UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA
COLLEGE OF SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

INR 4060-0001 CAUSES OF WAR
Fall 2018 (MoWeFr 9:30 AM – 10:20 AM, CB1 O122)

INSTRUCTOR	Dr. Kyungkook Kang (pronounce Key-young-cook or K3)
OFFICE	302J Phillips Hall
OFFICE HOURS	MoWe 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM, or by appointment All office hours are first to come, first served
MAIN OFFICE PHONE	407-823-5082
INSTRUCTOR E-MAIL	Kyungkook.Kang@ucf.edu
CORRESPONDENCE	The best way of all correspondence with me will be via Canvas of Webcourses@UCF instead of regular email account, which can lead to delayed feedback. Please use Inbox, which is the global communication function in Canvas. I will normally respond within two business days. If you send a message to my UCF email address, I will make my reply only to the emails sent from your UCF Knights Email account (No Gmail, Hotmail, Yahoo Mail, etc. please).
TEXTBOOKS (REQUIRED)	Stephen L. Quackenbush . 2014. *International Conflict: Logic and Evidence*. CQ Press.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This lecture-oriented class is designed to explore the causes of war and the conditions of peace. We discuss a variety of alternative theoretical explanations on (1) how international actors formulate their interests, (2) when they initiate and escalate their disputes, and (3) what constrains them to pursue their goals. We focus on the leading theories, their key concepts, and the causal paths leading to war or to peace, and the conditions under which various outcomes are most likely to occur.

In this class, most of these discussions are not restricted to particular countries or regions; rather, we examine multi-faceted mechanisms that can be generalized to international-domestic-individual interactions. Accordingly, we also give considerable attention to methodological questions relating to epistemology and research design.

I will communicate with students through the webcourse in addition to class time; please be sure to check your webcourse account regularly in case I send out course updates etc.

COURSE GOAL

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Understand and assess the causes of war and peace.

2. Become familiar with the significant theoretical frameworks required to analyze conflict.
3. Learn alternative theoretical methods or analytical techniques.
4. Provide an original analysis of interstate or intrastate war

BACKGROUND PREPARATION AND PREREQUISITES

It assumes that you have developed a good background in political science and international relations and have acquired the skills to explore the broad topics of global security issues.

COURSE DESIGN

The required reading for the class is:

Stephen L. Quackenbush. 2014. *International Conflict: Logic and Evidence*. CQ Press.

I also provide all my lecture notes used in class in the powerpoint format.

The question of war and peace is a broad one. To give students some flexibility as to topics while maintaining the breadth of coverage of the mainstream scholarship, I have included in this syllabus an some recommmend readings in each section for students with particular interest in a given topic. They will be useful in discussions and the take-home essay exam.

Our primary but not exclusive focus of this class is on theories of interstate war, which have dominated the International Relations literature on international conflict until fairly recently. Other professors at UCF regularly teach the courses on intrastate war, and a division of labor seems like the optimum way to cover the vast material on war.

The webcourses@UCF site of Canvas has a discussion board. This board provides an opportunity to post questions regarding the course material. In addition to precepts and office hours, please use this board on the course website when asking questions about lectures and other course materials. This will allow students to see other students' questions and learn from them. I will regularly check the board and answer questions posted, although everyone else is also encouraged to contribute to the discussion. A student's respectful and constructive participation on the forum will count toward his/her class participation grade. Do not email your questions directly to me unless they are of personal nature — I will not answer them!

ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to attend all classes. Students who are unable to attend class should seek permission for an excused absence from the professor. If a student has to miss several classes, he or she should arrange to get notes from a fellow student.

Class attendance is not optional--if you need to miss class, please be prepared to explain why. Regular attendance is crucial to being successful in this course. The material covered in this course is inherently cumulative. If you do not keep up, you will quickly find yourself too far behind to catch up.

You should arrive to class on time: it will start promptly at its assigned time. Do not leave early. Late arrivals and early departures may count as absences (or at the course instructor's discretion, partial attendance may result in). For further information, please refer to UCF Academic Regulations and Procedures (http://catalog.ucf.edu/policies/academic-regulations).

MAKEUP ASSIGNMENT POLICY

Make-up assignments will be granted only in the case of an emergency (only for documented reasons) and/or a university documented absence. I always investigate the claims and make sure the documents are authentic. If such documentation is provided, it is up to the instructor's discretion to grant a makeup or to excuse the student from submitting the assignments without penalty. If assignment dates conflict with a religious holiday, please notify the instructor about this at the beginning of the class. I will seek to accommodate you. For further information, please refer to UCF Academic Regulations and Procedures (http://catalog.ucf.edu/policies/academic-regulations).

No extra credit expected individually. If I decide a substantial portion of the class would benefit from an additional opportunity, it will be offered to everyone. But I will not select some individuals out for special treatment.

NEW IMPORTANT POLICY REGARDING YOUR FINANCIAL AID

All faculty members are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. To receive the earliest financial aid disbursement, you MUST complete the non-credit assignment. To complete the task, go to the web-course and write a short paragraph about your IR background and research interests during the first week of class. Failure to do so may result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.

REQUIREMENTS

Your course grade will be based on three components:

- ✓ **Attendance (frequency & quality). 10 percent.** Attendance is required. This course will move fast; you will become confused if you do not attend regularly. Late arrivals and early departures may count as absences (or at the course instructor's discretion, partial attendance may result in). The frequency and quality of individual attendance will be carefully recorded and reflected in the final grades.

- ✓ **Two In-Class "Multiple Choice" Exams. 50 percent.** You will be given two "in-class MC" midterm and final exams covering the topics discussed in class. The final would be a unit-exam that includes only material since the midterm exam. The date and time of exams will be announced two weeks before.

- ✓ **One Take-Home "Essay" Exam**. **40 percent.** You will be given one "take-home essay" exam. This assignment will ask you to answer the questions about a number of theoretical questions as well as related global security issues. Each student is to attempt all problems individually before the assigned date and late submission will not be accepted. You are not allowed to work together on this exam, and your final product must be your own. Feel free to build on, react to, criticize, and analyze the ideas of others but, when you do, make it known whose ideas you are working with. You must explicitly acknowledge when your work builds on someone else's ideas, including ideas of classmates, professors, and authors you read. The date and time of exam will be announced two weeks before.

UCF DISABILITY STATEMENT

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center, Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

UCF RULES OF ACADEMIC CONDUCT

As reflected in the UCF creed, integrity and scholarship are core values that should guide our conduct and decisions as members of the UCF community. Plagiarism and cheating are very serious academic offenses. Please refer to the University's Rules of Conduct (available at: http://www.osc.sdes.ucf.edu) for more information on these issues. Failure to comply with university rules may subject violator(s) to appropriate action by university authorities and/or appropriate civil authorities. The penalty for students who plagiarize or cheat on an exam or an assignment will include a grade of F on that exam or assignment.

PROFESSIONALISM POLICY

Per university policy and classroom etiquette; mobile phones, iPads, etc. must be silenced during all classroom and lab lectures. Those not heeding this rule will be asked to leave the classroom/lab immediately so as to not disrupt the learning environment. Please arrive on time for all class meetings. Students who habitually disturb the class by talking, arriving late, etc., and have been warned may suffer a reduction in their final class grade (NO POINTS IN ATTENDANCE, SERIOUSLY!).

UNIVERSITY WRITING CENTER

The University Writing Center (UWC) is a free resource for UCF undergraduates and graduates. At the UWC, a trained writing consultant will work individually with you on anything you're writing (in or out of class), at any point in the writing process from brainstorming to editing. Appointments are

recommended, but not required. For more information or to make an appointment, visit the UWC website at http://www.uwc.ucf.edu, stop by MOD 608, or call 407.823.2197.

GRADING

I will apply a 'curve' grading scheme to convert your exam score into the following numeric and letter scale, so each exam grade reflects your performance relative to your fellow students. In this way all exams should be equivalently graded. Graded tests and materials in this course will be returned individually only by request. You can access your scores at any time using the Grade Book function of Webcourses. Please note that scores returned mid-semester are unofficial grades. Your course grade will be determined by the following numeric scale:

Course Points Average	**Letter Grade**
94-100	A
90-93.99	A-
87-89.99	B+
83-86.99	B
80-82.99	B-
77-79.99	C+
73-76.99	C
70-72.99	C -
67-69.99	D+
63-66.99	D
60-62.99	D-
0 – 59.99	F

COURSE SCHEDULE AND READING ASSIGNMENTS.

On the following page, a tentative course schedule is provided. In addition, I will present in class a fair amount of topics that is not in the reading list. In the event that the instructor needs to cancel class, an e-mail will be sent to all students' webcourse accounts (as maintained by the registrar) prior to class time.

Session 1. Introduction
Required: Quackenbush. Chapter 1.

Session 2. Identifying Wars and Militarized Disputes
Required: Quackenbush. Chapter 2.
Recommended:
Kenneth N. Waltz, "The Origins of War in Neorealist Theory." Journal of Interdisciplinary History, 18, 4 (Spring 1988): 615-28.

Session 3. Rational Choice Theory
Required: Quackenbush. Chapter 3.

Recommended:
James Fearon, "Rationalist Explanations for War." International Organization 49, 3 (Summer 1995): 379-414.

Session 4. Territory
Required: Quackenbush. Chapter 4.
Recommended:
Paul F. Diehl, "What Are They Fighting For? The Importance of Issues in International Conflict Research." Journal of Peace Research 29 (1993): 333-344.

Session 5. Power
Required: Quackenbush. Chapter 5.
Recommended:
John A. Vasquez, "The Realist Paradigm and Degenerative versus Progressive Research Programs: An Appraisal of Neotraditional Research on Waltz's Balancing Proposition." American Political Science Review, Vol. 91, No. 4 (Dec. 1997), pp. 899-912

Session 6. Alliance
Required: Quackenbush. Chapter 6.
Recommended:
John A. Vasquez, "The Realist Paradigm and Degenerative versus Progressive Research Programs: An Appraisal of Neotraditional Research on Waltz's Balancing Proposition." American Political Science Review, Vol. 91, No. 4 (Dec. 1997), pp. 899-912

Session 7. Review and In-Class Midterm (The date and time of exam will be announced two weeks before)

Session 8. Democratic Peace
Required: Quackenbush. Chapter 7.
Recommended**:**
John R. Oneal and Bruce M. Russett, "The Classical Liberals Were Right: Democracy, Interdependence, and Conflict, 1950-1985." International Studies Quarterly 41 (March 1997): 267-29

Session 9. Deterrence & Escalation
Required: Quackenbush. Chapter 8. 9.
Recommended**:**
Frank Zagare, "Reconciling Rationality with Deterrence: A Re-Examination of the Logical Foundations of Deterrence Theory," Journal of Theoretical Politics, 16(2) (2004): 107-141

Session 10. Strategy
Required: Quackenbush. Chapter 10.
Recommended**:**
Charles L. Glaser, "When Are Arms Races Dangerous: Rational versus Suboptimal Arming." International Security, 28, 4 (Spring 2004), 44-84.

Session 11. Duration, Outcome, and Consequences

Required: Quackenbush. Chapter 11. 12.
Recommended**:**
Tadeusz Kugler, Kyungkook Kang, Jacek Kugler, Marina Arbetman, and John Thomas. (2012) "Demographic and Economic Consequences of Conflict." International Studies Quarterly 57 1.

Session 12. Enduring Rivalry

Required: Quackenbush. Chapter 13.
Recommended**:**
Gary Goertz and Paul F. Diehl, "Enduring Rivalries: Theoretical Constructs and Empirical Patterns." International Studies Quarterly 37 (June 1993): 147-71

Session 13. Conclusion
Required: Quackenbush. Chapter 14.

Session 14. Review and In-Class & Take-Home Final (The date and time of exams will be announced two weeks before)

***** NOTE: THE CONTENT OF SYLLABUS AND COURSE SCHEDULE ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND UPDATE AT THE INSTRUCTOR'S DISCRETION IF NECESSARY.**
CHANGES TO THE SYLLABUS, IF ANY, WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN CLASS AND THE UPDATED SYLLABUS WILL BE POSTED ON WEBCOURSE@UCF.
STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY CHANGES IN SYLLABUS/SCHEDULE WHICH ARE ANNOUNCED IN CLASS.