

PSCI 3107B
CAUSES OF WAR

Fridays, 8:35 – 11:25

Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Dr. Hakan Tunç
Office: B646 Loeb
Phone: 520-2600 (1598)
Office Hours: Fri, 12-2:00 pm
Email: htunc@connect.carleton.ca

Course description and objectives

What causes war is arguably one of the most important questions in the field of international politics. The fundamental objective of this course is to familiarize students with a number of important theoretical perspectives on the origins of war between and among states. Attention will also be given to conflict resulting from non-state actors such as global terrorist networks. Specific cases of war will be examined in depth in order to test the validity of these perspectives focusing on the role of individuals, domestic politics and the international system. Among these cases of war, the 2003 Iraq War will be given special attention.

At the end of the term, students 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 a term paper.

Readings

There are two required books for the course:

- 1) David Sobek, *The Causes of War* (Polity, 2008)
- 2) Greg Cashman and Leonard C. Robinson, *An Introduction to the Causes of War: Patterns of Interstate Conflict from World War I to Iraq*, (Rowman & Littlefield, 2007)

Additional readings assigned for global terrorism and the Iraq War are available on the WebCT course page in PDF and MS-Word formats.

Evaluation

The final grade will be based on:

Class participation	10%	
In-class quizzes	20% (4 x 5%)	Unannounced
Term Paper	40%	April 3 (Last class meeting)
Final Exam	30%	Scheduled during the formal exam period, April 8-27, excluding April 11 th

As per early feedback guidelines, one of the quizzes will be returned by February 27.

Class participation (10%)

Each class is a combination of lecture and discussion, so students are highly encouraged to ask questions and participate in the class discussions. It is necessary that you complete all reading assignments prior to coming to class so that you are fully prepared to discuss the assigned material. The grade for class participation will be determined by the quality and quantity of your comments and questions.

It is very important to attend class. Along with a number of obvious reasons why you should attend class, the lectures will cover material that is not addressed in the readings. Attendance is also important to take unannounced quizzes (see below).

In-class quizzes (4 quizzes, 5 % or 5 points per quiz)

You will write four quizzes which will not be announced in advance. Each of these unannounced quizzes will start at the beginning of the class (around 8:45 am). Each quiz will have one question, which will be based on the assigned course readings for that week. You will write a very short essay-type answer (max. 500 words) in 30 minutes. If you do not know the answer, submit a piece of paper with your name on it because you will at least receive credit of 1 point (out of 5 points). No aids of any kind (e.g. books) will be permitted during the quiz.

There are no makeup quizzes. ONLY those with a medical note or documentation of family emergency will be given the chance to make up for a missed quiz by writing a short review of an article on a war that was published in an academic journal of Political Science. (The article has to be outside the required readings for the course). The review is expected to be around 500 words, should both summarize and critically evaluate the main argument(s) of the article and has to be submitted one week after the student is notified that his/her documentation is approved by the instructor. Submissions after one week will not be accepted and the student will not receive any credit for that particular quiz.

Term paper (40 %, due April 3)

You are required to write a 3,500-4000 word research paper, in which you will describe a war of your choice, review contending explanations of this war's origins and relate these explanations to the theories discussed in the course. A list of wars for the paper will be posted on WebCT by early February. You will choose one of the wars for your paper from the list.

The paper should be printed in 12 pt font on 8 1/2 x 11 paper, in justified double-spaced text with one inch margins, accompanied by a word count. Pages must be numbered. E-mail or faxed papers will not be accepted.

The paper should draw on materials beyond the required course readings and combine theory, facts, analysis and argumentation. A more detailed description of the paper assignment will be provided during the term.

Papers are due in class on **April 3**. Students submitting late papers without legitimate reasons will be penalized 7% per day (including weekends) or 3 points (out of 40). Papers submitted after April 7th will not be accepted.

There will be no extensions for paper submissions except under extraordinary circumstances (the validity of which is to be determined by the instructor).

Final exam (30 %)

The final exam will test your knowledge of all the major theories, ideas, concepts and details of the Iraq War that we have studied throughout the term. The exam is comprehensive and will include all of the material outlined in the syllabus. You are responsible for all of the material that has been assigned in the course outline and discussed in the lectures. The exam will consist of short answer, identification questions and essay questions. More information about the exam will be provided at the end of the semester. The exam will take place during the university-scheduled exam period (April 8 – 27, excluding April 11)

Return of term work: Students will receive their marks for the quizzes within a week. Term papers will be returned to you at the end of the final exam in the exam hall.

WebCT: This course will rely heavily on the WebCT Course Management System. Course materials, including the course outline, required journal articles, announcements, and reminders of deadlines will be posted on WebCT. I also prefer WebCT for e-mail correspondence with students. Please ensure that you have access to WebCT and consult it regularly. Students are responsible for reading all information distributed to them through the WebCT course page.

CLASS SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

- Week 1 (January 9) Introduction**
- Week 2 (January 16) Causes of war: an overview**
Sobek, Introduction
Cashman/Robinson, Introduction
- Week 3 (January 23) The behavior of states**
Sobek chs. 1 and 2
Cashman/Robinson, World War II in the Pacific
- Week 4 (January 30) Balance of power**
Sobek, ch. 3
Cashman/Robinson, Iran-Iraq war
- Week 5 (February 6) The Democratic Peace**
Sobek, ch. 4
Cashman/Robinson, The Indo-Pakistani War of 1971
- Week 6 (February 13) Trade and peace**
Sobek, ch. 5
- Week 7 (February 20) No Class (Winter break)**
- Week 8 (February 27) The International system**
Sobek, chs. 6 and 7
Cashman/Robinson, World War I

Week 9 (March 6) Conflict with non-state actors

Sobek, Ch. 8

David J. Kilcullen, "Countering Global Insurgency," *Journal of Strategic Studies* 28, no. 4 (August 2005): 597-617.

Philip Gordon, "Winning the Right War," *Survival* 49, no. 4 (Winter 2007-08): 17-46.

Joshua Muravchik, "Two Cheers: Second Thoughts on the Bush Doctrine," *World Affairs* (Fall 2008), <http://www.worldaffairsjournal.org/2008%20-%20Fall/full-Muravchik.html>

Week 10 (March 13) The Iraq War: Historical context

Russell Burgos, "Origins of Regime Change: "Ideapolitik" on the Long Road to Baghdad, 1993-2000," *Security Studies* 17 (2008): 221-256.

Lawrence Freedman, "War in Iraq: Selling the Threat," *Survival* 46, no. 2 (Summer 2004): 7-50.

Week 11 (March 20) The Iraq War: Strategic Context

Cashman and Robinson, *The Iraq War: Mr. Bush's War of Preemption*

Hakan Tunç, "What Was It All About After All? The Causes of the Iraq War," *Contemporary Security Policy* 26, no. 2 (August 2005), pp. 335-355.

Hakan Tunç, "Preemption in the Bush Doctrine: A Reappraisal," *Foreign Policy Analysis* 5, no. 1 (January 2009)

Week 12 (March 27) The Iraq War: Actors and ideas

Michael J. Mazarr, "George W. Bush, Idealist," *International Affairs* 79, no. 3 (2003), pp. 503-522.

Mark Danner, "Iraq: The War of the Imagination" *New York Review of Books* (December 21, 2006) (Excerpt only, 5 pages)

Drew Elizabeth, "The Neocons in Power," *New York Review of Books* (June 12, 2003): 20-22.

Boot, Max. 2004. "Neocons," *Foreign Policy* (January/February 2004): 20-28.

Andrew Flibert, "The Road to Baghdad: Ideas and Intellectuals in Explanations of the Iraq War," *Security Studies* 15, no. 2 (April-June 2006): 310-352.

Week 13 (April 3) Conclusion and course overview

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 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. 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 only communicates with students via Connect accounts. 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, visit our website at 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.