Fall 2015
INR4060 Causes of War
Instructor: Dr. Paul Vasquez, Department of Political Science

Location & Time:	Psychology 106 Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays 9:30 A.M. - 10:20 A.M.
Office:	Howard Philips Hall 305D (Political Science Dept. main suite)
Phone:	(407) 823-3329
Office Hours:	Mondays 11:30 A.M. – 2:00 P.M. Wednesdays 11:30 A.M. – 1:30 P.M. and Fridays 11:30-3:00 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.

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**
Class Participation	5			N/A
Quizzes	15			TBA (to be announced)
Midterm Exam	30			Monday, Oct. 19
Research paper	20			Monday, Dec. 7
Final Exam	30			Friday, Dec. 11 @ 7:00 A.M. – 9:50 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. You will also do an Online Literacy Tutorial "Avoiding Plagiarism using Chicago Style, 16th Edition" and a related assessment that will count as quiz. If you choose to do that assessment twice, I will take the average of the two scores. As for quizzes in general, I will drop your lowest quiz grade in recognition of the fact that over the course of the semester students may need to miss class from time due to reasons that are largely beyond their control.

Midterm Exam and Final Exam: Written in-class exam will be administered using a multiple choice format. Don't make the mistake of believing that because some multiple choice exams are easy that these will be easy. While the final exam will be cumulative, it will be more heavily weighted toward material following the midterm exam. You will need a brown Scantron for these exams.

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 between 5-6 pages of text with 1 inch margins (not including your title page or bibliography/works cited page) and no fewer than 1,000 words. Your sources should include at least five books or academic journal articles that do not appear on the syllabus along with any other sources you wish to use. Be sure to familiarize yourself with the discussion of

cheating and plagiarism in this syllabus before starting on this assignment. One particular war that will be used as an example of various factors and processes discussed in this course will be the Spanish-American War of 1898. Should you choose to write about it or another war that we delve into in depth in a particular regard, your papers should break new ground to incorporate sources or concepts that were not the subject of the instructor's course lecture. Thus, your paper should reflect some originality and not merely a recapitulation of things discussed in lecture.

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, <u>and</u> 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, September 4 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. Cheating can come in many forms, including plagiarism. Plagiarism, in its most blatant form, is when writers use other people's words or ideas and do not give them credit. Since you should complete the UCF Online Information Literacy tutorial "Avoiding Plagarism using Chicago Style, 16th edition" and a related assessment that will count as quiz grade prior to completing your course paper, you should clearly understand my expectations of you. This tutorial can be found within the course website in Canvas. Unless otherwise specified by the instructor (such as on team quizzes), your work must be your own. 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. Not only do I assume that all students in this class could write a better term paper than the junk sold on the Internet, but I also use Turnitin.com to help determine paper originality. If I determine that there has been an instance of unambiguous academic dishonesty in the course, I will inform you of my concern and report the violation to Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities. At the end of the semester, a letter grade of Z, indicating academic dishonesty, will precede the letter grade earned. For more information about the Z grades and the process for appealing such a finding, please consult the following website: http://integrity.sdes.ucf.edu/zgrade. Particular assignments on which unambiguous cheating occurs will be penalized with an F (0 points).

Important Dates:

Event	Date
Drop/swap deadline	Thursday, Aug. 27, 11:59 P.M.
Add deadline	Friday, Aug. 28, 11:59 P.M.
Withdrawal deadline	Tuesday, Nov. 2, 11:59 P.M.

Monday, August 24 **Welcome and Course Overview**

Wednesday, August 26 Lecture

Friday, August 28 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, August 31 Lecture

Wednesday, September 2 Lecture

Friday, September 4 Lecture

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

Monday, September 7 **Labor Day—Class does not meet**

Wednesday, September 9 Lecture

Friday, September 11 Lecture

Monday, September 14 Lecture

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

Wednesday, September 16 Lecture

Friday, September 18 Lecture

Monday, September 21 Lecture

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

Wednesday, September 23 Lecture

Friday, September 25 Lecture

Monday, September 28 Lecture

George W. Auxier. 1939. "The Propaganda Activities of the Cuban Junta in Precipitating the Spanish-American War, 1895-1898." *The Hispanic American Historical Review*. August (Vol. 19, No. 3): 286-305.
http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/2507259.pdf

Wednesday, September 30 Lecture: **Research Skills**

Friday, October 2 Lecture

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

Monday, October 5 Lecture

Wednesday, October 7 Lecture

Friday, October 9 Lecture

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

Monday, October 12 Lecture

Wednesday, October 14 Lecture

Scott D. Sagan. 1986. "1914 Revisited: Allies, Offense, and Instability." *International Security*, Vol. 11, No. 2. (Autumn): 151-175. http://www.jstor.org/stable/2538961

Thomas J. Christenson and Jack Snyder. 1990. "Chain Gangs and Passed Bucks: Predicting Alliance Patterns in Multipolarity." *International Organization*. Vol. 44, No. 2: 137-168. http://www.jstor.org.ezproxy.net.ucf.edu/stable/2706792

Friday, October 16 Lecture

Monday, October 19 **Midterm Exam**

Wednesday, October 21 Lecture

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

Friday, October 23 Lecture

Monday, October 26 Lecture

Gerald E. Poyo. "Key West and the Cuban Ten Year War." The Florida Historical Society. Vol. 57, No. 3 (January 1979), pp. 289-307. http://www.jstor.org.ezproxy.net.ucf.edu/stable/30148525

Wednesday, October 28 Lecture

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

Friday, October 30 Lecture

Monday, November 2 Lecture

Withdrawal/Grade Forgiveness deadline 11:59 P.M.

Wednesday, November 4 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. http://www.jstor.org/stable/2585670

Friday, November 6 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.

Monday, November 9 Lecture

Michael C. Horowitz, Erin M. Simpson, and Allan C. Stam. "Domestic Institutions and Wartime Casualties." *International Studies Quarterly* Vol. 55, No. 4 (December 2011), pp. 909 - 936. http://www.jstor.org/stable/41409805

Wednesday, November 11 **Veterans' Day—Class does not meet**

Friday, November 13 Lecture: **Writing Skills**

Monday, November 16 Lecture

Wednesday, November 18 Lecture

Christopher Gelpi, Jason Reifler Jason, and Peter Feaver. 2007. "Iraq the Vote: Retrospective and Prospective Foreign Policy Judgments on Candidate Choice and Casualty Tolerance." *Political Behavior*, 2007. 151. *JSTOR Journals*, EBSCO*host* (accessed August 17, 2015). http://www.jstor.org/stable/4500240

Friday, November 20 Lecture

Monday, November 23 Lecture

Wednesday, November 25 Lecture

Friday, November 27 **Thanksgiving Break — Class will not meet**

Monday, November 30 Lecture: **Past Wars and Current Challenges**

Iraq: http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/losing-iraq/

Wednesday, December 2

Afghanistan: http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/kill-capture/

Friday, December 4

Iran: http://video.pbs.org/video/2186396997
http://video.pbs.org/video/2192856393
http://video.pbs.org/video/2188283134
http://video.pbs.org/video/2207403486
http://video.pbs.org/video/2216560909
Expect another video to be added for this day later in the semester to be announced by email.

Monday, December 7 **Last class day: Research paper due @ beginning of class and Lecture**

Friday, December 11 **Final Exam:** 7:00 A.M. – 9:50 A.M.