

SOCI 2160

War and Society

Instructor	Neil Gerlach
Term	Winter 2025
Course Delivery	In person
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Although war has been a part of human experience since before recorded history, it is an understudied phenomenon within the discipline of sociology. Our knowledge of war tends to be abstract – at the level of international relations, state-level politics, political economy, and military science. Sociology can address the gaps in our understanding of war by applying its own categories of analysis to this social process. What are the causes of war? How are people socialized into killing and dying? By what processes are citizens drawn into an acceptance of war? How do categories of identity such as gender, age, and race affect the conduct of war? What is the on-the-ground experience of war today in the early 21st century? What are the social bases for processes such as empire building, genocide, and terrorism today? In this course, we want to address these questions while developing a set of analytical tools for understanding the experience of war in the contemporary world.

EVALUATION

Short Essay 1	25%
Mid-Term Quiz	20%
Short Essay 2	25%
Take-Home Final Exam	30%

TEXT

Course readings will be available on the course Brightspace site.