

INR4060: The Causes of War

Fall 2023 (Section 85475)
ONLINE

Office: Bldg 50/Rm 126

Office Hours: TR 8:30-9:30 and 11:00-12:00, Fri 1:00-2:00 or phone by appointment

Instructor: Dr. Jacob Shively

E-mail: jshively@uwf.edu

Course Objectives

“Between Sovereign states there can be no last resort except war; if war no longer serves that purpose, that fact alone proves that we must have a new concept of the state.”

—Hannah Arendt

“You might not have an interest in war, but war has an interest in you.” —Leon Trotsky

This course will examine the causes and evolution of war. Drawing widely from new and established scholarship, it addresses several major topics: war’s origins and evolution; theories about the causes and nature of war; arguments over the nature of unconventional wars; and theories about great power competition and the future of war. Along the way, the course analyzes several very different international conflicts, such as World War I, the Cold War, the 2003 Iraq War, and the 2022 Russo-Ukrainian War. Specific issues addressed amidst these major themes include war and the state; structural and psychological explanations for war; terrorism and irregular war; and the moral/ethical dimensions of war. You will complete several homework exercises, two exams and a research project with the ultimate goal of better understanding how to critically engage one of the most universal phenomena in human history.

Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will identify the major theories about the causes of traditional and nontraditional modes of war.
- Students will analyze contentious theoretical and practical questions regarding specific historical and contemporary cases.
- Students will synthesize and apply course material through a research paper.
- Students will summarize their research in class through an oral presentation.

Topics

- The origins and evolution of war across human history and the modern era.
- System-level, state-level and individual-level theories that explain the cause of war as applied to specific cases.
- Whether and how war can be “just” and the ethics of war.
- How war has changed in recent decades and how war may change in the future.

Course Materials¹

- 1) Readings available on eLearning, in the Content section under Course Materials.

¹ The textbooks for this course are available on Reserve at the Circulation Desk at the John C. Pace Library for a 2-hour loan period (books must stay in the Library). Note: copies of textbooks for each course are limited and may be in use by another student, particularly right before an assignment or reading is due, so plan your textbook use accordingly.

- 2) Recommended: Greg Cashman and Leonard C. Robinson Introduction to the Causes of War: Patterns of Interstate Conflict from World War I to Iraq 2nd Edition. Rowman & Littlefield ISBN: 9781538127803

Course Requirements

The course requires Participation (15%), Quizzes (20%), two essays (15% and 20%), and a Case Study (30%).

Participation We will have several discussions spread across the course. The guidelines and requirements may vary, but details will appear on the assignment.

Quizzes

There are multiple choice quizzes throughout the course that cover the material from prior weeks.

Essays There are two essay assignments. Students will respond to specific prompts to demonstrate their engagement with and integration of the course material. LATE PAPERS lose 5 points a day.

Case Study You may elect a case study paper OR group presentation. Details for these appear on the syllabus' final page and will be discussed in class. LATE PAPERS lose 5 points a day.

If you are struggling with your paper or feel unsure about how to improve your work, feel free to contact me as well as consult my general writing guidelines posted at the top of our course modules.

Letter Grades

95% or better	A	87% to 89%	B+	77% to 79%	C+	67% to 69%	D+
90% to 94%	A-	83% to 86%	B	73% to 76%	C	60% to 66%	D
		80% to 82%	B-	70% to 72%	C-	59% or less	F

GRADING In general, I consider how well you followed directions and focused tightly on your given topic; your mastery (i.e. correct understanding and general use) of the readings and other course material; your argument's clarity, consistency and accuracy; overall structure and logic; overall clarity and grammar. See the document "Shively Paper Grading Rubric" for detailed break-down.

Academic Conduct

PLAGIARISM and ACADEMIC DISHONESTY involve adding others' words to your text as if they were your own and will not be tolerated. For University policies on plagiarism and other misconduct, see the Student Code of Conduct: <https://uwf.edu/media/university-of-west-florida/offices/trustees/regulations/UWF-REG-3.030-Student-Code-of-Academic-Conduct.pdf>.

Course Schedule

*Readings not in assigned texts will appear in eLearning > Course Materials>Content

*Some dates and assignments may be changed. I will announce these by email and in class.

Week 1 Aug 21	ORIGINS and DEVELOPMENT
	<u>Definitions & Origins</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ginsberg (2013) "Why Violence Works" - Gat (2006) "Unraveling the Riddle of War" DISCUSSION
Week 2 Aug 28	<u>Human Nature</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thucydides (c. 400 BC) "The Melian Dialogue" selection - T. Hobbes (1651) <i>The Leviathan</i> selection - H. Morgenthau (1948) <i>Politics Among Nations</i>. (read only "Political Power" selection) - J. McClure (2004) "The Falklands War: Causes and Lessons" (especially sections "Introduction," "Theory," and "Conclusions") QUIZ
Week 3 Sep 4	<u>The Western Trajectory</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gat (2006) "The New European States and a Global World" (pp 480-511) - Levy and Thompson, ch 3 (pp 54 - top of 61; and 78 - 86); Ch 6 (pp 168-185) DISCUSSION
Week 4 Sep 11	INTERSTATE WAR
	<u>World War I</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cashman & Robinson, ch 1 (scan/use for reference pp 4-34) - Cashman & Robinson, ch 2 (71-104) QUIZ
Week 5 Sep 18	<u>Systemic Theories and Systemic War</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gilpin (1988) "The Theory of Hegemonic War" (pp 606-613) - Cashman & Robinson, ch 3 (focus on pp 148-171) DISCUSSION
Week 6 Sep 25	<u>State Level and Proximate Causes</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Colaresi (2007) <i>Strategic Rivalries in World Politics</i>, ch 1 - Vasquez (2000) "Reexamining the Steps to War" QUIZ
Week 7 Oct 2	<u>Cold War Dynamics</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Quackenbush, ch 8 "Deterrence" DISCUSSION
Week 8 Oct 9	ESSAY 1
Week 9 Oct 16	<u>Religion and War</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Horowitz (2009) "Long Time Going: Religion and the Duration of Crusading" - *Bring book to class: Cashman & Robinson, ch 4 QUIZ

Week 10 Oct 23	<u>Just War Theory</u> - French (2017) "Why Warriors Need a Code" - Walzer, ch 2, 3, 8, 9 DISCUSSION
Week 11 Oct 30	UNCONVENTIONAL AND "NEW" WARS <u>Civil War & Asymmetrical War</u> - <i>Journalist's Resource</i> . "Why we kill: Reviewing the political science research on the roots of violence" - DeRouen (2015) "What Causes Civil War?" QUIZ
Week 12 Nov 6	<u>Terrorism</u> - Thomas (2014) "Actually, sometimes terrorism does pay" - Hoffman "What is Terrorism?"
Week 13 Nov 13	<u>Iraq</u> - Cashman & Robinson, ch 7 (313-314 top, 382-383) - Petraeus & Amos (2006) <i>Counterinsurgency</i> , ch 1 ESSAY 2 DUE
Week 14 Nov 20	<u>The Islamic State</u>
Week 15 Nov 27	<u>Russo-Ukrainian War</u>
Week 16 Dec 6	CASE STUDY DUE

Other Course Information

Student Accessibility Resources

UWF supports an inclusive learning environment for all students. If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, such as time-limited exams, inaccessible web content, or the use of non-captioned videos and podcasts, reasonable accommodations can be arranged. Prior to receiving accommodations, you must register with Student Accessibility Resources and submit a semester request each semester. Appropriate academic accommodations will be determined based on the documented needs of the individual. For information regarding the registration process, visit the SAR website, e-mail sar@uwf.edu or call 850.474.2387.

Sexual Discrimination or Harassment Reporting

Under Title IX, discrimination and harassment based upon sex or gender (including sexual violence and sexual misconduct) are prohibited. If you experience an incident of sex/gender-based discrimination or harassment, you do not have to go through the experience alone. For more information, see UWF's information here:

<https://uwf.edu/academic-engagement-and-student-affairs/departments/title-ix/>

Military & Veterans Services

The UWF Military & Veterans Resource Center (MVRC) serves as a leading campus advocate for military and veterans students, working to ensure the needs of these individuals are met through coordinating with multiple university offices and services. The center provides assistance with the following: GI Bill ®

education benefits, active duty tuition assistance, out of state fee waiver, tutoring, paper reading, counseling, disability accommodations, coordinating academic advising and referral to state /federal resources and services. The MVRC is located in bldg. 38. For more information on MVRC services, call 474-2550 or visit <http://uwf.edu/militaryveterans>.

Career Development & Community Engagement

Career Development & Community Engagement (CDCE) is a free, on-campus resource designed to equip UWF students and alumni with the tools necessary for professional success. CDCE is located in Building 19 and offers resume reviews, assistance with your job or internship search, interviewing tips, and many other strategies to become career ready. For more information, check out Handshake (uwf.joinhandshake.com), visit uwf.edu/career or call 850-474-2254.

Course Modality

Faculty may opt to hold some class meetings or other course material in a modality/format other than that originally designated in order to ensure that instruction continues despite unforeseen interruptions. University of West Florida operations and/or individual course sections may be disrupted from time to time by weather, pandemics, and other emergencies. At the start of an academic term, faculty may require student access to devices that enable electronic or other contingent course delivery. For example, in the event of a hurricane, faculty may reschedule assignments or move some face-to-face class meetings or other material online.

Weather Emergency Information

In the event that hurricane preparation procedures are initiated, the UWF Home Web Page and MyUWF will both provide current information regarding hurricane preparation procedures, the status of classes and the closing of the university. In addition, WUWF-FM (88.1MHz) is the official information source for the university. Any pertinent information regarding closings, cancellations, and the re-opening of campus will be broadcast. UWF preparedness information is [found here](#).

Your Major

If you are interested in but not yet a major in **Political Science, Pre-Law, or International Studies** you should contact **The Department of Government at 474-2929**. If you are undecided about your major you should contact your academic advisor or the Career Center at 850-474-2254.

CASE STUDY

You are to research a war or an issue within a war. The war must have occurred within the last 50 years. You may choose an individual paper OR a group presentation.

INDIVIDUAL PAPER OPTION

Choice 1: The cause of a war.

This paper should a) describe (no more than 2 pages) the “facts” about the war’s initiation; b) summarize and explain at least two different theories or frameworks about the causes of the war; c) describe the approaches’ strengths and weaknesses, especially in light of course readings and lecture; d) “test” each theory by comparing the theory’s expectations with how events actually unfolded.

Choice 2: An issue within a war.

This paper should a) describe (no more than 2 pages) as specifically as possible an issue, puzzle or dilemma related to war and why that topic is important (see list posted alongside this assignment for suggestions), b) summarize and explain at least two different theories or arguments about why that phenomenon exists, c) describe a particular instance of your topic, and d) “test” each theory or argument using evidence from your case.

Papers are to be between **6 and 8 pages** long.

GROUP PRESENTATION OPTION You may elect to work with one or two other classmates to present your case study at the end of the semester instead of writing a full research paper. You will record a video presentation of 5 – 8 minutes.

Requirements: a) Choose option (1) or (2) above; b) The presentation may use any presentation format that allows recording and can be upload to or linked through Canvas; c) No more than 48 hours after you submit your presentation, each member will upload 1) an outline of his/her own work in the project (no more than one page), 2) a short (one or two paragraph) reflection on what worked and what didn’t in your presentation, 3) and a bibliography.

SOURCES You **must include at least two outside scholarly sources** along with course materials. In other words, rather than being graded on meeting a set number sources and source types, **you will be graded on** the quality of your sources, your explanation for their use, and their application in the research.

FORMATTING Title and works cited pages do not count towards this total. Papers should be double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 point font OR Calibri 11 point font with 1 inch margins all around. You may choose your citation style, but you must use that style consistently throughout. To cite a document retrieved online, use a standard format, **do not** simply copy and paste the browser link. **Late papers** will lose 5 points immediately and 5 more for each subsequent 24 hours.

GRADING I will consider how well you followed directions as well as focused tightly on your given topic; your mastery (i.e. correct understanding and general use) of the course material and outside sources; your argument’s clarity, consistency and accuracy; the paper’s overall structure and logic; overall clarity and grammar. See “Shively Paper Grading Rubric” for details.