

The Costs of Conflict

Political Science 235

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Office: 6756 Haven Hall
Office Hours: Thursday 2-4pm, by appointment

Class time: 12PM–1PM MWF
Class location: 2306 Mason Hall

The Content of the Course

The course will focus on the variety of ways war is costly, and how those costs affect the initiation, duration, and consequences of military conflict. Some areas of interest include military budgets over time, pre-war uncertainty about the costliness of fighting, and the long-term effects of violence on individuals.

Course Requirements and Grading

The assignments will have the following weights in the calculation of final grades for the course:

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Value</u>
Issue Memo 1: Arming	10%
Issue Memo 2: Conflicts	10%
Group Data Visualization	15%
Individual Presentation	10%
Article Discussion	10%
Final Paper –Literature Review	25%
Participation	20%

Course Structure

This course includes reading, writing, discussion, lectures, presentations, and small group work in and out of class. Readings are primarily articles in political science. They are difficult to read, and may take more than one pass. Writing assignments are short, and should be written with purpose, clarity, and concision. Each week will introduce a new topic. Often, but not always, Mondays will be largely lecture, Wednesdays will be primarily discussion, and Fridays will be simulations and group presentations. Readings are available on the course website (ctools), organized by day. They are subject to revision.

Course Policies

Late Papers: Late papers will receive a deduction of *at least* one letter grade. Extensions will be granted only in exceptional circumstances. As with excused absences, a note from a doctor or other person of authority will be necessary. Please discuss the situation with me *as soon as possible* after it arises.

Re-grades: Grade complaints must be made **in writing**. This shall take the form of a detailed explanation for why you believe your answer is correct, including citations from the textbook or other sources (e.g. the lecture slides) supporting your answer.

Academic Integrity: You must always acknowledge the work of others in your own writing – if you use a direct quote, a paraphrase, or even just the general ideas or theories of others, you must properly cite your sources (see <http://www.lib.umich.edu/acadintegrity/students/citing/index.htm> for help on citing sources). Buying, borrowing, or stealing a paper written by another student or an outside source is also plagiarism. **Plagiarism in any form is unacceptable and will be subject to university procedures.** If you have any questions regarding what constitutes plagiarism, please ask! On how to recognize and avoid plagiarism, see: http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/print/research/r_plagiar.html.

Accommodations: Those students who have been approved by the Office of Student Services for special considerations in taking examinations should bring that paperwork to me as soon as possible so we can make arrangements to accommodate your needs.

Communication: My office hours are listed above and I strongly suggest you take advantage of these times to ask clarification questions, get feedback, prepare for papers and exams, or just to chat. If you cannot make office hours due to a class conflict or another unavoidable circumstance, contact me about setting up an appointment.

Email is a good way to contact me with simple questions or to request/cancel an appointment. Except in rare circumstances, I will respond within 24 hours on weekdays. **When you email me, you must include PS 235 in the subject so I know it's not spam!** I have also set up an email list for this class. The subject of each email will always begin with PS235 – be sure to check these emails as they will often include important information. Finally, check this class's CTools website (ctools.umich.edu) often. I will post handouts, helpful hints, and announcements.

Outline of Topics

Week 1: Costs of Conflict

Week 2: Bargaining and War

Week 3: Political Costs
Discussion leader for Friday

Week 4: Preparing for War
Discussion Leader for Friday
Data visualization 1st step due Monday at 2am; Presented on Monday – 5%

Week 5: Terrorism and Counterterrorism
Discussion Leader for Friday

Memo 1, Arming, due Monday at 2am – 10%

Week 6: War and the State
Discussion Leaders for Friday

Week 7: Civil War and Civilian Casualties
Discussion Leaders for Friday
Data visualization final: Monday 2am; Presentations Wednesday - 10%

Week 8: Peacekeeping and Peacemaking
Discussion Leaders for Friday
Memo 2, Costs of a Conflict – 10%, due Monday at 2am

Week 9: Atrocities and the Laws of War
Individual Research Question and Data Presentation: Friday – 10%; hard copies due Friday at 2am.

Week 10: Individual Costs, Trauma, and other Externalities
Individual Research Question and Data Presentation: Monday – 10%; hard copies still due Friday at 2am.

Week 11: Tying things together, conclusions
Informal presentations (elevator speeches!)
Final Paper – Due Monday 2am.