International Relations 4060
Causes of War
Fall 2012

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The primary theoretical and empirical research explaining militarized interstate conflict.

READINGS

The following texts are assigned for this course and are available for purchase at the University of Central Florida bookstore:

Dougherty, James and Pfaltzgraff, Robert L. *Contending Theories of International Relations: A Comprehensive Survey* (New York: Longman, 2009) 5th edition. ISBN: 0205703593

Nye, Joseph S. and Welch, David *Understanding Global Conflict and Cooperation* (New York: Longman, 2010) 8th edition ISBN: 0205778747

Stoessinger, John G. *Why Nations Go To War* (Belmont, CA: Wadsworth, 2010) 11th edition. ISBN: 0495797189.

Waltz, Kenneth N. *Man the State and War* (New York, Columbia, 2001) revised edition ISBN: 0231125372

- Supplemental readings may be assigned by the instructor throughout the course of the semester.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

- Three (3) exams (50 points each)
- Class participation (10 points)

EXAMINATIONS

Three (3) essay-style examinations will be given throughout the semester. The first exam will cover reading and lecture material from topics 1-2; the second exam will cover reading

and lecture material from topics 3A-3B; the third exam will cover reading and lecture material from topics 4-5. Each exam is worth a maximum of 40 points.

GRADING

The overall grade for the course will be based on the student's performance on each of the above assignments. The maximum number of points a student can acquire is 160.

The grading scale is based on the following point distributions: 144-160=A, 128-143=B, 112-127=C, 96-111=D, 0-95= F.

Grades will not be based on a curve and will reflect the quality of the work submitted.

No extra credit opportunities will be available for this course.

CLASSROOM POLICIES

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance is mandatory. There will be only two **EXCUSED** absences allowed over the course of the semester. Any unexcused absences will result in five points being deducted from your overall earned point total. Attendance will be taken at the start of each class period; therefore, it is important that you arrive to class on time. Should you happen to arrive late for a particular session, be sure to sign the roster after class so that you are not marked as being absent from class.

MAKE-UP EXAMS:

All students will be expected to take each of the examinations on the scheduled dates. In the event that a student has an excused absence on the date of the exams, he/she will have to take a make-up examination on a date and at a location selected by the instructor. Failure to take the make-up exam on the rescheduled date will result in a score of 0 for the examination.

ACADEMIC HONESTY:

All forms of academic dishonesty are prohibited at the University of Central Florida. Academic dishonesty in any portion of your coursework (such as plagiarism on the paper or cheating on an examination) will result, at the very least, in your being assigned a failing grade for the course. If you're uncertain as to what constitutes cheating or plagiarism or if

you have any other concerns related to academic dishonesty, be sure to discuss the matter with the instructor. “Better safe than sorry” is good advice in matters involving academic integrity.

EXPECTED STUDENT CONDUCT:

The University of Central Florida (UCF) is dedicated not only to the advancement of knowledge and learning but is concerned with the development of responsible personal and social conduct. By enrolling at UCF, a student assumes the responsibility for becoming familiar with and abiding by the general rules of conduct. The primary responsibility for managing the classroom environment rests with the faculty. Students who engage in any prohibited or unlawful acts that result in disruption of a class may be directed by the faculty member to leave the class. Violation of any classroom or university rules may lead to disciplinary action up to and including expulsion from UCF. Disciplinary action could include being withdrawn from class, disciplinary warning, probation, suspension, expulsion, or other appropriate and authorized actions.

COURSE OBJECTIVE & FORMAT:

The purpose of this course is to familiarize students with some of the key concepts in the study of the cause of warfare between nation-states. The course will thus be organized around theoretical issues, which is meant to provide students with the tools necessary to understand one of today’s most pressing international issues.

In general, the class will be conducted as a mixture of lecture and discussion and will provide the student with a forum to raise any questions he/she may have concerning the material covered in lectures and in the assigned readings.

COURSE OUTLINE

Here is a week-by-week list of topics, examination dates, and associated readings. The schedule is subject to change if certain topics prove to require more or less time.

Topic 1: **The Scientific Study of Warfare**

Readings: Dougherty and Pfaltzgraff, Chapter 1

Topic 2: **The Levels of Analysis**

Readings: Waltz, *Man the State and War*: read entire book.

EXAM 1: TUESDAY, 25 SEPT 2012

Topic 3A: **Systemic-level Approaches to International Conflict: Variants of Realism**

Readings: Dougherty and Pfaltzgraff, Chapter 2, 3, 7, 8. Nye, *Understanding International Conflicts*: read entire book (for topics 3A-3C).

Topic 3B: **System-level Approaches to International Conflict: The Constructivist Challenge**

Readings: Dougherty and Pfaltzgraff, Chapter 4; supplemental reading will be assigned.

Topic 3C: **System-level Approaches to International Conflict: Marxism and Neo-Marxism**

Readings: Dougherty and Pfaltzgraff, pp. 210-212, Chapter 9

EXAM 2: TUESDAY, 30 OCT 2012

Topic 4: **Domestic-level Approaches to International Conflict:**

Readings: Dougherty and Pfaltzgraff: pp. 553-558, 571-573, 598-599; supplemental reading will be assigned.

Topic 5: **Individual-level Approaches to International Conflict**

Readings: Stoessinger, *Why Nations Go to War*: read entire book; Dougherty and Pfaltzgraff, pp. 192-194, Chapter 6 and pp. 553-556, 559-562, 576-598.

EXAM 3: TUESDAY, 11 DEC 2012 from 7-950PM

I hope you enjoy the class and feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

SPECIAL RULES:

In accordance with state and federal law, instructors at the University of Central Florida cannot release information relating to the academic performance of students to persons other than the staff without the student's written consent. In order for this information to be given out at request of a third party, the student must first sign a consent form to release their educational records.