

PSCI 3107 B
The Causes of War
Monday – 0835-1125

Time: Online and asynchronous. Since students are now living remotely and forced to work odd hours, only recorded lectures that are available always will work. Lectures will be posted as soon as available, but students should try to listen to one a week. Intellectual digestion is required. Powerpoint slides will be amended as lectures are rewritten.

Professor: Peter Atack

Office: Home

Office Hours: We can't meet in person, sniff. Call me at home 11-4 Monday to Friday. 613-7242437. Yes this is my family landline.

Email: peter.atack@carleton.ca (please put PSCI3107 in subject line). Note please give me 48 hours for a reply, Monday to Friday. Sometimes the Carleton email fails to work. Try home patack@rogers.com (it all gets forwarded anyway).

Welcome to the course

One of the central questions in the field of international relations and political science has always been what causes war? Is conflict violence and war inherent in the human condition, the foundation of the nation state or a flaw in how international relations are constructed? Why do we fight? Is it human nature, domination or failures in governance that cause war?

The classic founding text for this field is Kenneth Waltz's *Man the State and War*. This course will utilize Waltz's threefold structure of how individual's character flaws, problems in how state make decisions and then issues in international relations to organize our examination of the theories of the causes of war. We will then examine cases of the breakout of war to apply these theories and assess their utility in understanding how war begins.

By the end of the course students will have a better understanding of why wars break out, what some hidden causes of war are and hopefully how to help prevent them in the future.

cuLearn content. Students will find 9 useful sections on the web site

1. Syllabus
2. Power point slides: These contain:
 - A) A list of concepts, places, terms and people.
 - B) Quotations that are used in the lecture,
 - C) Learning outcomes for the lecture.
 - D) Images used to illustrate the subject.
 - E) Summary of the central points and ideas raised in the lecture. However, since any good lecture (and lecturer) will have more to say than just the power point slides do listen to the lectures and have fun thinking.
3. Big Blue button recorded lectures. I record lectures to the path of the power point slides, but there is always more information, more ideas, more inspiration and occasional odd comment meant to jar thinking. The lectures will be released as recorded no later than the Monday of the Lecture week.
4. Discussion questions and puzzles.
5. Question box. Usually during lectures I can hear whispers, see puzzled frowns and draw out your questions for clarification. Post your own queries about the topics and lectures here. All questions welcomed, trust me what you find confusing others are confused by too.
6. A list of song titles and films about war, specifically films and songs that either sell war or especially those that criticize war..
7. Instructions and helpful hints for the assignments. These are meant to be helpful not a prescriptive list. They can be humorous and are intended to answer some FAQs.
8. Ares for most of the readings.
9. Dropboxes for the assignments. Note the cut off date will usually be after the due date. If you need an extension beyond this just ask. Online courses sprint up on us all.
10. But we are using two core textbooks available for purchase at Octopus Books in the Glebe at 113 Third Avenue, almost at the corner of Bank. They do online orders now.

Course Texts: Kenneth Waltz *Man the State and War* (New York, Colombia University Press, 1959),
Greg Cashman, *What Causes War 2nd Edition* (Toronto, Rowman and Littlefield: 2014).

Course Requirements:

Participation: 10% online - this component is addressed below
Proposal: 15% October 5th.
Critical interpretation of Films and Songs for and or against war:
15%: November 9th.
Research Paper: 30% December 6th.
Final Exam: 30% During Final Exam Period

Participation: My experience has taught me that those who participate and attend lectures learn, grow and think. In these days of covid, we are all experimenting to try to achieve the same results. So what I'm going to do is post a discussion question, a problem to illustrate the lectures. Argue, debate and learn online from each other. I will also have a question box per week for things you want clarified and re-explained. I'll simply note and reward those who post.

Proposal: must include: two double-spaced pages (essay and paragraph format) explaining the proposed essay. The two page length does not include a bibliography. The proposal must include 1) a clear research question or what is it you are going to examine 2) a description of what issues you are going to examine in order to answer your question, and 3) a tentative thesis statement which is essentially the one sentence answer to your question and also 4) a bibliography with at least 8 academic sources.

Warning: a research paper proposal is not an outline.

For this course the essay will involve the application of one of the theories of the causes of war to the outbreak of a particular war. Therefore the proposal should also include a justification as to why you think this particular theory is most useful in understanding how this war came about.

Due Date: October 5th

Critical interpretation of popular culture of war: must be 5-6 pages, double spaced and paginated. One of the crucial lessons of the course is that popular culture has reflected the case for and against war. Taking either one of the songs or films listed on culearn, comment on how this song or film critically or uncritically reflects the values of war. It is permissible to use either a music video or film not listed as long as it's easily available online. However documentaries would not be suitable for this assignment. How has popular culture in this instance helped to push forward the agenda for or against war? Are there silences that reveal our own hidden assumptions about war? What does this song or film tell us about the causes of war and its consequences **Due date: November 9th**

Research Paper: must be 12-15 pages in length. Essays should be double-spaced. Essays should include a title page, page numbers and bibliography. For this course the essay will involve the application of one of the theories of the causes of war to the outbreak of a particular war. This involves applying a theory and then using it to gain understanding of how a conflict degenerated into war by intention or miscalculation. **Due date December 6th**

Final Exam: will be conducted during the final exam period on the content of the course. The purpose of the exam is for the student to be able to discuss their understanding of the issues rather than simply be tested on specific readings. During the Exam period.

COURSE OUTLINE

Because this course is being held asynchronously the dates for the lectures are only a released by date. The Course was originally scheduled for Monday so it will follow that rotation, except for Thanksgiving Monday, when it will go out a day later. Note lectures will be released and be available as recorded my intention is well ahead of time. Listen at your own schedule but do try to keep up on a weekly basis.

Week 1 (Week of Sept. 14th) Lecture1: Introduction to the Course.

What are the causes of war? Why do we fight for King and Country? Are they inherent to our nature as human beings or do they spring from the individual flaws of human beings? Do wars spring from the structure of nation states? Or are wars a disease caused by failings at the international level to regulate conflicts? Who benefits and who pays for war?

A review of the structure of the course and the methods we will be using to examine its issues.

Review of course requirements or what students must do.

Required Reading

Kenneth Waltz, *Man the State and War*. Chapter 1 Introduction

Theories on the Causes of War

Week 2 (Week of Sept. 21st Lecture 2: Why do we fight? Individuals as a cause of war.

Is aggression and war part of human nature?

Can the decision to go to war be attributed to psychological flaws in individual leaders?

Required readings:. Kenneth Waltz, *Man the State and War*. Chapter 2.

Greg Cashman, *What Causes War 2nd Edition* Chapter 2, 3.

Week 3 (Week of Sept. 27th) Lecture 3, : Social Psychology: Can the structure of decision making and group pressure lead to war?

How can we structure decision making to ensure that different points of view are heard to prevent bad decisions about declaring war? Can wishful thinking lead to irrational decisions and ignoring the consequences of war.

Required readings:. Kenneth Waltz, *Man the State and War*. Chapter 3.

Greg Cashman, *What Causes War 2nd Edition* Chapter 4

Week 4 (Week of October 5th) Lecture 4.: State Level 1. Research Proposal due October 5th!

Does the type of government in a state affect the chances of that state going to war? Does its economic structure increase or decrease the probability of war? Do democracies go to war or do they always cooperate with each other? Is there a correlation between business cycles and war? How are wars caused by internal conflicts within states?

Required Reading: Greg Cashman, *What Causes War 2nd Edition* Chapter 5 , 6

Week 5 (Week of Tuesday Oct 13th) Lecture 5: Dyads or state to state conflict cycles. Thanksgiving Monday is this week, so the Lecture release is pushed back by a day only.

The Serbs are always coming: how wars can be caused by a shared .history of violence, distrust and border conflicts. Are wars the result of predictable conflict spirals? Can deterrence models and game theory offer a way to prevent conflicts?

Greg Cashman, *What Causes War 2nd Edition* Chapters7,8,9.

Week 6 (Week of Oct. 19th) Lecture 6: International Systems: Realism Anarchy, Balance of Power

Is there something inherent in the state of international relations that leads to war? Does the lack of an international sovereign authority lead us to the war of all against all as Hobbes predicted? Is realpolitik a self fulfilling prophecy? Are nation states only after self interest or is self interest a reflection of the national biases of that nation?

Required readings:. Kenneth Waltz, *Man the State and War.* Chapter 6&7.
Greg Cashman, *What Causes War 2nd Edition* Chapter 10

Week 7 (week of Oct 26th) Reading week: Contact by email or phone.

Week 8 (Week of Nov. 2) Lecture 7: International Systems II: The Political Economy of War.

Greg Cashman, *What Causes War 2nd Edition* Chapter 11.

Are system wide wars a sign of a changing of the guard of hegemonic powers? Were WWI and WWII the result of the decline in power and capability of the British Empire and the unwillingness of the USA to perform its proper function of the World's policeman? Does the cycle of ascending and descending powers

point towards difficult times ahead as the USA wanes and China waxes? Do hegemonic powers project more than economic self interest do they project hegemonic values as well?

Week 9 (Week of Nov. 9th) Lecture 8: Case Studies Begin: The Great War

How did conflict cycles lead to the escalation of conflicts that lead to the outbreak of war on July 20th 1914? How much blame can be apportioned to British Foreign Secretary and the Kaiser? Was it war by timetables or a naval arms race that led to war?

Required Readings: Greg Cashman and Leonard C. Robinson *An Introduction to War* Chapter 2.

Critical Reading of war culture Due! Monday November 9th.

Week 10 (Week of Nov. 16) Lecture 9.: The War in the Pacific

Was Pearl Harbor inevitable or was it the result of miscalculation? Was this war the result of a changing power balance in East Asia or was it the result of groupthink on the part of the Japanese Armed Forces?

Required Reading: Greg Cashman and Leonard C. Robinson *An Introduction to War* Chapter 3.

Week 11 (Week of Nov. 23) Lecture 10: Vietnam: The Path To War

“The savage wars of peace” draw great powers into war they cannot win, wars they cannot then escape. How did the US and Lyndon Johnson make the errors that led the US into a war that could not be won.

Required reading :

Anderson, P.A. (1987) “What do Decisionmakers do When They Make Foreign policy.” In *New Directions in the Study of Foreign Policy*. Ed C.F. Herman C. W. Kegleyand J.N. Rosenau. 284-308 (Boston: Allen and Unwin.)

Week 12 (Week of Nov. 30th) Lecture 11: Avoiding War: Cuban Missile Crisis and the End of the Cold War.

These are two case studies of how to manage crises and how to deescalate arms races and other conflicts. The Cuban Missile crisis: or how to avoid Armageddon. Gorbachev and collective security or how to end an arms race and move away from conflict.

• Janis, Irving L. “Groupthink among policy makers.” In *Sanctions for Evil*, ed. Nevitt Sanford and Craig Comstock (San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 1971),

Week 13 (Week of Dec. 7th) Lecture 12: The War in Iraq
Research Paper is due

How did we return to unwinnable wars and wars launched under false pretences? How the invasion of Iraq was sold, and how they missed the consequences.

Required reading: Required Readings: Greg Cashman and Leonard C. Robinson *An Introduction to War* Chapter 2.

Kaufman Chaim, 2004. "Threat Inflation and the Marketplace of Ideas."

International Security 29:1 5-48.

Late Penalties: We are all struggling to get used to this brave new world of online classes. Therefore reasonable accommodations and extensions will be available to all students for assignments. Just email or speak to the professor. There is an official late penalty of ½ % to your final grade for late papers. **Note university regulations require that all course work be handed in by end of classes or December 11th.**

Grading

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Final standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points is:

Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale	Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale
90-100	A+	12	67-69	C+	6
85-89	A	11	63-66	C	5
80-84	A-	10	60-62	C-	4
77-79	B+	9	57-59	D+	3
73-76	B	8	53-56	D	2
70-72	B-	7	50-52	D-	1

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.

Accommodations during COVID

Due to COVID, instructors will not request or require a doctor's note when students seek accommodation for missed term work or exams due to illness. Instead, students will be asked to complete the self-declaration form available here: https://carleton.ca/registrar/wp-content/uploads/COVID-19_Self-declaration.pdf

Academic Accommodations

Pregnancy

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Religious obligation

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made.

Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and its survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities

beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: students.carleton.ca/course-outline

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 may include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

More information on the University’s Academic Integrity Policy can be found at: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

Intellectual property

Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

Carleton E-mail Accounts

All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via official Carleton university e-mail accounts and/or cuLearn. As important course and University information is distributed this way, it is the student's responsibility to monitor their Carleton and cuLearn accounts.

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. By hosting social events, including Model Parliament, debates, professional development sessions and more, CPSS aims to involve all political science students 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 our networking opportunities, academic engagement initiatives and numerous events which aim to complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CarletonPoliticalScienceSociety/> and our website <https://carletonpss.com/>, or stop by our office in Loeb D688!"

Official Course Outline

The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.