Spring 2012
INR4060 Causes of War
Instructor: Dr. Paul Vasquez, Department of Political Science

Location & Time:	Engineering (ENGR) 1 Building 0327; Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 11:30 A.M.-12:20 P.M.
Office:	Howard Philips Hall 305B (Political Science Dept. main suite)
Phone:	(407) 823-3329
Office Hours:	Wednesdays and Fridays 1:30-3:30 P.M.; Thursdays 9:45-11:00 A.M. and Noon-2:45 P.M & by appointment
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Course description: War has been a terrible, yet inherent part of human existence since the earliest times. However, such matters have only begun to be studied rigorously and systematically over the last past hundred years, with much of that progress taking place in the last fifty years. In this course you will learn about explanations for war that come from sources related to the international system, interstate relations, domestic politics, and the process of foreign policy decision-making. Once we discuss these and other theories in depth, we will proceed to examine the war-fighting behavior of democracies in greater depth. Finally, we will examine some specific historical cases of war and conflict in finer detail.

Required text: Required readings include the following books on sale at the UCF Bookstore.

- Jack Levy and William R. Thompson.2010. *Causes of War*. West Sussex, U.K.: Wiley Blackwell.

A few other course readings may made available later on the courses' Webcourses site.

Course objectives:

The objectives of this course are to help students: (1) understand the prominent scholarly explanations for war from the study of political science and international relations, (2) understand the strengths and weaknesses of these scholarly explanations and the approaches used to develop them how to apply them, and (3) improve their skills in the realm of critical thinking and written communication.

Requirements: I will evaluate your performance in this class in accord with the table below. In four years of teaching I have never curved grades, and I do not anticipate doing so in the future.

A	B	C	D	
Tasks	**% of grade**	**Your score or average score for quizzes**	**Component Score = column B x column C**	**Due Date**
Quizzes	10			TBA (to be announced)
Exam 1	15			Friday, February 10
Exam 2	15			Monday, March 19
Exam 3	15			Wednesday, April 11
Research paper	20			Monday, April 16
Final Exam	25			Wednesday, April 25 @ 10:00 A.M. – 12:50 P.M.
Total	100		**Add each of your component scores to get your anticipated final grade**	

Quizzes: Between five and ten multiple choice quizzes will be given over the course of the semester. Some of these will be done individually, and some will be done collaboratively. Those done collaboratively will require you to at times identify more than 1 correct answer per question. I will drop your lowest quiz grade.

Exams 1, 2 and 3: Written in-class exam will be administered possibly using a multiple choice format. Don't make the mistake in believing that because some multiple choice exams are easy that these will be easy. While each of these exams will focus largely on your understanding of new material, material previously covered may be examined as well. These exam questions will have only 1 correct answer per question.

Research paper: You will write a research paper that explains the cause of a particular war with reference to a theory presented in class and in the readings (or in conversation with the instructor). Your account should consider historical factors, assesses the political nature of the event, and explain why another theoretical explanation is not as effective. Papers should be 5 pages in length. Be sure to familiarize yourself with the discussion of cheating and plagiarism in this syllabus before starting on this assignment.

Generally, all excellent work demonstrating originality, clarity of argument, effective use of evidence, and smooth writing will receive an A. All good and competent work will receive a B. Work with some significant flaws regarding repeated misunderstandings or misapplications of evidence or ideas will receive a C. Work with very significant flaws, such as missing the main goal of an assignment and consistently poor spelling or grammar will receive a D along

with recommendations or requirements to speak with the instructor, any special counseling and advising services, etc. as appropriate. Incompetent, negligent, or non-existent work will receive an F. Typically most students lose points on papers for me because of mechanical flaws in their writing (grammar, punctuation, unclearly worded sentences, etc.) so take steps to minimize those kinds of flaws in your work. Along with critical thinking skills, arguably, the ability to write well may be the most important skill you learn develop in this class. It will help you not only when applying for jobs or further education, but once you secure those kinds of opportunities.

Final Exam: This multiple choice exam will be comprehensive for the duration of the semester, so prepare accordingly. Don't make the mistake in believing that because some multiple choice exams are easy that it will be easy. This exam will include mainly questions with only 1 correct answer, but there will be a section where you may be expected to identify more than 1 correct answer per question.

Extra credit: I do not plan to offer extra credit for this course so please insure that you direct your energies accordingly.

Grading Scale

A	=	100-94	C	=	76-73
A-	=	93-90	C-	=	72-70
B+	=	89-87	D+	=	69-67
B	=	86-83	D	=	66-63
B-	=	82-80	D-	=	62-60
C+	=	79-77	F	=	59-0

Late work and Make-up Exams: Unless otherwise specified, out-of-class assignments are due at the beginning of class on the dates listed below. Late assignments will be penalized 10% for each full calendar day they are late, up to as much as 30%, unless a compelling and honest explanation is offered. Make-up exams may be given if they are missed for compelling, honest, unexpected, and sufficiently verifiable reasons. However, students making up exams must take them within the week unless health problems keep them from coming to campus. Students making up exams will not be given the same exam that was originally administered.

Important Advice: I want you to do the best work you can. I will try hard to clearly explain assignments and do what I can within the limits of fairness–without compromising on standards—to help you do your best. You should attend class each day to internalize lecture material and participate in other classroom activities as they come along. As you attempt to internalize the course content, you should come to class having read the material assigned for that day. You should be prepared to be quizzed over any course readings by the day for which that material is assigned. For example, you could be quizzed over the material for Chapter 2 on Friday, January 20 or any day afterwards. Take notes when you read and attend class lectures. Doing so will set you up to succeed on quizzes and exams. **Read this syllabus and assignments carefully to put yourself in position to succeed.**

Academic Support Services

Student Academic Resource Center (SARC) (Phillips Hall, Room 113/ (407) 823-5130): If you have trouble succeeding in this class and comprehending the material, you might benefit from contacting this office for assistance with improving your study skills.

University Writing Center (UWC) (MOD 608/ (407) 823-2197)**:** The Center is free for all UCF students. At the UWC, a writing consultant can work with you on anything you are writing, whether it is brainstorming or editing. While recommended, appointments are not required.

UCF Counseling Center (Building #27/ (407) 823-2811): Students experiencing formidable mental health challenges, including, but by no means limited to stress, anxiety, or depression, that are hindering their ability to be the best they can be should contact this office for help.

Students with Disabilities (Ferrell Commons, Room 132/ phone (407) 823-2371): Students with disabilities that need special accommodations regarding class attendance or assignments should have proof of their disability on file with Student Disability Services They should also inform the instructor of their within the first day of class or once they become aware of it, should such realization occur during the course of a semester.

Behavior

"To educate a man in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society." President Theodore Roosevelt.

Disruptions: If circumstances require you to arrive late for class, please do so in as discreet a manner as possible. Please limit distractions in class (for example, web surfing, cell phones, whispering, etc.) as much as possible. Such behavior bothers others who are paying good money to learn and it may be distracting to me as I attempt to do my job.

Cheating: **Do not cheat** since this clearly violates the Golden Rule Student Handbook and violates several aspects of the UCF Creed. I strongly recommend that everyone take the UCF Online Information Literacy tutorial "Avoiding Plagarism" prior to beginning this assignment so that you will be clear about my expectations of you. I will send out the link to this tutorial during the semester. Unless otherwise specified by the instructor (such as on team quizzes), your work must be your own. Cheating can come in many forms, including plagiarism. Plagiarism is when writers use other people's words or ideas and do not give them credit. Use footnotes or endnotes to give credit for direct quotes, paraphrased quotes, or borrowed ideas. Feel free to discuss readings and ideas with fellow students, but if you use their ideas, please reference them accordingly. If you don't know what footnotes or endnotes are, please ask me. Do not use papers written for previous classes or large sections of such papers, as this constitutes self-plagiarism according to UCF policy. Do not quote or paraphrase without giving credit in footnotes or endnotes. Do not copy or use papers or sections of papers from the web or other sources. I assume that all students in this class could write a better term paper than the junk sold on the

Internet and will not resort to such dubious sources for their assignments. In the event that I suspect a paper of being plagiarized, I will use Turnitin.com to help with that determination. Instances of cheating that result in a grade being penalized will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. Assignments on which cheating occurs will be penalized with an F and the weight of that assignment when factored into the final grade will be increased two-fold. For example, cheating by plagiarizing a portion of the short writing assignment would mean that 30% of your final grade would be a 0.

Monday, January 9 ***Welcome and Course Overview***

Wednesday, January 11 Lecture: ***War's Cost***

British Broadcasting Company. 2008. "The Last Day of World War One." BBC Timewatch Series Presenter: Michael Palin. Producer: John Hayes-Fisher. First broadcast: 01 Nov 2008
http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-280028869456988957#

Optional viewing: If you care to see the series presenter, Michael Palin in his early and much perhaps better known role as a member of the British comedy troops Monty Python's Flying Circus, check out the video below. Palin plays the cardinal with the wide-brimmed hat.
Monty Python - The Spanish Inquisition.
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vt0Y39eMvpI

Friday, January 13 Lecture: ***Causes of War Initiation***

"Introduction to the Study of War." Chapter 1. In Jack Levy and William R. Thompson.2010. *Causes of War*. West Sussex, U.K.: Wiley Blackwell (henceforth Levy & Thompson), pp. 1-27.

Monday, January 16—Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday

Wednesday, January 18 Lecture

Friday, January 20 Lecture

"Systems-Level Theories." Chapter 2. In Levy & Thompson, pp. 28-54.

Monday, January 23 Lecture

Wednesday, January 25 Lecture

Friday, January 27 Lecture

"The Dyadic Interactions of States." Chapter 3. In Levy & Thompson, pp. 55-82.

Monday, January 30 Lecture

Wednesday, February 1 Lecture

Friday, February 3 Lecture

"The State and Societal Level." Chapter 4. In Levy & Thompson, pp. 83-127.

Monday, February 6 Lecture

Wednesday, February 8 Lecture: ***Research Skills***

Friday, February 10 **Exam 1**

Monday, February 13 Lecture

"Decision-Making: The Individual Level." Chapter 5. In Levy & Thompson, pp. 128-161.

Wednesday, February 15 Lecture

Friday, February 17 Lecture

Monday, February 20 Lecture

"Decision-Making: The Organizational Level." Chapter 6. In Levy & Thompson, pp. 162-185.

Wednesday, February 22 Lecture

Friday, February 24 Lecture

Monday, February 27 Lecture

"Civil War." Chapter 7. In Levy & Thompson, pp. 186-205.

Wednesday, February 29 Lecture

Friday, March 2 Lecture

March 5 – March 9 **Spring Break: Have fun and be safe!**

Monday, March 12 Lecture

"Conclusion: Reflections on Levels, Causes, and War." Chapter 8. In Levy & Thompson, pp. 205-224.

Wednesday, March 14 Lecture

Friday, March 16 Lecture

Monday, March 19 **Exam 2**

Wednesday, March 21 Lecture: ***Writing Skills***

Friday, March 23 Lecture: ***Adapting Systemic Theories of War to Explain Foreign Policy***

Thomas J. Christenson. 1990. "Chain gangs and passed bucks: predicting alliance patterns in Multipolarity." International Organization. Vol. 44, No. 2: 137-168.

Monday, March 26 Lecture: ***Causes of War Escalation, Conduct, and Termination***

Wednesday, March 28 Lecture: ***A Closer Look at Democratic Wartime Behavior***

Dan Reiter and Allan C. Stam III. "Democracy, War Initiation, and Victory." *The American Political Science Review*, Vol. 92, No. 2 (Jun., 1998), pp. 377-389

Friday, March 30 Lecture

Benjamin A. Valentino, Paul K. Huth and Sarah E. Croco. 2010. "Bear Any Burden? How Democracies Minimize the Costs of War." The Journal of Politics, Vol. 72: 528-544.

Monday, April 2 Lecture

Dan Reiter and Allan Stam. 2002. "The Declining Advantages of Democracy. When Consent Erodes." Chapter 7 In Dan Rieter and Allan Stam. Democracies at War. Princeton: Princeton University Press: 164-192.

Wednesday, April 4 Lecture

Peter D. Feaver & Christopher Gelpi. 2004. Choosing Your Battles: American Civil-Military Relations and the Use of Force. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Selection to be announced.

Friday, April 6 Lecture

Christopher Gelpi, Peter D. Feaver & Jason Reifler. 2009. Paying the Human Costs of War: American Public Opinion and Casualties in Military Conflicts. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Selection to be announced.

Monday, April 9 Lecture

Udi Lebela. 2010. "'Casualty Panic': Military Recruitment Models, Civil-Military Gap and Their Implications for the Legitimacy of Military Loss." Democracy and Security Vol. 6, No. 2: 183-206.

Wednesday, April 11 **Exam 3**

Friday, April 13 Lecture: ***Cases of Conflict and War***

Readings to be announced

Monday, April 16 **Research paper due @ beginning of class** and lecture

Readings to be announced

Wednesday, April 18 Lecture

Readings to be announced

Friday, April 20 Lecture

Readings to be announced

Monday, April 23 **Last class day: lecture**

Readings to be announced

Wednesday, April 25 **Final Exam:** 10:00 A.M. – 12:50 P.M.