research question cannot have a yes or no answer. Make sure to obtain my approval on your research question before you write the paper.

After stating your puzzle and your question you are expected to justify why your research is important to advancing our knowledge of conflict. Your literature review should indicate what has been argued on the subject, while your theory should delineate how you think the process works. The logical consequence of your theory should be a set of hypotheses that are designed to test your arguments. Finally, in your research design you are expected to state how you would perform the actual analysis: what data you need, spatial and temporal considerations, units of analysis, etc. If you want you are free to discuss your methodological approach, although it is not required.

### 3) Research Paper

I will present you with a list of 28 wars and 16 major conflicts that occurred between 1948 and 2006, of which you are to select a specific instance and analyze its causes, determinants, and outcomes. In doing so, you are expected to apply the theories and mechanisms you were exposed to in this course. In other words, you will be primarily concerned with the underlying conditions that led to and protracted the event, rather than with its immediate causes.

The structure of the paper should be as follows. First, a brief overview of the war should be provided, including – but not limited to – a short section on the history of the relationship of the adversaries before the hostilities were initiated (i.e. previous disputes, rivalry etc.). In your second section, you are expected to demonstrate your knowledge of the covered material and identify at least three theoretical factors (causes) that contributed to this war. You should logically and theoretically justify why each factor is a cause and demonstrate why you think it applies to the particular case. Your third section should examine the consequences and the outcome of the conflict (e.g. how was peace achieved, who won, and with what cost). Finally, you are expected to comment on whether the issue(s) that caused the conflict were resolved and on how likely it is for the same set of adversaries to fight in the future.

#### **Technical Notes**

The final paper is expected to be between 10 and 15 pages long (typed, double-spaced, 12 pt. font, 1 inch margin on all sides), excluding supplementary materials such as a cover page, bibliography, or appendices. The page requirement is not suggestive or amenable; papers shorter than the minimum/longer than the maximum number of pages will be penalized. You can either use the Harvard or the Chicago style of citation. **The paper must be submitted on e-learning by 11:59pm, Sunday, April 19, 2015** (see my policy on late assignments).