
**POLS 437 International Security
Fall 2012**

MWF 2-2:50pm
ENGRG E 205

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this course, we will analyze the fundamentals of international security. In the first section of the course, we will define war and conflict and evaluate historical patterns and trends in warfare. In the second part of the course, we will examine the causes of war and identify solutions that have been offered to prevent or limit war. The final section of the course addresses more recent threats and challenges to international security. We will investigate the threats posed by transnational terrorist groups and how states respond to terrorism, analyze the causes of civil war and ethnic conflict, study the danger of nuclear proliferation, and discuss the security challenges posed by natural resource dependence and environmental degradation.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, students will be able to recall and explain historical patterns and trends in international security. Students will also be able to describe and identify the factors that mitigate or exacerbate security conflicts between or within states and understand the nature of more recent security threats. Students will be able to apply these factors to real-world scenarios, such as analyzing historical cases of war or evaluating the prospects for future conflict in troubled areas of the world. Finally, students will be able to communicate in writing and orally their understanding of course concepts and develop the capacity to form their own assessments.

Central to the above objectives is recognition of the idea that as political scientists we are interested in identifying and responding to positive questions (which address how and why events occurred) rather than normative questions (which address what should be done). This is to say that we will, throughout, prioritize the maintenance of objectivity in our assessment of international security issues.

READINGS

We will use the following two books, available in the book store:

Betts, Richard K. 2008. *Conflict After the Cold War: Arguments on the Causes of War and Peace*. New York, NY: Pearson Longman. 3rd edition.

Stoessinger, John H. 2011. *Why Nations Go to War*. Boston, MA: Wadsworth. 11th edition.

Additional readings are available on RamCT. You are strongly encouraged to read a newspaper with international coverage such as the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, or the *Washington Post*.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Reading (5%)

Completion of the reading assignments in advance of class is crucial for the completion of this course. For every class session, I will post one question on the reading on RamCT. These questions are meant to gauge whether you are keeping up on the reading as well as trying to provoke a reaction to the reading that you can bring into the class discussion. Responses to reading questions should be a paragraph long and will be graded on a pass/fail basis. To receive full credit for this portion of your grade, you must complete 80% or more of all reading questions with a passing grade.

Participation=10%

Active participation includes attendance, asking questions of clarification, offering insights relating to readings or discussions, prompting new directions in class discussions, participating in online discussions on RamCT, and attending office hours. It is expected that all students will be present for all class periods. Each student is permitted three unexcused absences. Each unexcused absence beyond these three will incur a penalty of 1% (to a maximum of 10%) from your final grade. More than 10 unexcused absences will result in an "F" grade for the class. For the sake of clarity, excusable absences relate to official medical appointments/illness confirmed by a doctor's note, university commitments confirmed by a university request for absence, or a serious illness or death in the family.

In-class Exams=60% (3 exams, 20% each)

There will be three exams in this class. Exams will be held on the following dates: **Sep 24, Oct 29, Dec 13**. Each exam consists of a combination of short-answer and essay questions. Exams are NOT cumulative.

Paper=25% (Paper Proposal 5%, Final Paper 20%)

You are required to complete one longer paper assignment. In this paper, you will apply concepts from the course to a specific crisis or war that occurred in the past century. All students are required to submit a **proposal** of their paper at the beginning of class on **Nov 7**. This proposal must include 1) a summary of the crisis or war your paper will discuss, 2) the theoretical concept you are using to explain the event, and 3) an annotated bibliography with at least three sources you will use. The proposal must be 2-3 pages long and double-spaced. Please note that you will NOT be allowed to change the conflict and theoretical concept chosen after submitting the proposal. The **final paper** must be 10-12 pages long, double-spaced, and is due on **Dec 7** at the beginning of class. Final papers must be submitted in *both* of the following two formats: (1) a paper copy, due at the beginning of class (2) an electronic copy turned in via SafeAssign on RamCT. More detailed instructions for papers and the submission process will be distributed later in the semester.

Grading

Grades for exams, the paper, and final grades will be calculated as follows:

A 92.5 – 100	C+ 76.5 – 79.99
A- 90 – 92.49	C 70 – 76.49
B+ 86.5 – 89.99	D 60 – 69.99
B 82.5 – 86.49	F 0 – 59.99
B- 80-82.49	

If you have concerns about course grades, I hope you will speak to me. You may ask me to review your grade on assignments if you feel that it has been graded unfairly. However, such requests must be made in writing and include a detailed description explaining your disagreement with the assigned grade. In addition, requests must be made within a week of when the grade was assigned. Finally, keep in mind that a grade review may result in a lower, higher, or unchanged grade for the assignment.

CLASS POLICIES

Contact

You can contact me by coming to office hours, calling during office hours, or via email. When you send email, please put the title of this course and the topic you are writing about in the "Subject" line and include your full name in the message body. Please use your CSU email address in all correspondence.

In-Class Behavior

Be respectful to your fellow classmates and instructor. It is expected that those who are late and/or leaving early will sit in the back of the room and will make every effort to ensure it is not a regular occurrence. If you anticipate this being a recurring problem, please discuss the situation with the instructor at the beginning of the semester.

Please turn off or silence cell phones and other electronic devices before class begins. The use of laptops is allowed for academic purposes only.

Late Policy

Assignments are due in class on the designated due dates and failure to submit assignments during class time means that the assignment is late and points will begin to be deducted immediately. A student's grade will be lowered by a letter grade (ten points) if a paper is submitted after the due date for each day late (including the day the assignment is due). In the case of an excused absence, late assignments will not be penalized but students must contact me immediately in order to advise an alternate due date and submit written documentation. For the sake of clarity, excusable absences relate to official medical appointments/illness confirmed by a doctor's note, university-sponsored activities confirmed by a university request for absence, or a serious illness or death in the family.

Make up Policy

Make up exams are permissible only in the event of an unforeseen emergency (e.g. illness, death in the family, etc.) or when engaged in a university-sponsored activities confirmed by a university request for absence. Students must make every effort to make arrangements prior to the exam/due date and will be required to submit written documentation. Exams for which students are absent without an excuse will receive a failing grade.

Academic Integrity

This course adheres to the Academic Integrity Policy of the CSU General Catalog and the Student Conduct Code. CSU has long upheld values of academic and scholastic integrity. The General Catalog's "Policies and Guiding Principles" asserts that CSU "expects students to maintain standards of personal integrity that are in harmony with the educational goals of the institution" - citing "principles of academic honesty" as the first example. (1.6 p.1). Consequently, academic misconduct will not be tolerated. Cheating (using unauthorized sources of information and providing or receiving unauthorized assistance on any form of academic work) and plagiarism (using another's words or ideas without proper acknowledgment) are serious offenses and may result in a failing grade for a particular assignment, failing grade for the course and/or disciplinary action by the university. Written assignments for this class must be submitted in electronic format and will be checked using RamCT plagiarism detection software. All incidents of academic dishonesty will be reported to [Conflict Resolution and Student Conduct Services](#).

Use of Course Material

Please note that CSU's Student Conduct Code prohibits unauthorized soliciting or selling in violation of the university solicitation policy. This prohibition includes the use of CSU email and/or RamCT to advertise lecture notes or any other course materials for sale. Violations of this policy are subject to university disciplinary action.

Class Discussion

Part of what makes the study of political science interesting is the opportunity to engage in debates about controversial issues. In order to facilitate open debate and exchange, it is essential that students recognize and respect the right of each individual to "engage in discussion, to exchange ideas and opinions, and to speak, write and publish freely, in accordance with the guarantees and limitations of our state and national constitutions" (University General Catalog, p. 37).

Statement Concerning Students with Disabilities

Under section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Colorado State University is committed to making reasonable accommodations for persons with documented disabilities. Those students with disabilities that may have some impact on their coursework and for which they may require accommodations should notify Resources for Disabled Students: <http://rds.colostate.edu/>. The RDS and the instructor will assist students in making appropriate accommodations with course instructors. It is important that the RDS and instructor be informed of any disability-related needs during the first two weeks of the semester.

Important Note: No course earning a grade lower than a C will be permitted to fulfill Political Science Major requirements.

Tentative Schedule of Topics and Readings

Note: This schedule is subject to change at the instructor's discretion. It is the student's responsibility to be informed of schedule changes.

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS
INTRODUCTION AND HISTORY OF WARS		
Aug 20	Course Overview	-
Aug 22	Conflict and War: Definitions	Vasquez on RamCT
Aug 24	Conflict and War: Patterns	Themner and Wallenstein on RamCT
Aug 27	World War II	S: 31-43
Aug 29	World War II	S: 43-60
Aug 31	Cold War, Hot War: Korea	S: 63-101
Sep 3	NO CLASS – LABOR DAY	-
Sep 5	Cold War, Hot War: Vietnam	S: 103-130
Sep 7	Arab-Israeli Wars	S: 215-251
Sep 10	Arab-Israeli Wars cont.	S: 251-289
Sep 12	India and Pakistan's Rivalry	S: 177-190
Sep 14	India and Pakistan's Rivalry cont.	S: 190-212
Sep 17	Wars in Yugoslavia	S: 137-151
Sep 19	Wars in Yugoslavia cont.	S: 151-174
Sep 21	FILM: The Fog of War (2003)	Handout on RamCT
Sep 24	EXAM 1 (covering material Aug 20-Sep 21)	-
CAUSES OF WAR		
Sep 26	Polarity and War	Morgenthau on RamCT; B: 87-94
Sep 28	Power Transition Theory	Lemke and Kugler on RamCT
Oct 1	Power Transition Theory cont.	B: 106-117
Oct 3	The Security Dilemma and Arms Races	B: 412-428
Oct 5	The Democratic Peace	B: 135-150
Oct 8	The Democratic Peace cont.	B: 122-129
Oct 10	Economic Interdependence	B: 271-272; B: 273-281
Oct 12	Integration and International Organizations	B: 132-135; B: 129-131
Oct 15	Integration and International Organizations cont.	B: 161-169
Oct 17	Diversionsary Use of Force	CNN and BBC Links on RamCT
Oct 19	Diversionsary Use of Force cont.	B: 347-360
Oct 22	MOVIE: Wag the Dog (1997)	-
Oct 24	Leaders and War	B: 191-194, S: 398-411
Oct 26	NO CLASS – PSS MEETING	-
Oct 29	EXAM 2 (covering material Sep 26-Oct 26)	-
“NEW” WARS AND CONFLICTS		
Oct 31	Asymmetric Warfare	B: 559-577
Nov 2	Terrorism	B: 511-525
Nov 5	Terrorism cont.	B: 546-559
Nov 7	Civil War, PAPER PROPOSAL DUE!	Collier on RamCT
Nov 9	Ethnic Conflict	B: 360-378; B: 378-386
Nov 12	Conflict and the Environment	B: 607-623
Nov 14	Migration and Conflict	B: 580-596
Nov 16	GUEST LECTURE: Alexander Brandl	-
Nov 19 -23	Nuclear Proliferation	B: 451-463, Kroenig on RamCT

Nov 26	FALL BREAK – NO CLASS	
Nov 28	WMD Terrorism	Allison et al., Mueller on RamCT
Nov 30	Maritime Piracy	Weir on RamCT
Dec 3	Visions for the Future	B: 6-18, B: 34-52
Dec 5	NO CLASS – WRITING DAY	-
Dec 7	Course wrap-up, FINAL PAPERS DUE!	-
Dec 13	Exam 3 11:50-1:50 (covering material Oct 31-Dec 7)	-

B=Betts, *Conflict After the Cold War: Arguments on the Causes of War and Peace.*

S= Stoessinger, *Why Nations Go to War*