

PSC 326
War and International Security
Spring 2010

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Office: 507 Park Hall
Office Hours: M, 1 – 4pm
And by appointment

This course addresses the causes of war and the primary strategies scholars have offered to prevent it. The course is broken up into four parts. The first section of the course seeks to demystify the scientific study of international politics. The second section focuses on hawkish strategies states can pursue to acquire security. The third section addresses dovish strategies. We will conclude the course by examining research that relaxes the focus on the pursuit of security by states, focusing instead on non-state actors and non-traditional conflict.

Grading	Grade distributions:	B- = 80 – 82.5
Exams – 40%	A = 92.5+	C+ = 77.5 – 80
Homework – 60%	A- = 90 – 92.5	C = 70 – 77.5
	B+ = 87.5 – 90	D = 60 – 70
	B = 82.5 – 87.5	F = 0 – 60

There will be 2 exams, each with the same format. You will be asked to answer 10 of 12 multiple choice questions and 2 out of 4 short answer questions, with 1 additional short answer available for extra credit. You will have 4 homework assignments, one for each of the sections of the course. The lowest homework grade will be dropped. Further details will be provided in class.

I will not discuss changes in grades on exams or homework for 24 hours after they are handed back. If you feel that I missed an important point that you made, after 24 hours you may submit an appeal. Appeals will only be accepted up to one week after the exam/homework is handed back. Your appeal should be a typed argument for why your answer, as written, deserves more credit. Appeals should be no longer than 1 page.

A written request is required before a makeup exam will be given. Makeup exams will only be considered in the event of prior approval, appropriate medical excuses, and other truly extenuating circumstances. The request for a makeup should include any relevant documentation of the excuse provided.

There are no texts for this course. All readings will be made available on the course website.

Monday, January 11: Introduction

Wednesday, January 13 – Wednesday, January 27: Scientific Method

Topics covered:
Scientific Method
Rational Choice
Game Theory

Monday, January 18: NO CLASS (MLK DAY)

Friday, January 29 – Monday, February 8: Explaining War

Topics covered:
Central Puzzle of War
Bargaining Explanations for War
Evidence Supporting the Explanation

Wednesday, February 10 – Monday, March 1: Hawkish Strategies

Topics covered:
Internal and External Balancing
Conventional and Nuclear Deterrence
Cases: World Wars, Cold War

Wednesday, March 3 – Friday, March 5: Review and MIDTERM EXAM

Monday, March 8 – Friday, March 12: NO CLASS (Spring Break)

Monday, March 15 – Wednesday, March 31: Dovish Strategies

Topics covered:
Interdependence and International Institutions
Restraint and Honesty
Cases: Post Cold War Europe, Rise of China

Friday, April 2 – Wednesday, April 21: Non-State Actors

Topics covered:
Democratic Peace
Conflict Management
Terrorism, Counterterrorism, Insurgency and Counterinsurgency
Ethnic/Religious Conflict
Cases: Arab-Israeli Conflict, Iraq Wars

Friday, April 23: NO CLASS