

PSCI 3107 C
Causes of War
2:35 pm – 5:25 pm Mondays
(Southam Hall 404)

Instructor: Michael MacLeod
Office: Loeb B 646
Office Hours: Mondays 12:00-2:30 pm; Friday mornings (by appointment only)
Phone: (613) 520-2600 ext. 1598 --- NOTE: there is NO voicemail on this line
Email: mimacleo@connect.carleton.ca (the best way to reach me)

1. Course Description and Objectives

Is war an inevitable feature of world politics? To what extent can war be mitigated by international institutions, the presence of democratic governance or the effects of interdependence and globalization? The purpose of this course is to provide students with a theoretical and practical understanding of the concept of war (conflict) as found in the field of international politics, and the conditions associated with peace and security. While there is considerable emphasis on the various theoretical perspectives in international relations, and on historical analysis of inter-state war, we will also examine a number of specific security-related topics, including the role of nuclear weapons, intra-state conflicts, the effects of globalization, the past and future of NATO, the “war on terrorism”, and so forth.

Prerequisite: Students are required to have third-year standing and to have completed PSCI 2601. If you do NOT have these, you must contact me asap.

2. Course Materials

There are two required texts for this course. The first is the main text:

Joseph Nye, Understanding International Conflicts: An Introduction to Theory and History, 6th edition (2007). Note: do NOT use previous versions.

The second book is a reader:

Richard Betts, Conflict After the Cold War: Arguments on Causes of War and Peace, 3rd edition (2007). Note: do NOT use previous versions.

Note that the University bookstore sells these as ONE package, which is considerably cheaper than buying these separately. Other readings will be assigned as needed, and will be made available via the WebCT system. I reserve the right to change or amend the course materials.

3. Course Evaluations/Requirements

You are strongly advised to attend all lectures. The content of the lectures will not necessarily be identical to the content of the readings, and thus regular attendance is crucial for achieving success.

Your final grade will be determined on the following basis:

- A. Mid-term Exam 20 % (February 11)
- B. Term Paper 40 % (due on or before beginning of class March 31st)
- C. Final Exam 40 % (to be scheduled during exam period, April 11 – 29)

A. Mid-term Exam: The mid-term exam is scheduled in-class for **February 11**, and will be approximately 1 to 1.5 hours in length. You are responsible for all of the material covered in the lectures and the assigned readings. Those students who miss the mid-term exam must present a medical or counselling certificate to the instructor in order to avoid receiving an F. You should contact me immediately to arrange a make-up exam in the event that you have a valid excuse for missing the mid-term. There will be a very short time frame for a make-up, and after that it will not be a possible to take the exam.

B. Term Paper: The term paper is due on or before the beginning of the last class on March 31st. The details of this assignment, including potential topics, will be provided to you no later than the third week of classes, leaving you over two months to complete the paper. NOTE: Term papers received after the above deadline, without my permission (given only for medical or similar reasons), will be penalized 5 per cent a day for one week, i.e. until April 7. After that point, no late papers will be accepted and a grade of 0 will be given for that assignment.

C. Final Exam: The final exam is comprehensive in nature, but will emphasize the material that has been covered since the mid-term exam. The exam will take place during the university scheduled exam period (April 11 – 29, 2008), and will be three hours in length.

4. Other Guidelines

Assignments sent by fax to the Department of Political Science will not be accepted. It is not acceptable to hand in the same assignment for two or more courses, or to hand in assignments submitted by other students in this or other courses. To obtain credit in this course, students must meet all of the course requirements. Failure to complete or attempt ALL of the required elements – both exams and the paper – will result in a failing grade for the course.

5. Course Schedule

<i>Week(s)</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Reading</i>
1	Jan 7	Course Introduction	[none]
2	Jan 14	Studying International Security	Nye, chapters 1-2 Betts, TBD

<i>Week(s)</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Reading</i>
3-4	Jan 21-28	Theory and the Roots of War and Conflict	Nye, chapter 2 Betts, TBD
5-6	Feb 4-11	Great Power Conflicts	Nye, chapters 3-4 Betts, TBD
7	Feb 25	Mid-Term Exam The Cold War and Nuclear Weapons	Nye, chapter 5 Betts, TBD
8	Mar 3	The End of the Cold War, Early PCW Era	Nye, chapters 5-6 Betts, TBD
9-10	Mar 10-17	Restraining War, Creating Peace in the PCW Era	Nye, Chapter 7 Betts, TBD
11-12	Mar 24-31	Transnationalism and the Impact of 9-11; Course Conclusion	Nye, chapters 8-9 Betts, TBD

Academic Accommodations

For Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course are encouraged to contact the Paul Menton Centre (PMC) for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) to complete the necessary forms. 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 in-class test or CUTV midterm exam**. This will allow for sufficient time to process your request. Please note the following deadline for submitting completed forms to the PMC for formally scheduled exam accommodations: **March 14th, 2008** 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.