

**PSCI 3107C
“The Causes of War”
Wednesdays 6.05-8.55pm
Please confirm location on Carleton Central**

Instructor: Dr. Grant Dawson
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Course description:

This course addresses research into the causes of war. In answering the question ‘why war’, a variety of theoretical perspectives and cases will be examined and analysed. Our focus will be on inter-state conflict from the ancient Greeks to the war against terrorism. There will also be consideration of internal conflict in the 1990s and 2000s.

Who would take this course and why?

The course is intended to assist scholars and future journalists and policy-makers to better understand why war occurs. Those with a historical bent will find the survey of conflicts and of thinking on conflict useful. Political scientists, journalists and students of public policy may find testing the theories of war and the drawing of what are popularly known as ‘lessons learned’ to be of interest. The topics covered in this course will help students to better interpret and understand modern day events.

Those who will profit most from this course include:

- Students interested in international affairs or organizations
- Students concerned about political, diplomatic or military history
- Students working on international theory and security issues
- Students interested in writing about state or intra-state conflict control, mitigation and resolution

Learning objectives for the course:

Participants in this course will be expected to achieve a number of objectives:

- Read articles and book chapters on the theories of war and pertaining to specific historical or contemporary case studies

- Demonstrate knowledge and effective comprehension of the theories of war and historical and contemporary cases studies through participation in class activities (such as by asking questions and through group work) and the simulation
- Demonstrate ability to utilise course materials in the preparation of an 10-12 page essay (topics must be approved by instructor)
- Demonstrate analytical grasp of course materials on final written exam

Format of lecture sessions:

The course content will be presented through lectures. The lectures will occupy about 1 to 1 ½ hours of each 3 hour class. The objective will be to present 1 to 3 main ideas in each lecture and provide opportunity for student discussion and student engagement through in-class exercises. Regular lecture attendance will make it essential for students to decide on their essay topic, and make it easier for students to learn the course concepts and issues that may come up in future studies or non-academic work.

The second part of the lecture will unfold 1 of 2 ways. The class may engage in extended exercises of some sort, in which the students will have the opportunity to deal with the topics of discussion for that day. During the second half of four class days, the class will participate in an international relations simulation titled “Nations.” The simulation opens the way for direct student participation in phenomena important to the course and to real world international politics, such as group decision making under pressure, choosing the policy tool for realizing national objectives (e.g., war, diplomacy, trade), ideological and cultural differences in inter-state relations, the threat of war, and territorial / economic / resource conflicts.

Text:

- 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)

The textbook has been ordered and is available in the Carleton University Bookstore.

Other specific readings will be made available on reserve. From time to time additional readings may be added to the course; these too will be left on reserve or if possible made available electronically. Readings marked with an * are from the course text. Others are marked with an **R** for ‘on reserve’. Readings marked [**web**] can be accessed by students using the Carleton Library databases.

Students are expected to complete all readings before coming to class.

Class evaluation:

Participation: (in lectures and simulation)	15% of total grade
Term Paper: Due February 11th	45% of total grade

Final exam: **to be scheduled during the formal exam period, April 8-27th excluding April 11th** 40% of total grade

Participation grades will be based on participation in class and the simulation. Students who earn the most points will be those who not only show up, but who demonstrate a willingness to grapple with course materials. The “Nations” simulation, as noted, opens the way for direct student participation in a variety of phenomena central to the course. Attendance will be taken during the simulation days to help gauge student participation.

The **term paper** must be 10-12 double-space pages long at 12 pt. font. The paper must include at least 10 footnotes / endnotes and 5 bibliographic entries that consistently follow a scholarly citation style. The topic may be your own or one suggested by the instructor (see below). If the former, obtain instructor approval before proceeding. One way to handle the paper would be to provide a full-length theoretical study. Another would be to discuss a theory or present a literature review in the first half of the paper, and a case study in the second. If you decide to focus on the cause of a specific war, which is a third option, remember to ensure that you provide an analysis and not a historical description of the war.

The term paper is due without exception on February 11th. **Late Penalty:** Late assignments will be deducted 1 letter-grade category / day [ex., a B+ paper 2 days late will be reduced to a B-]. I count the weekend as two days. The departmental drop box cut off time is 4pm. Any assignments submitted after 4pm will be date stamped for the following weekday.

The **final exam** will take place during the formal final exam period, April 8-24th excluding April 11th. The date, time and location of the exam have yet to be determined. The exam will be in the short answer / short essay question format (no multiple choice) and will probe understanding of core course concepts. It will be interested not simply in student memorisation, but also the quality of student analysis and student ability to apply the knowledge they have learned.

Suggested essay topics:

- Is war obsolescent?
- Place of war in contemporary international theory
- Does the existence of liberal-democratic states prevent war?
- Examine a theory explaining the cause of war and test on a historical case
- What factors can complicate decision-making during crises and / or war?
- Chose a war: who or what caused it? Who is to blame?

- Why have intra-state / identity conflicts been so common since the cold War?
- What cause – such as rational and deliberate policy making, irrational factors, identity politics, class or something else – do you think accounts for the most conflict? Your paper could adopt a historical or contemporary focus.

Other considerations:

The final paper may use Internet sources but only if they are from a recognizable scholar, institution or academic network. Examples are material that scholars have written and decided to provide on-line on personal websites, reports from the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and United Nations websites, or information from Columbia International Affairs Online. As for citation style when using such sources, try as much as possible to reflect the most applicable format for paper documents. Ensure you provide the Internet address and date of last access.

It is not acceptable to hand in the same assignment for two or more courses. To obtain credit for this course, students must complete both the term work assignments and the final exam. Failure to do so will result in a failing grade. Your attention is directed to the Carleton University statement prohibiting plagiarism at the back of this outline.

Course readings: [the instructor reserves the right to add or subtract from this list]

Week 1 (January 7):

Introductions. Instructor and students introduce themselves. The outline will be reviewed in detail and all questions about it answered.

Week 2 (January 14):

Lecture topic: “Explanations of concept and causes of war”

- R - Kenneth Waltz, “Explaining War,” in Paul Viotti & Mark Kauppi, International Relations Theory: Realism, Pluralism , Globalism, and Beyond (3rd ed. 1999), pp. 130-144
- * 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), “Conclusion,” pp. 1-26

Week 3 (January 21):

“The Relevance of Classical and Non-western Thought on the Causes of Warfare”

- Web - Thucydides, History of the Peloponnesian War, translated into English translated by Richard Crawley, (1954), Book 1 and Book 2, Chapter VI. Access the Malaspina University-College e-text at: <http://www.mala.bc.ca/~johnstoi/thucydides/tofc.htm>.
- R - Sun Tzu, The Art of War, translated into English by Samuel B. Griffith, (1963 reprinted 1971), Chapters I-III

Week 4 (January 28):

“The Theory of the Liberal-Democratic Peace”

- R - Michael W. Doyle, “Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs,” in Robert J. Art and Robert Jervis, International Politics: Enduring Concepts and Contemporary Issues, (3rd ed., 1992), pp. 56-69
- R - John Mueller, “The Essential Irrelevance of Nuclear Weapons: Stability in the Postwar World,” Sean M. Lynn-Jones and Steven E. Miller, eds., The Cold War and After: Prospects for Peace, (expanded ed., 1993), pp.45-69
- R - Carl Kaysen, “Is War Obsolete?” in Sean M. Lynn-Jones and Steven E. Miller, eds., The Cold War and After: Prospects for Peace, (expanded ed., 1993), pp.81-103

Week 5 (February 4):

“Realist Explanations of War”

- R - Greg Cashman, What Causes War? (1993), Chapter 5: “The State and International Conflict,” pp. 124-129, 142-145, 152-157; and Chapter 8: “The International System: Anarchy and Power,” pp.224-253
- R - Dale Copeland, The Origins of Major War (2000) , pp. 11-55
- R - Doug Gibling, “Alliances: Why Some Cause War and Others Cause Peace,” in John Vasquez, ed., What Do We Know About War? pp. 172-86

Week 6 (February 11): **Essays Due**

“Societal forces and pressures as causes of war”

- Web - Geoff Eley, "Defining Social Imperialism: Use and Abuse of an Idea," Social History 3 (1976), pp. 265-90

- R - Paul Crook, Darwinism, War and History: The Debate over the Biology of War from the. 'Origin of Species' to the First World War (1994), pp. 130-52

Week 7 (February 18):

Reading Week. Classes cancelled.

Week 8 (February 25):

“The Individual and War”

- R - Cashman, Chapter 3: “Psychological Explanations and War,”pp. 36-76
- R - Stephen Wayne, “President Bush Goes to War,” in Stanley Renshon, ed. The Political Psychology of the Gulf War (1993), pp. 29-48; [Also in the same volume, by way of contrast, see Jerrold Post, “The Defining Moment of Saddam’s Life,” pp.49-66]
- R - John Stoessinger, Why Nations Go to War? (9th ed. 2004), pp.309-37

Week 9 (March 4): **First day of “Nations” simulation game**

“The Identity Group and War”

- Web - Stuart Kaufman, “An International Theory of Inter-Ethnic War,” Review of International Studies 22 (April 1996), pp. 149-72
- Web - Tanja Ellingson, “Colourful Community or Ethnic Witches’ Brew: Multi-ethnicity and Domestic Conflict during and after the Cold War,” Journal of Conflict Resolution 44 (April 2000), pp. 228-49

Week 10 (March 11): - **Second day of “Nations” simulation game**

“Decisions to Go to War”

- R - Cashman, Chapter 4: “Governmental Decision-Making,” pp. 77-123
- R - Irving Janis, “Escalation and the Vietnam War,” in John Ikenberry, ed., American Foreign Policy: Theoretical Essays (1989), pp. 506-535
- R- David Welch et al, “The Cuban Missile Crisis,” in Robert J. Art and Kenneth Waltz, eds., The Use of Force: Military Power and International Politics, (5th ed., 1999) chapter 13, pp.189-212

Week 11 (March 18): **Third day of “Nations” simulation game**

“Case Study: World War One”

- * Cashman and Robinson, Chapter 2: “World War I,” pp. 22-88

Week 12 (March 25): **Fourth and final day of “Nations” simulation game**

“Case Study: War Against Iraq in 2003”

- * Cashman and Robinson, Chapter 7: “The Iraq War,” pp. 297-364

Week 13 (April 1):

“Review in Anticipation of final exam” and “Case Study: Russia / Georgia Conflict”

- * Cashman and Robinson, “Conclusion,” pp. 365-84
- Web- Peter Finn, “A Two-Sided Descent Into Full-Scale War,” Washington Post (Sunday 17 August 2008), pp. A01

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.