

PS 4315: International Security and the Causes of War

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Office Hours: M/W 9:20-10:20

Office: Online (Zoom)

Web: carmen.osu.edu

Class Hours: M/W 8:00-9:20 (*synchronous!*)

Class Room: Online (Zoom)

Course Description

In this course, we will read and evaluate the social science literature on the causes of international peace and war. We will focus our attention on both theoretical and empirical works in this area, and we will address a wide variety of research strategies. After reviewing many of the prominent theories of war and peace, we shall apply these ideas to the analysis of several historical case studies.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the course, students will have learned to:

1. identify the strengths and weaknesses of the literature concerning the causes of international peace and conflict;
2. define specific questions and issues that should be addressed by future research in this area;
3. use their knowledge of the causes of peace and conflict to understand and interpret several prominent historical case studies;
4. use their knowledge of the causes of peace and conflicts to understand and interpret current international events;
5. develop the ability to construct independent research on issues of war and peace.

Required Readings

No textbook is required for this class.

Course Requirements

How This Online Course Works

Although this course is 100% online, it is meant to provide an experience analogous to that of an in-person class. It will thus be taught **synchronously**.

More information on the course technology is provided at the end of this syllabus.

A significant component of interactions in this class will occur through Zoom videoconferencing. Because this mode of discussion has benefits and challenges that differ from in-person class sessions, here are some expectations for meeting and communication:

- **Technical Issues:** If you encounter a technical issue with Zoom during a session, first make sure you are using the latest version of Zoom. Next, contact the IT Service Desk at go.osu.edu/it or 614-688-4357(HELP). If issues continue, contact the instructor after the session to learn how to make up for the missed content either via a recording or other means. The instructor will not be able to address technical issues during a live session.
- **Preparation:** Come to the session having completed any readings or pre-work and be ready to have open, civil, and supportive discussions in video and chat spaces. Please update your Zoom profile with your preferred name and a photo.
- **Participation:** At the start of each sessions, the instructor will share specific expectations for how to use the chat, how to interact, and how to raise questions or concerns as we go. If you are unsure about expectations or are unsure about raising a question, please follow up with the instructor afterward to make sure your questions are answered. Plan to be present during the entire class session as much as you are able. For some activities, you may be asked to share your faces on camera so that we can see each other and connect. Please feel encouraged to use a non-distracting virtual background. Many students and instructors prefer not to share their remote spaces for a variety of reasons. Mute your microphone when others are talking to minimize background noise in the meeting.
- **Recordings:** meetings will be recorded for the benefit of students who may need to be absent. These links will only be shared with students in this class, and only when a student contacts the instructor to make this arrangement *prior to being absent* or, exceptionally, on an ad hoc basis.

If you have any concerns about participating in class over Zoom in this way, please contact the instructor. The goal is to create a safe environment where we can benefit from seeing each other and connecting, but the safety and well-being of students is paramount.

Participation and Simulations

Students are expected to attend all class sessions and be prepared to participate. This includes reading the assigned articles and also following current events in world politics. When appropriate, class will start with a discussion of current affairs where students may be asked to briefly introduce and discuss a recent event of interest. At the end of each part, students will take part in a simulation inspired by real world events.

Online quizzes

There will be weekly online quizzes due each Monday at 7:59am (just before class). These will focus on the readings for that week's topic but may also include questions on the material covered during the previous week. Simulation and exam weeks will not be preceded by an online quizz.

Performance will not be assessed but failing to take the weekly quizz be penalized. Since there will be 8 quizzes this semester, each missed quizz will result in the loss of 1.25% of your final grade (up to a maximum of 10%). This also means that students who complete all weekly quizz in time are guaranteed full marks in this category.

Exams

Each part of the course will be followed by an exam that will test students' understanding. Any material covered in class or in the readings is fair game and might be present. Accordingly, receiving a good grade in this course requires students to both attend class and do the readings. The

exam is designed to be taken “during class.” Specifically, it will be made available at the start of class and will last 90 minutes.

Policy paper

Students will be expected to write a short (750 +/- 10% words) policy essay. The specific scenario will be inspired by past or, if appropriate, current events. More information will be provided in the course of the semester. A soft copy of the essay will be due on Carmen.

Grade Weight

- 20% Exam I
- 20% Exam II
- 20% Exam III
- 20% Policy paper
- 10% Online quizzes
- 10% Participation and simulations

Students have the opportunity to earn extra credits (up to 5%) for this course by writing an extra memo. For this, the student must choose an academic article discussing the causes of war and peace, summarize its argument and critically evaluate it. This memo should be no longer than two pages (500 +/- 10% words) and discuss an article pre-approved by the instructor. *This article should not have been covered in class.*¹

Additionally, the department may offer students opportunities for supplementary extra credits (on top of the aforementioned 5%) towards the end of the semester.

The final grade will be assigned using the following rubric:

- A: 93-100; A-: 90-92.99
- B+: 87-89.99; B: 83-86.99; B-: 80-82.99
- C+: 77-79.99; C: 73-76.99; C-: 70-72.99
- D+: 67-69.99; D: 60-66.99
- E: 0-59.99

Academic Misconduct

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct <http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/>.

Academic Integrity Online

- Quizzes and exams: You must complete the exams yourself, without any external help or communication. Weekly quizzes are also expected to be completed on your own.

¹It is advised that such article should be drawn from one of these journals: *International Organization*, *International Security*, or *American Political Science Review*.

- **Written assignments:** Your written assignments, including discussion posts, should be your own original work. In formal assignments, you should follow an appropriate style to cite the ideas and words of your research sources. You are encouraged to ask a trusted person to proofread your assignments before you turn them in but no one else should revise or rewrite your work.
- **Reusing past work:** In general, you are prohibited in university courses from turning in work from a past class to your current class, even if you modify it. If you want to build on past research or revisit a topic you've explored in previous courses, please discuss the situation with the instructor.
- **Falsifying research or results:** All research you will conduct in this course is intended to be a learning experience; you should never feel tempted to make your results or your library research look more successful than it was.
- **Collaboration and informal peer-review:** The course includes many opportunities for formal collaboration with your classmates. While study groups and peer-review of major written projects is encouraged, remember that comparing answers on a quiz or assignment is not permitted. If you're unsure about a particular situation, please ask ahead of time.

If the instructor suspects that a student has committed academic misconduct in this course, he is obligated by university rules to report his suspicions to the Committee on Academic Misconduct. If COAM determines that you have violated the university's Code of Student Conduct (i.e., committed academic misconduct), the sanctions for the misconduct could include a failing grade in this course and suspension or dismissal from the university. If you have any questions about the above policy or what constitutes academic misconduct in this course, please contact the instructor. Other sources of information on academic misconduct (integrity) to which you can refer include:

- Committee on Academic Misconduct web page go.osu.edu/it
- Ten Suggestions for Preserving Academic Integrity go.osu.edu/ten-suggestions
- Eight Cardinal Rules of Academic Integrity go.osu.edu/cardinal-rules

Copyright for instructional materials

The materials used in connection with this course may be subject to copyright protection and are only for the use of students officially enrolled in the course for the educational purposes associated with the course. Copyright law must be considered before copying, retaining, or disseminating materials outside of the course.

Disabilities Policy

The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. To establish reasonable accommodations, I may request that you register with Student Life Disability Services. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. SLDS contact information: slds@osu.edu; 614-292-3307; slds.osu.edu; 098 Baker Hall, 113 W.

12th Avenue.

This online course requires the use of CarmenCanvas, Ohio State's learning management system, and other online communication and multimedia tools. If you need additional services to use these technologies, please request accommodations with the instructor.

Reading List

Specific topics and readings may be fine-tuned during the semester but students will be given advance notice if this is the case.

Organizational Meeting (26th of August)

Part I: War Between States

Topic 1: The structure of war and peace (31st of August, 2nd and 7th of September)

Fearon, James D. (1995). "Rationalist Explanations for War". In: *International Organization* 49.3, pp. 379–414.

Jervis, Robert (1978). "Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma". In: *World Politics* 30.2, pp. 167–214.

Axelrod, Robert (1980). "Effective Choice in the Prisoner's Dilemma". In: *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* 24.1, pp. 3–25. (Visited on Aug. 14, 2020).

No meeting on the 9th of September.

Topic 2: Arms Race and Deterrence (14th and 16th of September)

Houweling, Henk and Jan G. Siccama (1988). "Power Transitions as a Cause of War". In: *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 32.1, pp. 87–102.

Huth, Paul K. (1988). "Extended Deterrence and the Outbreak of War". In: *American Political Science Review* 82.2, pp. 423–443.

Quakenbush, Stephen L. (2011). "Deterrence theory: where do we stand?" In: *Review of International Studies* 37.2, pp. 741–762.

McManus, Roseanne W. (2018). "Making It Personal: The Role of Leader-Specific Signals in Extended Deterrence". In: *The Journal of Politics* 80.3, pp. 982–995.

Topic 3: Nuclear Weapons (21st and 23rd of September)

Sagan, Scott D. (1996). "Why Do States Build Nuclear Weapons?: Three Models in Search of a Bomb". In: *International Security* 21.3, pp. 54–86.

Mueller, John (1988). "The Essential Irrelevance of Nuclear Weapons: Stability in the Postwar World". In: *International Security* 13.2, pp. 55–79.

Waltz, Kenneth N. (1990). "Nuclear Myths and Political Realities". In: *The American Political Science Review* 84.3, pp. 731–745.

Sagan, Scott D. (1994). "The Perils of Proliferation: Organization Theory, Deterrence Theory, and the Spread of Nuclear Weapons". In: *International Security* 18.4, pp. 66–107.

Topic 4: Simulation and Case Study I (28th and 30th of September)

Reading material will be made available in the course of the week.

Exam I (5th of October)

A study guide will be made available the week prior to the exam.

Part II: The International System and Wars

Topic 5: System Structure and Global Stability (7th of October)

Snyder, Glenn H. (1984). "The Security Dilemma in Alliance Politics". In: *World Politics* 36.4, pp. 461–495.

Topic 6: The Causes and Effects of Alliances (12th and 14th of October)

Walt, Stephen M. (1985). "Alliance Formation and the Balance of World Power". In: *International Security* 9.4, pp. 3–43.

Leeds, Brett Ashley (2003). "Do Alliances Deter Aggression? The Influence of Military Alliances on the Initiation of Militarized Interstate Disputes". In: *American Journal of Political Science* 47.3, pp. 427–439.

Henry, Iain D. (2020). "What Allies Want: Reconsidering Loyalty, Reliability, and Alliance Interdependence". In: *International Security* 44.4, pp. 45–83.

Topic 7: War, Peace, and the Economy (19th and 21st of October)

Eckstein, A. M. (1991). "Is There a 'Hobson-Lenin Thesis' on Late Nineteenth-Century Colonial Expansion?" In: *The Economic History Review* 44.2, pp. 297–318.

Gartzke, Erik (2007). "The Capitalist Peace". In: *American Journal of Political Science* 51.1, pp. 166–191.

Drezner, Daniel W. (2011). "Sanctions Sometimes Smart: Targeted Sanctions in Theory and Practice". In: *International Studies Review* 13.1, pp. 96–108.

Barbieri, Katherine and Jack S. Levy (1999). "Sleeping with the Enemy: The Impact of War on Trade". In: *Journal of Peace Research* 36.4, pp. 463–479.

Topic 8: Norms, Institutions, and Conflict Resolution (26th and 28th October)

Ikenberry, G. John (1998). "Institutions, Strategic Restraint, and the Persistence of American Post-war Order". In: *International Security* 23.3, pp. 43–78.

Favretto, Katja (2009). "Should Peacemakers Take Sides? Major Power Mediation, Coercion, and Bias". In: *The American Political Science Review* 103.2, pp. 248–263.

Mattes, Michaela and Burcu Savun (2009). "Fostering Peace after Civil War: Commitment Problems and Agreement Design". In: *International Studies Quarterly* 53.3, pp. 737–759.

Huth, Paul K, Sarah E. Croco, and Benjamin J. Appel (2011). "Does International Law Promote the Peaceful Settlement of International Disputes? Evidence from the Study of Territorial Conflicts since 1945". In: *American Political Science Review* 105.2, pp. 415–436.

Topic 9: Simulation and Case Study II (2nd and 4th of November)

Reading material will be made available in the course of the week.

Exam II (9th of November)

A study guide will be made available the week prior to the exam.

Part III: Domestic Causes of Wars

Topic 10: Domestic Politics and Democracy as a Cause of War and Peace (11th, 16th, and 18th of November)

Levy, Jack S. (1988). "Domestic Politics and War". In: *The Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 18.4, pp. 653–673.

Gelpi, Christopher (2017). "Democracies in Conflict: The Role of Public Opinion, Political Parties, and the Press in Shaping Security Policy". In: *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 61.9, pp. 1925–1949.

Weeks, Jessica L. (2008). "Autocratic Audience Costs: Regime Type and Signaling Resolve". In: *International Organization* 62.1, pp. 35–64.

Gelpi, Christopher (1997). "Democratic Diversions: Governmental Structure and the Externalization of Domestic Conflict". In: *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* 41.2, pp. 255–282.

Topic 11: Culture and Gender (23rd and 25th of November)

Huntington, Samuel P. (1993). "The Clash of Civilizations?" In: *Foreign Affairs*.

Caprioli, Mary (2000). "Gendered Conflict". In: *Journal of Peace Research* 37.1, pp. 51–68.

Dube, Oeindrila and S. P. Harish (2019). "Queens". In: *Journal of Political Economy* 128.7, pp. 2579–2652.

Barnhart, Dafoe, Saunders, and Trager "The Suffragist Peace". Working paper.

Topic 12: Simulation and Case Study III (30th of November)

Reading material will be made available in the course of the week.

Exam III (2nd of December)

A study guide will be made available the week prior to the exam.

Course Technology

Technology support

For help with your password, university email, Carmen, or any other technology issues, questions, or requests, contact the Ohio State IT Service Desk. Standard support hours are available at ocio.osu.edu/help/hours, and support for urgent issues is available 24/7.

- Self-Service and Chat support: ocio.osu.edu/help
- Phone: 614-688-4357(HELP)
- Email: servicedesk@osu.edu
- TDD: 614-688-8743

Technology skills needed for this course

- Basic computer and web-browsing skills
 - Navigating Carmen (go.osu.edu/canvasstudent)
- CarmenZoom virtual meetings (go.osu.edu/zoom-meetings)

Required equipment

- Computer: a machine able to run Zoom (required) with a high-speed internet connection (preferred)
- Webcam: built-in or external webcam, fully installed and tested (preferred)
- Microphone: built-in laptop or tablet mic or external microphone (required)
- Other: a mobile device (smartphone or tablet) to use for BuckeyePass authentication (required)

Required software

- Zoom

Carmen access

You will need to use BuckeyePass (buckeyepass.osu.edu) multi-factor authentication to access your courses in Carmen. To ensure that you are able to connect to Carmen at all times, it is recommended that you take the following steps:

- Register multiple devices in case something happens to your primary device. Visit the BuckeyePass - Adding a Device help article for step-by-step instructions (go.osu.edu/add-device).
- Request passcodes to keep as a backup authentication option. When you see the Duo login screen on your computer, click Enter a Passcode and then click the Text me new codes button that appears. This will text you ten passcodes good for 365 days that can each be used once.
- Download the Duo Mobile application (go.osu.edu/install-duo) to all of your registered devices for the ability to generate one-time codes in the event that you lose cell, data, or Wi-Fi service

If none of these options will meet the needs of your situation, you can contact the IT Service Desk at 614-688-4357(HELP) and IT support staff will work out a solution with you.