



MASTER IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ***8th Edition/ Academic Year 2011-2012***

▪ **GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE COURSE**

Title: War in World Politics

Credits: 4 ECTS

Type of Course: Lecture

Semester: Spring 2012

Language of Instruction: English

Instructor: Burak Kadercan

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Office hours: By appointment

▪ **COURSE DESCRIPTION & CONTENTS**

War, defined as organized violence between political organizations, lies at the heart of the study of international politics. There are many questions that surround war that are of relevance to academics, policy makers, and informed citizens. What causes wars to break out? Why do some post-war settlements lead to stability while others perpetuate conflict? How do intrastate wars and asymmetric conflicts differ from interstate wars? And most importantly, how can policy-makers and societies make use of the knowledge gained from the study of war in order to prevent the outbreak of wars as well as to end ongoing conflicts?

This course addresses these questions as well as many others and will serve as a rigorous introduction to the study of war in the context of the 20th and 21st centuries. The emphasis will be on extracting insights from major theories as well as case studies which will then be utilized to analyze the changing face of war in the 21st century. Cases that will be examined during the course will range from the world wars of the 20th century to the Rwandan genocide, from the ethnic conflict in the Balkans during the 1990s to the "war on terror" of the post-September 11 era. Our discussions will also focus on the causes, conduct, and consequences of recent and ongoing conflicts in Libya, Iraq, Afghanistan, and elsewhere. The content and the organization of the course will help students acquire a strong background in conflict resolution and security studies.

▪ **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

The content and the organization of the course will help you acquire a solid background in conflict resolution as well as diplomatic and military history. You can also think of this course as an upper level introduction to security studies. I will also assume that you have some background in basic international relations theory; having previously taken Introduction to IR, for example, will be sufficient to master the material we will be covering in class. By the time course is completed, students should expect to have an advanced reading of the major themes and theoretical approaches that deal with the causes, conduct, and consequences of war.

▪ **EVALUTION**

The final grade will be determined by three factors: class participation (25%), three short essays (30%), and a final take-home final exam (45%).

Participation (25%)

There will be three indicators for participation: attendance, discussion, acting as the "discussant(s) of the day".

Attendance: Regular attendance is mandatory. If you are absent or plan to be absent, please try to contact me within the same week. Serial and/or chronic absence – unless you provide a reasonable explanation (e.g., medical problems and family emergencies) – can significantly lower your participation grade. As a rule of thumb, more than 3 unexcused absences will work against your participation grade.

Discussion: This course is designed as a seminar, which implies that you are expected to actively participate in class discussion. A very important objective of this course is to facilitate your skills in at least three areas: i) engaging others' opinions; ii) voicing your own ideas in a convincing manner before your peers; iii) developing an "open mind" where you can learn from the experiences and ideas of your peers. Accordingly, I expect you to contribute to the on-going discussions in class. If you have a question about the reading material or if some concept or a statement during the discussion sounds confusing, do not hesitate to ask questions. If you have an opinion about a subject or if you want to share your experiences or your knowledge about an issue with your classmates do not hold back. Needless to say, all class discussions should take place in a constructive environment; you should not hesitate to – intellectually - challenge your friends or your instructor, but it is of utmost importance that you do it within the borders of empathy and mutual respect.

Discussant(s) of the Day: Every student is required to act as the "discussant of the day" at least once, where you will be part of a 2-3-student team that will act as the discussion-leaders. Here's how this works: In the first class of the second week, we will form teams of 2-3 and assign the teams to select weeks/sessions. The teams will then coordinate among themselves and will kick-start the discussion during the classes of the week with a brief (5-10 minutes) presentation of the material, which will then be followed by the team's ideas about how the material relate to the present day world politics and/or the past. This exercise will prepare you for i) team work; ii) public speech, both of which are of essential importance for a professional or academic career in international relations.

Analytical Response Papers (30%)

You will be asked to write 3 short essays (2 pages each, double-spaced, standard font & borders) on 1 or more of the assigned readings for the week. You will have exactly 1 week to submit the response papers. Think of these assignments as sorts of "pop quizzes" with very long fuses; I will announce them in class on select Wednesdays and they may involve i) the material we just covered that week; ii) material for the next week; iii) both – so make sure to stay on top of the readings.

Only email submissions. Policy for unexcused late submissions is as follows: 1 out of 10 is subtracted for every 24 hours that pass after the deadline.

Take-Home Exam (45%)

The final exam will be 5-6 pages (double-spaced, Times New Roman 12, "normal" margins [1-1.25cm]). Think of the final essay as a broader and longer version of the analytical response papers. By which I mean the following: think of short essays as preparation for the final exam.

*** Good News: You will have few opportunities for "extra credit" assignments every once in a while. Imagine of these as if they are voluntary take-home pop quizzes!

▪ **COURSE CONTENTS**

Session 1: Introduction: What is War?

Vasquez, John. 1993. **The War Puzzle**. Cambridge: Cambridge UP. Ch. 1 "Conceptualizing War," pp.14-49. (**skim**)

Ferguson, Niall. 2006. The Next War of the World. *Foreign Affairs* 85: 61-74.

Freedman, Lawrence. 2003. War. *Foreign Policy* 137: 16-24.

Recommended:

Clausewitz, Karl Von. 1984. **On War**. Princeton, NJ: Princeton UP. Books 1, 2, and 8.
skim

Session 2: Back to the Future, Or Back to the Future Past Continuous?: Letters from Iraq 2003 to Iran 2012

Pollack, Kenneth M. 2002. Next Stop Baghdad? *Foreign Affairs* 81 (2): 32-47.

Mearsheimer, John J. and Stephen M. Walt. 2003. An Unnecessary War. *Foreign Policy* 134: 51-59.

Stoessinger, John. 2008. **Why Nations Go To War**. New York, NY: St. Martin's Press. pp. 321-356.

Session 3: War in History

Keegan, John. 1993. **A History of Warfare**. New York: Alfred A. Knopf. (selected chapters)

Session 4: War As Politics

Schelling, Thomas C. 1966. **Arms and Influence**. New Haven: Yale UP. (selected chapters)

Session 5: Causes of War

Blainey, Geoffrey. 1978. **The Causes of War**. New York: Free. Chapters 8 & 12.

Fearon, James. 1995. Rationalist Explanations for War. *International Organization* 49 (3): 379-414.

Glaser, Charles. 1997. The Security Dilemma Revisited. *World Politics* 50 (1): 171-201.

Session 6: Domestic Politics and War: Curious Case of Democratic Peace

Doyle, M. 1983. Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs. *Philosophy and Public Affairs* 12: 205-235.

Russett, B. 1993. **Grasping the Democratic Peace**. Princeton, NJ: Princeton UP. Chapters 1-2; pp. 3- 42.

Rosato, S. 2003. The Flawed Logic of Democratic Peace Theory. *American Political Science Review* 97 (4): 585-602.

Session 7: Nuclear Weapons and War

Sagan, Scott Douglas., and Kenneth Neal Waltz. 1995. **The Spread of Nuclear Weapons: A Debate.** New York: W.W. Norton (selected chapters)

Mueller, John. 2010. Think Again: Nuclear Weapons. *Foreign Policy* 177.

Session 8: Asymmetric War

Arrenguín-Toft, Ivan. 2001. "How the Weak Win Wars: A Theory of Asymmetric Conflict." *International Security* 26 (1): 93-128.

Kilcullen, David. 2009. **The Accidental Guerrilla: Fighting Small Wars in the Midst of a Big One.** Oxford: Oxford UP. (selected chapters)

Session 9: War On Terrorism

Mueller, John. 2006. Is There Still a Terrorist Threat? The Myth of the Omnipotent Enemy. *Foreign Affairs* 85 (5): 2-8.

Podhoretz, Norman. 2004. World War IV: How It Started, What It Means, and Why We Have to Win. *Commentary* (September): 17-54. ****skim***

Huntington, Samuel. 1993. The Clash of Civilizations. *Foreign Affairs* 72 (3): 22-49.

Lewis, Bernard. 1990. Roots of Muslim Rage. *The Atlantic Monthly* (September)

Session 10: Terrorism As War

Pape, Robert Anthony. 2005. **Dying to Win: The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism.** New York: Random House. (selected chapters)

Session 11: Civil War

Collier, Paul. 2003. The Market for Civil War. *Foreign Policy* 136: 40-45.

Fearon, James D. and David D. Laitin. 2003. Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War. *American Political Science Review* 97 (1): 75-90.

Mueller, John. 2000. The Banality of Ethnic War. *International Security* 25 (1): 42-70.

Kaufmann, Chaim. 1996. Possible and Impossible Solutions to Ethnic Civil Wars. *International Security* 21 (2): 136-175.

Session 12: Back to the Present Continuous: War Drums in The Middle East

Allin, Dana H., and Steven Simon. 2010. Obama's Dilemma: Iran, Israel and the Rumours of War. *Survival* 52 (6): 15-44.

Kroenig, Matthew. 2012. Time to Attack Iran: Why a Strike Is the Least Bad Option. *Foreign Affairs* (January/February).

Also, the exchange between Kroenig and Stephen Walt (a leading realist) in *Foreign Policy*:
http://walt.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2011/12/21/the_worst_case_for_war_with_iran

http://walt.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2011/12/27/kroenigs_case_for_war_with_iran

http://walt.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2011/12/27/why_attacking_iran_is_still_a_bad_idea

▪ BASIC RECOMMENDED BIBLIOGRAPHY

For the most extensive bibliography on war, feel free to consult Jack Levy's (Rutgers University) webpage, as can be found below:

<http://fas-polisci.rutgers.edu/levy/790522theorieswarpeacesyllabus.pdf>

Some notable selections:

Raymond Aron, *Peace and War*. New York: Doubleday, 1966.

Francis A. Beer, *Peace Against War*. San Francisco: Freeman, 1981.

L.L. Bernard, *War and its Causes*. New York: Henry Holt, 1944.

Geoffrey Blainey, *The Causes of War*, 3rd ed. New York: Free Press, 1988.

Bernard Brodie, *War and Politics*. New York: Macmillan, 1973.

Seyom Brown, *The Causes and Prevention of War*. New York: St. Martins, 1987.

Daniel Byman and Stephen Van Evera, "Why They Fight: Hypotheses on the Causes of Contemporary Deadly Conflict." *Security Studies* 7/3 (Spring 1998): 1-50.

Martin Ceadel, *Thinking about Peace and War*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1989.

William Domke, *War and the Changing Global System*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1988.

Daniel S. Geller and J. David Singer. *Nations at War: A Scientific Study of International Conflict*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1998.

Michael Haas, *International Conflict*. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill, 1974.

Stanley Hoffmann, *The State of War*. New York: Praeger, 1965.

Henk Houweling and Jan G. Siccamo, *Studies of War*. Dordrecht, the Netherlands: Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, 1988.

Michael Howard, *The Causes of War*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1973.

Donald Kagan, *On the Origins of War and the Preservation of Peace*. New York: Doubleday, 1995.

Julian Lider, *On the Nature of War*. Westmead, England: Saxon House, 1977.

Evan Luard, *War in International Society*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1986.

C.R. Mitchell, *The Structure of International Conflict*. New York: St. Martin's, 1981.

Hans J. Morgenthau, *Politics Among Nations: The Struggle for Power and Peace*. 4th ed New York: Knopf, 1967.

Keith L. Nelson and Spencer C. Olin, *Why War? Ideology, Theory, and History*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1979.

Robert C. North, *War, Peace, Survival*. Boulder: Westview, 1990.

Anatol Rapoport, *The Origins of Violence*. New York: Paragon House, 1989.

Lewis Richardson, *Statistics of Deadly Quarrels*. Pittsburgh and Chicago: Boxwood Press and Quadrangle Books, 1960.

Glenn H. Snyder and Paul Diesing, *Conflict Among Nations*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1977.

Arthur A. Stein, *Why Nations Cooperate*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1990.

John Stoessinger, *Why Nations Go to War*. 6th ed. New York: St. Martin's, 1993.

Hidemi Suganami, *On the Causes of War*. Oxford, Eng.: Oxford University Press, 1996.

Quincy Wright, *A Study of War*, 2nd ed., rev. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1965.

Quincy Wright, *The Causes of War and Conditions of Peace*. London: Longmans, Green, & Co., 1935.