War in International Relations – A Seminar
Professor Tim Cloud
Class Meetings - Mondays – 2:10-4:00 p.m. – Fausett 12
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Summary

This course meets fourteen times during the semester. Thus, it is critical that you do the readings and come to class. This course explores the nature of war and its place as an institution in the international system. War has been a perennial feature of world politics. Since 9/11, however, we have become acutely aware of the complexities of security in and for the United States in world politics. We are now at war in Iraq, and we are waging a war against “terrorism”. What are some of the traditional ways of thinking about war in international relations? Are these theories still relevant?

In this course we will explore some of the traditional theories that have defined approaches to war, and then we will examine the new world we find ourselves in post 9/11. Our learning objectives will be as follows: a) to become familiar with theories of war and peace; b) to develop the ability to analyze arguments for various strategic doctrines and conceptions that define the causes of war and the role of war; c) to become familiar with the obstacles to overcoming war in the international system and to understand war as a instrument of policy; and e) to develop your own position on the future of war and the most important questions concerning United States and global security. In this course you will need to think theoretically and approach issues of war and peace as if you were making the decisions about what to do in the context of actual threats to United States and global security.

Course Requirements

Each of you will be asked to write four (4) 3-5 page double spaced papers on a topic or a selection of topics. This will account for 40% of your grade. You are also required to write a 9-10 paper at the end of the semester on a topic that will draw the readings and the themes together. This will account for 15% of your final grade. You must turn in all of the papers. There will be a letter grade penalty for each day your paper is late.

Each of you will be asked individually or in a group to lead the class discussion. We will take turns doing this, and you will have fifteen (15) minutes to twenty (20) minutes to present the background of the reading, something about the author, the key points and arguments in the readings, and your own analysis of the works. Please feel free to use power point, hand-outs, and other technology in your presentation. You or your group will lead the discussion of the works for that day. You will be required to turn in your report in whatever format works best for you. This will account for 40% of your grade.

There will be some pop quizzes on the readings, and finally, we will all take turns bringing in a “thought for the day” or “a gem of a thought” from three works: The Book of War: Sun-Tzu - The Art of War; Karl von Clausewitz – On War; and Chris Hedges - War Is a Force that Gives Us Meaning. I can supply these books, and we will hand them around for our “devotional” reading. No hymns are necessary! Pop quizzes and the thought for the day will be 5% of your grade.
Papers

I will give you the paper topics one week ahead of when each paper is due. You need to identify the key questions and issues on the topic. You need to draw on and when necessary provide citations of the readings. Summarize the argument in a short concise fashion and then make your argument. Provide a critical evaluation in which you make an argument and defend that argument. Decide what you want to say and stick with one or two well developed points. This is always better than hedging your position or muddling through in hopes of landing on something. So think through your paper. Write the paper and then read the paper a few times before you turn it in to me. Check grammar, punctuation, and spelling!

Primary Texts:

We will read parts or all of the following texts.

History of the Peloponnesian War. Thucydides (selections) 0140440399 – Penguin Group (USA)


You do not have to buy these two works! We will only read selections from them in class and I have copies.


Essays


Class Organization and Readings – Paper Topics will be handed out in class.

August 29, 2005 - Section One – First Class

Agenda: Introductions; Course Overview; Review of Syllabus and Requirements; Review of Texts and Texts we could have used; Getting to know one another; Introductory discussion of War and Peace; Discussion of the methodology of studying international relations.

Class Group Reading Session Read Aloud

History of the Peloponnesian War. Thucydides (selections)

Introduction – We will take turns reading this

The Debate at Sparta and the Declaration of War pp. 72-87 – We will take turns reading this in groups (some of you will play the Corinthians, some the Athenians, and some the Spartans.)

Pericle’s Funeral Oration, pp. 143-151 We will take turns reading this

Revolt of the Mytilene, pp. 194-211
The Mytilenian Debate pp. 212-223 We will divide into two contending camps for this reading

The Melian Dialogue pp. 400-413 We will divide into the Melians and the Athenians for this reading

September 12, 2005 - Section Two – Second Class (receive writing assignment)

History of the Peloponnesian War. Thucydides (selections) (finish what we did not read in class from the sections listed below)

Introduction
The Debate at Sparta and the Declaration of War pp. 72-87
Pericle’s Funeral Oration, pp. 143-151
Revolt of the Mytilene, pp. 194-211
The Mytilenian Debate pp. 212-223
The Melian Dialogue pp. 400-413

Conflict after the Cold War: Arguments on Causes of War and Peace. Richard K. Betts, ed. 2nd
Introduction: Does War have a Future? pp. 1-50
Francis Fukuyama – The End of History? p. 5
John J. Mearsheimer – Why we will Soon Miss the Cold War p. 17
Samuel P. Huntington – The Clash of Civilizations? p. 33
International Realism: Anarchy and Power. pp. 51-116
Niccolo Machiavelli – Doing Evil in Order to do Good p. 60
Thomas Hobbs – The State of Nature and the State of War p. 65
Edward Hallett Carr – Realism ad Idealism  p. 69
Kenneth N. Waltz – The Origins of War in Neorealist Theory p. 86
Robert Gilpin – Hegemonic War and International Change p. 93
Geoffrey Blainey – Power, Culprits, and Arms p. 105

September 19, 2005 - Section Three – Third Class – September 19 (first paper due)
Conflict after the Cold War: Arguments on Causes of War and Peace. Richard K. Betts, ed. 2nd

Immanuel Kant – Perpetual Peace p. 121
Hedley Bull – Society and Anarchy in International Relations p. 128
Robert O. Keohane and Joseph S. Nye - Power and Interdependence p. 139
John Mueller - The Obsolescence of Major War p. 146

Psychology and Culture: Unconscious Sources of Conflict and Conscious Norms. 159 – 217
Sigmund Freud – Why War? p. 163
Franco Fornari – The Psychoanalysis of War  p. 171
Margaret Mead – Warfare is Only an Invention – Not a Biological Necessity p. 176
Alexander Wendt – Anarchy is What States Make of It p. 181
Martha Finnemore – Constructing Norms of Humanitarian Intervention p. 202

September 26, 2005 - Section Four – Fourth Class September 26
Conflict after the Cold War: Arguments on Causes of War and Peace. Richard K. Betts, ed. 2nd

Economics: Interests and Interdependence pp. 219 - 274
Niccolo Machiavelli - Money Is Not the Sinews of War: Although It is Generally so Considered p. 223
Norman Angell – The Great Illusion p. 226
Geoffrey Blainey – Paradise Is a Bazaar p. 228
V.I. Lenin – Imperialism, The Highest Stage of Capitalism p. 236
Joseph Schumpeter – Imperialism and Capitalism p. 243
Alan S. Milward – War as Policy p. 252
Kenneth Waltz – Structural Causes and Economic Effects p. 264
Richard Rosecrance – Trade and Power p. 274

Politics: Ideology and Identity pp 287 - 349
Michael Doyle – Liberalism and World Politics p. 291
Ernest Gellner – Nations and Nationalism p. 307
Edward Mansfield and Jack Snyder – Democratization and War p. 318
Chaim Kaufmann – Possible and Impossible Solutions to Ethnic Civil Wars p. 331
Radha Kumar – The Troubled History of Partition p. 349
October 3, 2005 - Section Five – Fifth Class (assignment for second paper October 3)

Conflict after the Cold War: Arguments on Causes of War and Peace. Richard K. Betts, ed. 2nd

Strategy I: Military Technology, Doctrine, and Stability pp. 357-433
Samuel P. Huntington – Arms Races: Prerequisites and Results p. 361
Robert Jervis – Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma p. 382
Scott Sagan – 1914 Revisited p. 398
Jack Levy – The Offensive/Defensive Balance of Military Technology p. 411
Charles Fairbanks and Abram Shulsky – Arms Control: The Historical Experience p. 423
Kenneth Waltz – The Spread of Nuclear Weapons: More May Be Better p. 433

Strategy II: Terrorism and Unconventional Warfare pp. 445-520
T.E. Lawrence – Science of Guerrilla Warfare p. 449
Mao Tse-Tung – On Guerrilla Warfare p. 457
Samuel P. Huntington – Patterns of Violence in World Politics
Martha Crenshaw – The Strategic Logic of Terrorism p. 491
Mark Juergensmeyer- Religious Radicalism and Political Violence p. 505
Richard Betts – The Soft Underbelly of Primacy p. 520

Arguing About War. Michael Walzer. 2004
Chapter 4 – Terrorism: A Critique of Excuses p. 51

October 10, 2005 Section Six – Sixth Class – October 10 (Second paper due)

Conflict after the Cold War: Arguments on Causes of War and Peace. Richard K. Betts, ed. 2nd

Transnational Tensions: Migration, Resources, and Environment p. 537-567
Myron Weiner – Security, Stability, and Migration p. 541
John Cooley – The War over Water p. 557
Thomas Homer-Dixon - Environmental Changes as Causes of Acute Conflict p. 567

Conclusion: The Future Between Contending Forces p. 583
Eliot Cohen – A Revolution in Warfare p. 585
Richard Betts – The Delusion of Impartial Intervention p. 597
Robert Koehane and Joseph Nye - Power, Interdependence, and the Information Age p. 608
Benjamin Barber – Jihad Vs. McWorld p. 618

We will also discuss – Virtuous War: Mapping the Military-Industrial-Media-Entertainment Network. By James Der Derian. Although no reading from the text is assigned.

October 17 - Section Seven – Class Seven

October 24, 2005 Section Eight – Class Eight


October 31, 2005 - Section Nine – Ninth Class – (receive writing assignment October 31)


November 7, 2005 - Section Ten – Tenth Class ( third paper due November 14)

Arguing About War. Michael Walzer. 2004

Chapter 1 – The Triumph of Just War Theory p. 3
Chapter 2 – Two Kinds of Military Responsibility p. 23
Chapter 5 – The Politics of Rescue p. 67
Chapter 7 – Kosovo p. 99
Chapter 8 – The Intifada and the Green Line p. 104
Chapter 10 – After 9/11: Five Questions about Terrorism p. 113
Chapter 11 – Five on Iraq p. 130

November 14, 2005 - Section Eleven – Eleventh Class November 21


Chapters 1-7 pp. 1-253

November 21, 2005 - Section Twelve – Twelfth Class


Chapters 8-13 pp. 254-428

November 28, 2005 - Section Thirteen – Class Thirteen – ( receive writing assignment)


Read: Part One pp. 1-120
December 5, 2005 - Section Fourteen – Class Fourteen (fourth paper due December 5 and receive writing assignment for the longer paper- December 5)


Read: Part Two pp. 123 - 209

(Final paper due on or before the last day of exams)

A Final Note

This course requires a lot of reading. Thus I encourage you to work together in study groups to discuss the readings and to even divide up some sections to make sure you cover all of the readings and the ideas covered by these authors.