

Causes of War and Peace

Political Science 337

Spring 2009

Instructor: Dr. Carolyn Shaw
Class: M/W 12:30 - 1:45 JB 226
Office hours: M/W 11:00 – 12:00; T/Th 12:00 – 2:00; or by appt.
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* This course is a *further studies* course in general education. In order to receive general education credit as a further studies course, a political science *introductory* general education course (PS 121, PS 220 or PS 226) is a prerequisite.

Overview of the Course

This course examines the underlying and immediate causes of war as well as the potentials for peace in conflicts around the world. The course is divided broadly into two parts: examination of historical and more recent conflicts, and intervention and mediation efforts. The first part of the course will examine the history of specific civil wars, looking at common factors and challenges. The second part of the course will explore peacebuilding efforts around the world and the challenges that peacemakers face.

There are three primary objectives of this course. The first objective is to provide students with a deeper understanding for why countries go to war. The second objective is to encourage analytical thinking concerning prospects for conflict resolution. The third objective is to introduce the basic concepts and theoretical frameworks used by political scientists in their study of foreign policy and international conflict.

Requirements

Students are expected to attend class regularly. Attendance will be taken periodically throughout the semester. Four recorded absences are allowed before points will be deducted from the attendance grade. Students are encouraged, though not required, to participate in class by making comments and asking questions. There will be an opportunity at the beginning of most classes for students to discuss current events in international politics, as well as numerous other chances to present and defend different points of view.

We will have regular class discussions. I encourage students to finish the assigned readings before class in order to contribute to and benefit from these discussions.

Students are expected to read all of the assigned readings and to be able to answer questions about the readings on the exams.

The **two exams** will include the material covered in class and in the assigned readings since the previous exam. The exams will be essay exams. The second exam is to be taken during the time of the scheduled final. There will be no comprehensive final.

There are **two writing projects** for the course to encourage students to think critically about conflict situations around the world and to develop their writing skills. The details of these assignments are discussed below.

Required Reading

Crocker, Chester A., Fen Osler Hampson, and Pamela Aall. Taming Intractable Conflicts (Washington, DC: US Institute of Peace Press, 2004).

Darby, John and Roger MacGinty eds., Contemporary Peacemaking (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2003).

Readings Packet (available in the Political Science office)

Supplemental Reading

The New York Times, *The Wall Street Journal*, or other daily newspaper

Grading

Exam 1	20%	(test score x .20 = total points out of 100)
Exam 2	25%	(test score x .25 = total points out of 100)
Reflection Paper	5%	(paper grade x .05 = total points out of 100)
Research Project		
Part I	20%	(paper grade x .15 = total points out of 100)
Part II	25%	(paper grade x .20 = total points out of 100)
Attendance	5%	(full points for 0-4 absences one point off for each day missed after 4)

** Exams must be taken on the day they are scheduled. Make up exams will only be given when a student has a documented medical excuse or extreme emergency as determined by the instructor.

** Writing assignments are due on the day given in the syllabus. 1/2 of a grade will be taken off for each day they are late.

A =	90 - 100 points
B =	80 - 89 points
C =	70 - 79 points
D =	60 - 69 points
F =	59 or below

WSU Blackboard

This course is facilitated by Blackboard, an online web aid accessible to all WSU students. The Blackboard page for this course contains a copy of the syllabus, the writing assignments, study guides, class handouts, current course grades, and web links to a variety of topics on conflict resolution. In order to access this site (www.blackboard.wichita.edu) you need your student id number and pin number.

Reflection Paper

Students will write this paper after engaging in a role play exercise on conflict resolution. The purpose is for students to reflect on the process as well as the outcome of the negotiations and consider how their experience relates to other negotiation processes that have been discussed in class. You must be in class on April 13 and 15 in order to write this paper.

Paper due on: Monday April 20

Research Project

Students will select a specific conflict/war for their research project. This assignment will be broken up into two parts. The first part will cover the historical background to the war. The second part will examine the efforts at resolution and the future prospects for peace in the region. Length: approximately 10-15 pages. Bibliography should include at least 10 sources from a variety of materials.

PART I due in class on April 1. (Optional revisions to Part I due April 27).

PART II due in class on May 4. (Optional revisions to Part II due May 18).

- * **OPTIONAL revisions:** It is my firm belief that writing is a life skill that only improves with practice. I endeavor to provide constructive feedback to students on all of their written work in order for them to improve their writing skills. Students have the option of revising all of their writing assignments for a better grade if they choose to. IF you choose to turn in revisions, you must also turn in your original paper.

Study Tips for Reading the Textbooks

Make simple timelines about the events in each chapter. What were the key events? What order did they occur in? (month/year is probably sufficient in most instances, I won't hold you accountable for very many exact dates. Its more important to know the order in which events occurred and how they were strategically linked to each other.)

As you read the "facts" about historical conflicts, ask yourself: Why did the conflict occur? Why was settlement not possible? It is likely that each author presents some but not all of the reasons, or does not directly answer these questions. Use the background of each conflict to think more analytically about the causes of war and peace.

Academic Freedom / Respect for Others

Each student is encouraged to participate in class discussions. In any class that includes discussion of political ideas, there are bound to be many differing points of view. Students may not only disagree with each other, but may also have disparate views from the instructor on sensitive and volatile topics. It is my hope that these differences will enhance class discussion and create an atmosphere where students and instructor alike will be encouraged to think and learn. Therefore, be assured that your grades will not be adversely affected by any beliefs or ideas expressed in class or your assignments. Rather, we will all respect the views of others when expressed in classroom discussions.

Incompletes

An incomplete grade will only be given in the case of a documented medical or other emergency. To request an incomplete grade, a student must see me in my office and explain their need for an incomplete and fill out the necessary form. In most cases, it is in the student's best interest to complete the assigned course work on schedule.

I will not withdraw students from the class. It is the students' responsibility to monitor their progress in the course and to initiate withdrawal procedures on their own if necessary. To withdraw from a class, students must do it officially through the Registrar, and the Tuition and Fees Office.

Scholastic Dishonesty

As described in the Student Catalog, scholastic dishonesty constitutes a violation of college rules and regulations and is punishable according to the procedures outlined in the Catalog. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an exam, plagiarism, and collusion. Plagiarism includes use of another author's words or arguments without attribution. Collusion is defined as the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing written work for fulfillment of course requirements. If a student commits any of these actions, I will seek disciplinary action in the form of an academic penalty, including a course grade of 'F'.

DATE	TOPIC	ASSIGNMENT
Jan 21 (W)	Introduction	Packet: Lebow Chap 1; Kegley/Raymond p. 31-41
Jan 26 (M)	Individual Level	Packet: Cashman Chap 3
Jan 28 (W)	Domestic Level	Packet: Cashman Chap 5
Feb 2 (M)	International Level	Packet: Cashman Chaps 8, 10
Feb 4 (W)	Civil Wars	Packet: Lederach Chap 2
Feb 9 (M)	Yugoslavia	Packet: Kegley/Raymond Chap 8; Stoessinger Chap 5
Feb 11 (W)	Yugoslavia	
Feb 16 (M)	TBA	
Feb 18 (W)	TBA	
Feb 23 (M)	Israel - Palestine	Packet: Stoessinger Chap 7; readings from mideastweb.org
Feb 25 (W)	Israel - Palestine	
March 2 (M)	Central America	TBD
March 4 (W)	Central America	TBD
March 9 (M)	Sri Lanka	Packet: Zartman Chap 2
March 11 (W)		Exam 1 (Packet Readings)
March 16 (M)	Spring Break	
March 18 (W)	Spring Break	
March 23 (M)	Intractable conflict	Crocker et al. Chap 1
March 25 (W)	Preparing for Peace	Darby/ MacGinty Part I (pp. 1-50)
March 30 (M)	Negotiations	Crocker et al. Chaps 2, 3, 4 Darby/ MacGinty Part II (pp. 51-100)
April 1 (W)	Negotiations	Research Paper Due - Part I
April 6 (M)	TBA	
April 8 (W)	TBA	
April 13 (M)	Role Play Exercise	
April 15 (W)	Role Play Exercise	
April 20 (M)	De-brief	Reflection Paper Due
April 22 (W)	Impact of Violence	Crocker et al. Chap 5; Darby/ MacGinty Part III (pp. 100-136)
April 27 (M)		Optional Part I Revisions Due
April 29 (W)	Peace Accords	Crocker et al. Chap 6; Darby/ MacGinty Part IV (pp. 137-194)
May 4 (M)		Research Paper Due - Part II
May 6 (W)	Peacebuilding	Crocker et al. Chaps 7, 8; Darby/ MacGinty Part V (pp. 195-274)
May 11 (M)	Conclusions / Review	Crocker et al. Chap 9
May 13 (W) FINALS	Exam 2	
May 18 (M)		Optional Part II Revisions Due