

**PSCI 3107A**

**The Causes of War**

Monday & Wednesday, 6:05 – 8:55pm

Please confirm location on Carleton Central

**Instructor:** Daniel Pierre-Antoine

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**Office hours:** Monday & Wednesday 5:00-5:50pm

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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.

The course is organized primarily around lectures. On select weeks, videos will be used to supplement them. There will also be two discussions covering the themes studied in the previous 5 weeks (see “Calendar and Themes” below).

**Readings**

Course readings can be found in the following:

1. **Two books** available at Haven Books: Kenneth 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. **One coursepack** available at Allegra, 1069 Bank Street.
3. **Online** and through the **Library catalogue** as indicated below (see “Calendar and Themes” below).

Be sure to stay up-to-date with the readings. 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>
2 discussions	15%	22 July and 12 August
Paper #1 (5pp.)	25%	22 July in class
Paper #2 (5pp.)	25%	12 August in class
Final exam	35%	During the official final exam period (August 20 – 25, including Saturday)
Total	100%	

Late assignments and related policies: Late assignments must be accompanied by a justificatory document or they will be penalized by 5 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.

Papers: You are required to reflect on the different causes of war that we covered in the preceding five weeks and to determine which is the most compelling and why. While the course material is the basis for the paper, you are strongly encouraged to rely on recent events to illustrate your argument. It is advisable to follow the news (newspapers and radio especially) about current conflicts. For newspapers and past conflicts, use the Library's databases (Factiva, LexisNexis, Canadian Newsstand). The writing style for these papers must be efficient since there is a lot to say in little space. The instructor will be particularly attentive to this as it is tempting to write in a way that fills paper without saying much. More information will be provided during the term.

Discussions: The topic for the discussions will be the same as the papers. It consists of a conversation about the merits of respective explanations for war. The goal is not to "win" a debate, but to consider seriously various positions in forming your views. The discussions will take place in the second half of the 22 July and 12 August classes.

Final exam: The final exam is cumulative. The date and location will be set by the University. More information will be provided during the term.

## Calendar and themes

### (1) 6 Jul. – 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 on the course website.**

### (2) 8 Jul. – The individual: human nature and psychology

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

### (3) 13 Jul. – 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 through the Library catalogue (JSTOR option).** [19]
- **CP:** Jack Snyder, *From Voting to Violence: Democratization and Nationalist Conflict* (New York: Norton, 2000), Ch. 1. [30]

### (4) 15 Jul. – The state 2: war as a rational policy

- **CP:** Graham T. 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 through the Library catalogue (JSTOR & Business Source Complete options).** [36]
- Cashman, *What Causes War?*, Ch. 4. [46]

(5) 20 Jul. – The state 3: perceptions, misperceptions, and miscalculations

- Robert Jervis, “Hypotheses on Misperception”, *World Politics* 20, no. 3 (April 1968). **Online through the Library catalogue (JSTOR option).** [26]
  - Robert Jervis, “War and Misperception”, *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 18, no. 4 (Spring 1988). **Online through the 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 “The Fog of War” and “Dr. Strangelove”

(6) 22 Jul. – The system: anarchy and the security dilemma \*\*\* Discussion #1 & Paper #1

- 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]

(7) 27 Jul. – Economic 1: capitalism and markets

- **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]

(8) 29 Jul. – Economics 2: resources and environmental scarcity

- **CP:** Michael T. Klare, *Resource Wars*, Chs. 1-2, 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, 2008). [20]

3 Aug. – Statutory holiday

(9) 5 Aug. – 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* 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 on the course website.**
- Film: “Full Metal Jacket”

(10) 10 Aug. – War for Human Rights: humanitarian military intervention

- **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 through the Library catalogue (Sage option)**. [14]
  - ICISS, *The Responsibility to Protect*, Chs. 1-2, 4, 7. **Online at <http://www.iciss.ca/report2-en.asp>**. [37]
- Film: “NATO at War”

(11) 12 Aug. – Culture, colonialism and conflict \*\*\* Discussion #2 and Paper #2

- **CP:** Frantz Fanon, *The Wretched of the Earth* (New York: Grove Press, 1965), Ch. 1. [60]
- Samuel P. Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations?”, *Foreign Affairs* 73, no. 3 (Summer 1993). **Online through the Library catalogue (Business Source Complete option)**. [28]

(12) 17 Aug. – Conclusion

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

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**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 request for 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 **June 12, 2009 for early summer examinations**, and **July 31, 2009 for late / full summer 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](http://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 University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in “substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

**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 fulfil 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:** All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via Connect. Important course and University information is also distributed via the Connect email system. It is the student's responsibility to monitor their Connect account.

**Carleton Political Science Society:** The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, CPSS aims to involve all political science students in the after-hours academic life at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, please email [carletonpss@gmail.com](mailto:carletonpss@gmail.com), visit our website at [poliscisociety.com](http://poliscisociety.com), or come to our office in Loeb D688.

**Official Course Outline:** The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.