

REVISED VERSION
(Please disregard previous course outline)

Carleton University
Department of Political Science

Fall 2008

PSCI 3107A
The Causes of War
Monday, 11:35am-2:25pm
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Daniel Pierre-Antoine
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Course description

War has always been a main concern in the field of International Relations. Before the IR discipline even existed, philosophers, theologians, and historians tried to understand why humans engage in it. War is a political phenomenon widely considered horrendous and undesirable, yet it is recurrent. Attempts to understand it have yielded many perspectives on its causes. It is these perspectives that the course aims to introduce. At the end of the term, student will be in a better position to analyze military conflicts past and present and they will become “experts” on a war of their choice, which they will research in two assignments.

The course is organized primarily around lectures covering different causes of war. Except for weeks one and twelve, each week will cover one possible cause of war. On select weeks, videos will be used to supplement lectures.

Readings

Course readings can be found in the following:

1. Two books available at Haven Books: Kenneth N. Waltz, *Man, the State, and War: A Theoretical Analysis* (New York: Columbia University Press, 2001) and Greg Cashman, *What Causes War? An Introduction to Theories of International Conflict* (New York: Lexington Books, 2001).
2. A **coursepack** available at Allegra, 1069 Bank Street.
3. **Online** and through the **Library catalogue** as indicated below.

Please note that all these readings are of equal importance regardless of their source.

Evaluation

Evaluation methods are as follows:

<u>Method</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Due date</u>
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In-class quizzes	2 x 5%	Unannounced
Assignment 1 (8pp.)	30%	27 October in class
Assignment 2 (8pp.)	30%	1 December in class
Exam	30%	Scheduled during the formal exam period, Dec. 4-20 th
Total	100%	

As per early feedback guidelines, one of the unannounced quizzes will be returned by October 31st.

Late assignments and related policies: Late assignments must be accompanied by a justificatory document or they will be penalized by 10 percent per calendar day. Assignments submitted more than 7 days late will receive a grade of zero. Assignments sent by email or fax will not be accepted. The date the hard copy is handed in will be the date recorded. Do not slide assignments under the instructor's office door under any circumstances. Assignments deposited in the Department's drop-box after 4pm will be stamped with the next day's date. Retain a copy of all your assignments. A missed in-class quiz will result in a grade of zero unless formal justification is provided.

Research assignments: Early in the term students must choose one military conflict they are interested in researching. The first assignment will review the academic literature on the conflict chosen and present the different explanations that have been given for its occurrence. The second assignment will identify, in the student's view, the primary cause for that conflict and will use the entire paper to defend that thesis. Each assignment must be 8-pages long (double-spaced, with 1-inch margins, excluding the bibliography). Students **may not** choose the following: (1) the US-led UN intervention against Iraq of 1991, (2) US-led UN invasion of Afghanistan of 2001, and (3) the US-UK invasion of Iraq of 2003. Additional information will be given during the term.

Exam: It is cumulative: it will cover the entire material seen in the course. Information regarding the format will be given during the term.

Calendar and themes

(1) 8 Sept. – Introduction

- Waltz, *Man, the State, and War*, Introduction. [15]
- Cashman, *What Causes War?*, Ch. 1. [13]
- **CP:** Kalevi Holsti, *The State, War, and the State of War*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996), Chs. 1-2. [40]
- Carl von Clausewitz, *On War*, Book I, Chs. 1-2. **Online at** <http://www.clausewitz.com/CWZHOME/VomKriege2/ONWARTOC2.html>.

(2) 15 Sept. – The individual: human nature and psychology

- Cashman, *What Causes War*, Chs. 2-3. [62]
- Waltz, *Man, the State, and War*, Chs. 2-3. [63]

Film: "Saddam"

(3) 22 Sept. – The state 1: authoritarianism and democracy

- Waltz, *Man, the State, and War*, Ch. 4. [44]
- Jack S. Levy, "Domestic Politics and War", *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 18, no. 4 (Spring 1988). **Online via the MacOdrum library catalogue (JSTOR option).** [19]
- **CP:** Jack Snyder, *From Voting to Violence: Democratization and Nationalist Conflict* (New York: Norton, 2000), Ch. 1. [30]

(4) 29 Sept. – The state 2: war as a rational policy

- **CP:** Graham Allison and Philip Zelikow, *Essence of Decision: Explaining the Cuban Missile Crisis* (New York: Longman, 1999), Ch. 1. [28]
- James G. Fearon, “Rationalist Explanations for War”, *International Organization* 49, no. 3 (Summer 1995). **Online via the MacOdrum library catalogue (JSTOR & Business Source Complete options).** [36]
- Cashman, *What Causes War?*, Ch. 4. [46]

(5) 6 Oct. – The state 3: perceptions, misperceptions, and miscalculations

- Robert Jervis, “Hypotheses on Misperception”, *World Politics* 20, no. 3 (April 1968). **Online via the MacOdrum library catalogue (JSTOR option).** [26]
- Robert Jervis, “War and Misperception”, *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 18, no. 4 (Spring 1988). **Online via the MacOdrum library catalogue (JSTOR option).** [25]
- **CP:** Ole Holsti, “Theories of Crisis Decision-Making”, in Robert O. Matthews, Arthur G. Rubinoff and Janice Gross Stein, eds., *International Conflict and Conflict Management* (Scarborough: Prentice-Hall, 1989). [16]
- Cashman, *What Causes War?*, Ch. 4. [46]

Film: excerpts from “Dr. Strangelove” and “The Fog of War”

(6) 13 Oct. - Thanksgiving – no class

(7) 20 Oct. – The system: anarchy and the security dilemma

- Kenneth N. Waltz, *Man, the State, and War*, Chs. 6-7. [28]
- Cashman, *What Causes War?*, Ch. 6. [29]
- **CP:** John J. Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (New York: W. W. Norton, 2001), Ch. 9. [25]

(8) 27 Oct. – Economic 1: capitalism and markets (*** Assignment 1 due in class)

- **CP:** Vladimir I. Lenin, *Imperialism, Highest Stage of Capitalism* (Peking: Foreign Language Press, 1975), Chs. 5-7. [46]
- **CP:** Stephen John Hartnett and Laura Ann Stengrim, *Globalization and Empire: The U.S. Invasion of Iraq, Free Markets, and the Twilight of Democracy* (Tuscaloosa: University of Alabama Press, 2006), Introduction. [39]

(9) 3 Nov. – Economics 2: resources and environmental scarcity

- **CP:** Michael T. Klare, *Resource Wars*, Chs. 1-2, 8 or 9. [63]
- **CP:** Thomas Homer-Dixon, “Environmental Changes as Causes of Acute Conflict”, in Richard K. Betts, ed., *Conflict After the Cold War: Arguments on Causes of War and Peace* (New York: Longman, 2002). [20]

(10) 10 Nov. – Masculinity, militarism, and war

- **CP:** Jean B. Elshtain, *Women and War* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995), Ch. 2. [45]
- **CP:** Jill Steans, *Gender and International Relations* 2nd ed. (Cambridge: Polity Press, 2006), Ch. 4. [13]
- **CP:** Jan Jindy Pettman, *Worlding Women: A Feminist International Politics* (London and New York: Routledge, 1996), Ch. 5. [19]
- Carl von Clausewitz, *On War*, Book I, Ch. 3. **Online at** <http://www.clausewitz.com/CWZHOME/VomKriege2/BK1ch03.html>

Film: excerpts from “Full Metal Jacket”

(11) 17 Nov. – Culture, colonialism and conflict

- **CP:** Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth* (New York: Grove Press, 1965), Ch. 1. [71]

- Samuel P. Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations?”, *Foreign Affairs* 73, no. 3 (Summer 1993). **Online via the MacOdrum library catalogue (Business Source Complete option).** [28]

(12) 25 Nov. – War for Human Rights: humanitarian military intervention

- **CP:** Stathis N. Kalyvas, “‘New’ and ‘Old’ Civil Wars: A Valid Distinction?”, *World Politics* 54, no. 1 (October 2001). **Online via the MacOdrum library catalogue (Project Muse option).** [20]
- **CP:** Michael Waltzer, *Just and Unjust Wars* (New York: Basic Books, 1977), Ch. 6. [22]
- **CP:** Nicholas Wheeler, *Saving Strangers: Humanitarian Intervention in International Society* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000), Introduction and Ch. 1. [31]
- Thomas Weiss, “The Politics of Humanitarian Ideas”, *Security Dialogue* 31, no. 1 (March 2000). **Online via the MacOdrum library catalogue (Sage option).** [14]
- Amy M. Wilson, “Just War Theory and Civil War: The Challenge of Adapting an Interstate Theory to an Intrastate Problem”, mimeo, SNISS Seminar 2006. **Online at** <http://cniss.wustl.edu/workshoppapers/2006wilson.pdf>. [15]
- **Optional:** ICISS, *The Responsibility to Protect*, Chs. 1-2, 4, 7. **Online at** <http://www.iciss.ca/report2-en.asp>. [37]

Film: “May 1999”

(13) 1 Dec. – Conclusion (***) Assignment 2 due in class)

- Waltz, *Man, the State, and War*, Conclusion. [14]
- Cashman, *What Causes War?*, Conclusion. [9]

Academic Accommodations

For students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre (613-520-6608) every term to ensure that the instructor receives your letter of accommodation. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet with the instructor in order to discuss your needs **at least two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations.** If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by **November 7, 2008 for December examinations, and March 6, 2009 for April examinations.**

For Religious Observance: Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance (www.carleton.ca/equity).

For Pregnancy: Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

Plagiarism: The Undergraduate Calendar defines plagiarism as: “to use and pass off as one's own idea or product, work of another without expressly giving credit to another.” The Graduate Calendar states that plagiarism has occurred when a student either: (a) directly copies another's work without acknowledgment; or (b) closely paraphrases the equivalent of a short paragraph or more without acknowledgment; or (c) borrows, without acknowledgment, any ideas in a clear and recognizable form in such a way as to present them as the student's own thought, where such ideas, if they were the student's own would contribute to the merit of his or her own work. Instructors who suspect plagiarism are required to submit the paper and supporting documentation to the Departmental Chair who will refer the case to the Dean. It is not

permitted to hand in the same assignment to two or more courses. The Department's Style Guide is available at: <http://www.carleton.ca/polisci/undergrad/Essay%20Style%20Guide.html>

Oral Examination: At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

Submission and Return of Term Work: Papers must be handed directly to the instructor and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at **4 p.m.**, stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a **stamped, self-addressed envelope** if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

Approval of final grades: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Course Requirements: Students must fulfill all course requirements in order to achieve a passing grade. Failure to hand in any assignment will result in a grade of F. Failure to write the final exam will result in a grade of ABS. FND (Failure No Deferred) is assigned when a student's performance is so poor during the term that they cannot pass the course even with 100% on the final examination. In such cases, instructors may use this notation on the Final Grade Report to indicate that a student has already failed the course due to inadequate term work and should not be permitted access to a deferral of the examination. Deferred final exams are available **ONLY** if the student is in good standing in the course.

Connect Email Accounts: The Department of Political Science strongly encourages students to sign up for a campus email account. Important course and University information will be distributed via the Connect email system. See <http://connect.carleton.ca> for instructions on how to set up your account.