

**FYSM 1602C**  
**Selected Topics in Political Science: War & Politics**  
Wednesday 6:00 PM - 9:00 PM  
Please confirm on Carleton Central

**Instructors:**

Instructor: William Biebuyck  
E-mail: [wbiebuyc@connect.carleton.ca](mailto:wbiebuyc@connect.carleton.ca)  
Office: A611 Loeb  
Office Hours: Wed. 4:00PM – 5:30 PM  
Phone: 520-2600 ext. 2773

Instructor: Judy Meltzer  
E-mail: [jmeltzer@connect.carleton.ca](mailto:jmeltzer@connect.carleton.ca)  
Office: D681 Loeb  
Office Hours: Wed. 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM  
Phone: 520-2600 ext.

**I. Course Description & Objectives**

This course will examine the political significance of war in our late modern age. A **primary goal** of this seminar is to explore how war remains a central—rather than exceptional—aspect of our political condition and to what effects. The course is structured around four broad themes: the ethics of war, the political economy of conflict, environment and conflict, and the humanitarian consequences of war. The first two themes will be the focus during the Fall Term and the latter two in the Winter Term (although there is some thematic overlap). The course seminars and readings are based on diverse debates about the politics of war as well as specific cases of conflict. The aim is to provide students with the opportunity to learn and discuss how we think about war and its place in politics; how war is connected with broader political-economic and environmental agendas; and its direct and indirect effects on people and places. The readings range from conceptual and theoretical articles, to popular books and personal testimonials.

By the end of the course it is expected that students will be able to:

- demonstrate knowledge of key debates about the ethics of war (i.e. When is war permissible? What are the 'legitimate' means of fighting a war? What does war do to the psyche of a population?)
- demonstrate an understanding of the political-economic (corporate) dimensions of modern war and be able to provide concrete examples;
- demonstrate an understanding of the debates about environmental scarcity and conflict;
- demonstrate an understanding of the humanitarian consequences of conflict and the dilemmas of humanitarian intervention;
- demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of specific cases of war and respective political contexts.

A **second key goal** of the course is related to the goals of the first-year seminar more broadly. The first-year seminar is geared toward helping students feel comfortable, intellectually stimulated, and productive within the university environment. The goals include engaging students with ideas through interactive learning, analysis of texts, concepts, and ideas, working in groups in and out of class, and helping students integrate their learning in class participation and written assignments. We place great emphasis on student participation as a fundamental aspect of the seminar. This goes significantly beyond class attendance, and requires that all students **actively participate** each week in class discussions as an integral part of the course (and final grade). Students should come to each class prepared to participate in discussions based on careful, prior reading of the assigned texts. Communication skills will also be developed through student presentations. The development of sound writing skills is also an important course objective. The written assignments prioritize quality and clarity of writing over length. By the end of the course, students should develop their essay-writing, critical thinking and information literacy; improve oral and written communication skills; and foster the skills and discipline needed for continued academic success.

## II. Required Course Materials (Books available at the Carleton University bookstore)

- Larry May (ed), *War: Essays in Political Philosophy* (Cambridge University Press 2008)
- Chris Hedges, *War is a Force that Gives Us Meaning* (First Anchor Books 2003)
- Naomi Klein, *The Shock Doctrine: The Rise of Disaster Capitalism* (Alfred Knopf 2007)
- Ishmael Beah, *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* (Sarah Crichton Books 2007).
- Select readings to be made available by instructor

## III. Course Requirements

### Fall Term:

Class Participation.....15%

[This includes attendance, participation in class discussion & a short presentation]

Short Paper .....10% **(Due in class Oct. 8)**

Mid-term Exam.....20% **(to be scheduled during the formal exam period, Dec 4-20<sup>th</sup>)**

Fall Term Total: 45%

**As per early feedback guidelines, the Short Paper Assignment will be returned by October 31<sup>st</sup>.**

### Winter Term:

Class Participation.....15%

[This includes attendance, participation in class discussion & a short presentation]

Paper Outline and Bibliography.....5% **(Due in class Feb. 4)**

Research Paper.....15% **(Due in class Apr. 1)**

Final Exam.....20%

**(to be scheduled during the formal exam period, April 8-27<sup>th</sup>)**

Winter Term Total: 55%

#### IV. Explanations

##### **Class Participation (worth 30% of your final grade):**

Class participation will be graded on the basis of **three** requirements:

1) Attendance at the weekly lectures will be recorded at the beginning of each class. (If you have a legitimate reason for absence, you must let the instructor know prior to the class). Exams will draw on lecture material, **as well as** the assigned readings. Lectures also provide background material not always available from the readings.

2) Active participation in class discussion. This is an integral part of this course; since the course is a seminar you are required to participate actively in class discussions. The reason for this is simple; seminars do not work if there is no student participation. It is necessary that you **complete all reading assignments prior to coming to class** so that you are fully prepared to engage and discuss the assigned material. We strongly suggest that you bring each week's readings and your notes on the readings with you to each class. Failure to participate in class discussions will be taken as a sign of inadequate preparation and result in a grade reduction.

3) Short presentations: You are required to make two prepared presentations in class, one during the Fall Term and one in the Winter Term. The presentations should be approximately 10-15 minutes in length, and will be based on the topic and assigned reading for that week. The presenter will also be responsible for raising questions to stimulate class discussion and debate on the topic. More details on how to prepare for the presentation will be provided in class. The presentations are a key component of your class participation mark.

**Short Paper Assignment:** Your task is to find and read an in-depth article from a recognized media source dealing with some aspect of the politics of war or a contemporary conflict. You are required to write a 3-5 page paper that not only summarizes the main point of the article and its significance, but also provides background information on the respective conflict. The paper should follow the Dept. of Political Science Essay Style Guide available on-line at: <http://www.carleton.ca/polisci/undergrad/Essay%20Style%20Guide.html>. The paper will be graded on both content and style—it must be well-organized and clearly written. You must include the newspaper article with the paper that you turn in. **This assignment is due in class on October 8<sup>th</sup>.**

**Mid-term Exam:** The exam will cover the course material from the Fall Term—note that this includes material from both readings and lectures. The exam will consist of short-answer and essay questions. More information about the exam will be provided at the end of the Fall Term. The exam will take place during the university-scheduled exam period (**December 4-20**).

##### **Paper Outline & Bibliography**

Early in the Winter Term you will be provided with a set of essay questions based on course topics and cases. You are to select one of the questions and write a 1-2 page outline of your paper and provide an initial bibliography of the resources that you will use

to complete the final paper (this must include a minimum of three academic sources – journal articles, books etc.). The outline should include the selected question, a summary of the main argument that will be made in the paper, and the evidence that will be used to support it. The outline should be typed and double-spaced. Make sure that you use a proper citation style for this assignment. Information on citation styles are available at: [www.library.carleton.ca/howdol/citing.html](http://www.library.carleton.ca/howdol/citing.html) **The paper outline and bibliography are due in class on February 4<sup>th</sup>.**

### **Research Paper**

Based on the essay question selected and your paper outline, you will write a **6-8 page paper** that responds to the question by constructing a clear argument supported by evidence. The paper must demonstrate an understanding and analysis of key course themes and specific cases; it should not be purely descriptive. The paper should follow the Dept. of Political Science Essay Style Guide available on-line at: <http://www.carleton.ca/polisci/undergrad/Essay%20Style%20Guide.html>. The paper will be graded on both content and style—it must be well-organized and clearly written. The paper will be discussed in more detail early in the Winter term. **The paper is due in class on April 1, 2009.**

**Final Exam:** The exam will cover the course material from the Winter Term—note that this includes material from both readings and lectures. The exam will consist of short-answer and essay questions. More information about the exam will be provided at the end of the Winter Term. The exam will take place during the university-scheduled exam period (**April 8-27**).

### **V. Other Guidelines**

- Written assignments will be returned to students in class within two weeks of their submission.
- Assignments sent by fax to the Department of Political Science will not be accepted. Papers emailed to the instructors will not be accepted.
- It is not acceptable to hand in the same assignment for two or more courses.
- To obtain credit in this course, students must meet all of the course requirements. Failure to complete all of the assignments will result in a failing grade for the course.
- Late papers may be put in the drop box outside the Political Science office Loeb B640. Note: **Anything that arrives in the drop box later than 4 P.M. is stamped with the next day's date.**
- Late assignments will be downgraded by **5% per day**.

## **VI. Course Schedule**

(Required readings from course texts are marked with an (\*). Required readings that are not from the assigned books can be accessed directly on WebCT or through the Carleton library).

### **FALL TERM**

#### **Sept. 10 Introduction to the course**

#### **Sept. 17 Introduction to war as a political problem**

*Required Reading:*

- Charles Townshend "Introduction: The Shape of Modern War", in *The Oxford History of Modern War* (pp. 3-19)
- Eric Hobsbawm "War & Peace in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century" in *War and Peace* (p25-40)

#### **Sept. 24 Writing Tutorial Workshop**

#### **Oct. 1 The Ethics of War: Just War Theory**

*Required Reading:* From *War: Essays on Political Philosophy* (pp.11-66)\*:

- Gregory Reichberg "Jus ad Bellum";
- Nicholas Renneger "The Jus in Bello in Historical and Philosophical Perspective"
- Larry May "The Principle of Just Cause"

#### **Oct. 8 The Ethics of War: Radical Approaches: anarchism and pacifism**

*Required Reading:*

- Emma Goldman "Anarchism: What it Really Stands For" & "Preparedness: the Road to Universal Slaughter" in *Red Emma Speaks: An Emma Goldman Reader* (pp.61-77, 347-356);
- Soran Reader "Cosmopolitan Pacifism" in the *Journal of Global Ethics* 3(1): 87-103

#### **Oct. 15 The Ethics of War: Vietnam**

- Film: *The Fog of War* (Errol Morris)

#### **Oct. 22 The Ethics of War: Socio-cultural dimensions (I)**

*Required Reading:*

- Chris Hedges, *War is a Force...*(pp. 1-83)\*

#### **Oct. 29 The Ethics of War: Socio-cultural dimensions (II)**

*Required Reading:*

- Chris Hedges, *War is a Force...*(pp. 84-185)\*

#### **Nov. 5 The Political Economy of War: Corporations & states (history)**

*Required Reading:*

- Naomi Klein, *The Shock Doctrine* (pp. 3-24; 56-83)\*

**Nov. 12      The Political Economy of War: Corporations & states (cases)**

*Required Reading:*

- Naomi Klein, *The Shock Doctrine* (pp. 85-152)\*

**Nov. 19      The Political Economy of War: Corporations & states (cases)**

*Required Reading:*

- Naomi Klein, *The Shock Doctrine* (pp. 337-460)\*

**Nov. 26      The Political Economy of War: The military industrial complex**

- Film: *Why We Fight* (Eugene Jarecki)

**WINTER TERM**

**Jan. 7          Introduction to the Winter Term**

**Jan. 14        Environment & Conflict: Historical Perspectives**

*Required Reading:*

- Clive Ponting, The Foundations of Inequality. Chap. 9 in *A New Green History of the World: The Environment and the Collapse of Great Civilizations* (2002) (pp. 171-198)

**Jan. 21        Environment & Conflict: Debates on Scarcity & Violence**

*Required Reading:*

- Robert D. Kaplan, "The Coming Anarchy," *The Atlantic Monthly* (February 1994)
- Thomas Homer Dixon, "Overview." Chap. 2 in *Environment, Scarcity & Violence* (1999) (pp.12-27).
- Simon Dalby, *Security and Ecology In the Age of Globalization*, Environmental Change & Security Report Issue 8 (2002), Woodrow Wilson International Center

**Jan. 28        Library Research Information Session**

**Feb. 4          Environment & Conflict: Climate change & the conflict in Darfur**

*Required Reading:*

- Oli Brown et. al. "Climate Change as the 'New' Security Threat: Implications for Africa," in *International Affairs* 83:6 (2007) (pp. 1141-1154)
- Stephen Faris, "The Real Roots of Darfur," *The Atlantic Monthly* (April 2007)
- Idean Salheyman, "The New Myth About Climate Change," *Foreign Policy* (August 2007)
- Ban Ki Moon, "A Climate Culprit in Darfur," *The Washington Post* (June 16, 2007)

**Feb. 11 Environment & Conflict: Footprints of war**

- Film: Scarred Lands & Wounded Lives

**Feb. 18 READING WEEK**

**Feb. 25 Humanitarian Impacts & Intervention: Introduction**

*Required Reading:*

- Ishmael Beah, *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* (2007) (Chapters 1-15)\*

**Mar. 4 Humanitarian Impacts & Intervention: Body as battleground**

*Required Reading:*

- Elizabeth Reid, "A Future, If One is Still Alive: The Challenge of the HIV Epidemic." Chap. 15 in *Hard Choices: Moral Dilemmas in Humanitarian Intervention* (pp.269-286)
- UN/IRIN "Perpetrators & Motivations: Behind Rape & Sexual Violence in War," Ch.2 in *The Shame of War: Sexual Violence Against Women & Girls in Conflict* (pp.37-56)

**Mar. 11 Humanitarian Impacts & Intervention: Genocide**

*Required Reading:*

- Martin Shaw "Genocide as a Form of War," Chap. 2 in *War & Genocide* (pp. 34-53)

**Mar. 18 Humanitarian Impacts & Intervention: Case of Rwanda**

- Film: Ghosts of Rwanda

**Mar. 25 Humanitarian Impacts & Intervention: Politics of intervention**

*Required Reading:*

- Cindy Holder, "Responding to Humanitarian Crises" Ch. 5 in *War: Essays in Political Philosophy* (pp.85-104)\*
- Samantha Power, "Bystanders to Genocide" *The Atlantic Monthly* (Sept. 2001)

**April 1 Humanitarian Impacts & Intervention: Post-conflict politics**

*Required Reading:*

- Trudy Govier, War's Aftermath: The Challenges of Reconciliation. Ch. 12 in *War: Essays in Political Philosophy* (pp.229-248)\*
- Ishmael Beah, *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier* (Chap. 16-end)\*

## 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 9500 University Drive) 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 I receive your letter of accommodation, **no later than 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](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 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.

**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.