

INR4060: The Causes of War

Spring 2019 (Section 12744)

TR 11:00 – 12:15, 74/103

Office Phone: 850-474-3008

Office and Office Hours: Bldg 50/Rm 126, MW 1:30-2:30 and TR 1:30-3:30 or by appointment

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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 for a contemporary world of “new wars;” and theories about the future of war. Along the way, the course analyzes several very different international conflicts, such as World War I, the Cold War and the 2003 Iraq 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) Greg Cashman and Leonard C. Robinson *Introduction to the Causes of War: Patterns of Interstate Conflict from World War I to Iraq* Rowman & Littlefield ISBN: 978-0742555105
- 2) Michael Walzer *Just and Unjust Wars*, 5th edition Basic Books ISBN: 978-0465052714
- 3) A number of 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.

4) Recommended

- a. Mary Kaldor *New and Old Wars: Organized Violence in a Global Era, 3rd edition* Stanford University Press. ISBN 9780745655635.
- b. Jack Levy and William Thompson *The Arc of War: Origins, Escalation, and Transformation* University of Chicago Press ISBN: 978-0226476292

Course Requirements

The course requires participation worth a total of 20%, four homework assignments worth a total of 20%, one paper OR presentation worth 25%, a midterm worth 15%, and a final worth 20%.

Participation We will engage in discussion, group work and individual assignments during class time. You will be graded on materials you submit, your overall contributions and your attendance record.

You may miss two class meetings with no penalty but will lose points from your final participation grade for each missed period after that. Absences due to illness, emergency or university-sponsored activities will be excused with proper documentation.

Homework There will be four of these due as listed below in the Course Schedule. Their overall goal of is to help develop your final paper. You will receive a separate document in class with further details.

Final Project You may elect a 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 or the University Writing Lab: <http://uwf.edu/writelab/>.

Exams Both midterm and final involve essay questions. The final is not strictly cumulative, but it will draw upon major concepts developed in the first half of the course. Instructions will be distributed one week before the exam. *Only students with documentation (such as a physician's note) of serious emergencies should contact me about make-up exams.*

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: <http://uwf.edu/osrr/documents/BOTApprovedStudentCodeofConduct-2010edition.pdf>.

Assistance for Students with Special Needs

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 the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC) at <http://uwf.edu/sdrc/internal/>, which requires documented needs of the individual. For information, e-mail sdrc@uwf.edu or call 850.474.2387.

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.

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 Jan 8 Jan 10	<u>Introduction</u> <p style="text-align: center;">ORIGINS and DEVELOPMENT</p> <u>Definitions & Origins</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ginsberg (2013) "Why Violence Works" - Gat (2006) "Unraveling the Riddle of War"
Week 2 Jan 15 Jan 17	<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) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - J. McClure (2004) "The Falklands War: Causes and Lessons" (especially sections "Introduction," "Theory," and "Conclusions")
Week 3 Jan 22 Jan 24	<u>The Western Trajectory</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gat (2006) "The New European States and a Global World" (pp 480-511) - Walzer, ch 1 <p>Homework 1 Due</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Levy and Thompson, ch 3 (pp 54 - top of 61; and 78 - 86); Ch 6 (pp 168-185)
Week 4 Jan 29 Jan 31	<p>INTERSTATE WAR</p>
 Jan 29	<u>World War I</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cashman & Robinson, ch 1
 Jan 31	<p>Homework 2 Due</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - *Bring book to class: Cashman & Robinson, ch 2
Week 5 Feb 5 Feb 7	<u>Systemic Theories and World War</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gilpin (1988) "The Theory of Hegemonic War" <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cashman & Robinson, ch 3
Week 6 Feb 12 Feb 14	<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" <p>Homework 3 Due</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - *Bring book to class: Cashman & Robinson, ch 5
Week 7 Feb 19 Feb 21	<u>The Cold War</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Multiple readings. See this topic under "Week 7" on eLearning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Walzer, ch 17

Week 8 Feb 26	<u>Religion and War</u> - Horowitz (2009) "Long Time Going: Religion and the Duration of Crusading"
Feb 28	Homework 4 Due - *Bring book to class: Cashman & Robinson, ch 4
Week 9 Mar 5	JUST WAR THEORY
Mar 7	- French (2017) "Why Warriors Need a Code" - Walzer, ch 2
Mar 12, 14	- Walzer, ch 3, 8, 9 SPRING BREAK
Week 10 Mar 19	Midterm Exam Due on eLearning>Dropbox by 2:30 PM style="text-align: center;"> UNCONVENTIONAL AND "NEW" WARS <u>Civil War & Asymmetrical War</u>
Mar 21	<u>New Wars</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?"
Week 11 Mar 26	<u>Terrorism</u> - Thomas (2014) "Actually, sometimes terrorism does pay" - Hoffman "What is Terrorism?"
Mar 28	- Walzer, ch 12
Week 12 Apr 2	<u>Iraq</u> - Cashman & Robinson, ch 7
Mar 5	- Kaldor (2012) "The New Wars in Iraq & Afghanistan" - Petraeus & Amos (2006) <i>Counterinsurgency</i> , ch 1 (do NOT print the entire document: it's 285 pages)
Week 13 Apr 9	<u>Working Groups: The Islamic State</u>
Apr 11	<u>Working Groups: The Islamic State</u> See eLearning resources
Week 14 Apr 16	<u>Working Groups: The Islamic State</u> See eLearning resources.
Apr 18	THE PROSPECTS AND FUTURE OF WAR - Jervis (2011) Book Review: "Why Violence Has Declined"
Week 15 Apr 23	- Kaldor (2012) "Towards a Cosmopolitan Approach"
Apr 25	Final Project Due by 2:30.
Week 16 May 2	Final Exam Due on eLearning>Dropbox by 11:59 PM

Final Project

You are to research a war or an issue related to war. You may choose an individual paper OR a group presentation.

INDIVIDUAL PAPER OPTION

Choice 1: This paper should a) describe (no more than 2 pages) the “facts” about the war; b) summarize and explain at least two different theories about the causes of the war; c) describe the theories’ strengths and weaknesses, especially in light of course readings and lecture; d) and “test” each theory using evidence from the war.

Choice 2: 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, 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 particular instance.

GROUP PRESENTATION OPTION You may elect to work with one or two other classmates to present your research at the end of the semester instead of writing a full research paper. You will do Homeworks (HW) 1 – 3 individually, but turn in HW 4 as a group and describe your plan to work together.

Requirements: a) Choose option (1) or (2) above. b) The presentation must include visuals and/or a handout and cannot exceed 8 minutes unless a class or group exercise is included in your presentation. c) On the class meeting after your presentation, each member will hand in to me an outline of his/her own work in the project, a short (one or two paragraph) reflection on what worked and what didn’t in your presentation, and a bibliography.

SOURCES Because the homework assignments analyze and develop your sources, there is no minimum number of sources required; however, you **must include at least two scholarly sources** as well as a justification for the sources you use. 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 Papers are to be between **8 and 12 pages** long. Title and works cited pages do not count towards this total. Papers should be double-spaced, Times New Roman 12 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.

PAPER 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 readings; your argument’s clarity, consistency and accuracy; the paper’s overall structure and logic; overall clarity and grammar. We will discuss the papers further as they arise. See “Shively Paper Grading Rubric” for details.