INR 4060.001: Causes of War

Instructor: Gary E. Smith
Class Meets: TuTh: 9:00am – 10:15am; Psy 106
Office Hours: TuTh: 10:30am – 12:00 and by Appointment
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Credit Hours: 3

This course explores the major theoretical explanations for why states decide to go to war. The vast field of war studies attempts to explain war by looking at the effects of the international system, unique factors of individual states (including regime type), economic interdependence (i.e. trade, foreign direct investment, etc.), and the role of individual actors within the state.

Course Objectives

- Students will understand the major theoretical explanations for the occurrence, escalation, and termination of war.
- Students will be able to apply these theories to real-world cases.
- Students will be able to distinguish between different types of interstate conflict.
- Students will improve their social scientific analysis skills.
- Students will improve their written and oral communication skills.

Course Structure

This class will include both lecture and discussion. To get the most out of the lecture and discussion aspects, you must come to class prepared. This involves keeping up with the assigned readings and being engaged daily in class. Failure to keep up with the readings for each class or take part in the group discussions will greatly limit the benefits you receive from this course. The material to be learned will be found in both the assigned readings and in-class discussion, you will not benefit from one without the other.

Assignments

- Midterm Exam 25%
- Final Exam 25%
- Term Paper 40%
- Participation 10%

All assignments must be turned in at the start of class on the day that they are due. Both hard copy and electronic copies are expected. Any assignment that arrives late will receive a letter grade deduction in points for every ***class day*** *that it is late. Students who arrive more than ten minutes late to class will have their assignments considered late unless they provide an accepted, documented excuse for their tardiness. Students must take Midterm and Final exams on the day listed in the schedule unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor. Makeup exams will not be given unless an absence is for a university-accepted reason. If you are ill or hospitalized, documentation must be provided for there to be a makeup exam. The same thing goes for events like car accidents. To grant an exception for an exam, documentation must be provided. Please review the Golden Rules Handbook for a list of acceptable circumstances.*

Grade Scale

A: 90% - 100%
B: 80% - 89%
C: 70% - 79%
D: 60% - 69%
F: <59%

No Extra Credit will be offered.

Academic Dishonesty

Integrity and scholarship are core values at the University of Central Florida, and these values should guide our conduct and decisions as members of the UCF community. Plagiarism and cheating contradict these values, and so are very serious academic offenses. Penalties can include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, or suspension or expulsion from the university. Students are expected to familiarize themselves with and follow the University's Rules of Conduct (see http://www.osc.sdes.ucf.edu/)
Plagiarism and Cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment will result at least in an "F" for that assignment (and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "F" for the entire course) and may be subject to appropriate referral to the Office of Student Conduct for further action. See the UCF Golden Rule for further information. To avoid accusations of plagiarism, the best thing to do is adequately cite your sources. You are free to use any citation method you wish, *except footnotes*. Use of footnotes create problems with Turnitin.com
Additionally, to prevent any potential instances of plagiarism, students will be assigned an information literacy module through the University Library.

Changes to the Syllabus:

In the event I need to change the syllabus, I reserve the right to do so. If that should occur, all students will be notified via email and will be mentioned in class. All emails will be sent through Webcourses Coursemail.

Cancellation of Class:

In the unlikely event I need to cancel class, you will be notified via Webcourses Coursemail .

Email Policy:

All emails are to be sent through Knights Email per University policy. Any emails sent from personal email accounts will be ignored and discarded. I will be available by email from 8:00am-5:00pm Monday-Friday. Please allow up to two business days for me to get back to you. That means, if you send me an email at 5:01pm on Friday, assume I did not receive until Monday at 8:00am. Emails must include a subject heading. Please sign the email so that I know who you are. I cannot stress enough that the professional delivery of email is important. Students who send emails that have a rude tone, do not have a signature or subject heading will be ignored.

Current Events

Students will be expected to be informed about current events. Certain events will appear on the Midterm and final exam. Students will be shown where to go for their current events for the purpose of this course on the first day of class. A handout will also be posted in Webcourses. You should keep notes about current events as they occur and study before both the midterm and final exam.

Methods Disclaimer

Many of the studies that you will read in this class will rely on large-n quantitative methods to test their relationships. **If you have not yet had Scope and Methods, I do not want you to worry**. The "how" is not as important in this course as the "what" or "why" of these assigned readings. If you are not comfortable interpreting regression tables or understanding methods, feel free to skim them and pay closer attention to the sections where they *explain* their findings. Further, I believe that it is more important for you all to understand *why* the scholars think these relationships exist. Therefore, a great emphasis will be placed on the theoretical sections and the findings rather than the methods.

Student Services

Student Academic Resource Center (SARC): Howard Philips Hall, Room 113.
If you are struggling in this class, you may benefit from the study skills this office may provide

UCF Counseling Center.

Students experiencing challenges including anxiety, stress, or depression that are making it difficult to do their best in the class, should contact this office for help. See http://caps.sdes.ucf.edu/ or http://cares.sdes.ucf.edu/ for a variety of available resources.

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 the needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has met with the professor to make such a request. Finally, students who need accommodations **must** be registered with Student Disability Services before requesting such accommodations.

University Writing Center.
The University Writing Center offers writing support to UCF students from first-year to graduate in every discipline. Trained peer consultants provide help at every stage of the writing process, including understanding assignments, researching, drafting, revising, incorporating sources, and learning to proofread and edit. The UWC's purpose is not to fix papers or to make better writers, but to teacher writers strategies to navigate complex situations for writing. Consultations are available in both small groups and on an individual basis. The best use of the UWC will be well before the due date of your paper. Visit the website to learn more.

Assigned Readings:

Horowitz, Michael C, Alan Stam, and Cali M. Ellis. 2015. *Why Leaders Fight* Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 9781107655676
Levy, Jack. 2010. *Causes of War*. Malden: Blackwell Publishing
ISBN: 978-1405175593
Vasquez, John A. 2009. *The War Puzzle Revisited*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ISBN-13: 9780521881791
Vasquez, John A (ed). 2009. *What do We Know About War? 2nd Edition* Rowman & Littlefield Publishers ISBN - 978-1-4422-1264-0

These books are available through the UCF Bookstore, or other online sources. Additional Readings from Academic Journals will be provided for students through Webcourses.

Assignments

Academic Accountability: In order to be eligible for Federal Financial Aid, students must complete an assignment to indicate engagement in the course. This must be completed by **Friday January 13th,** or your financial aid disbursement may be delayed. This decision is beyond my control, any complications arising from this must be directed to the financial aid office. The

assignment will be an information literacy module about avoiding plagiarism. This assignment will not count toward the course grade.

Midterm Exam: The Midterm will cover all of the concepts we have discussed leading up to the exam. The multiple choice section will be made up of questions taken from current events. The written section will have written response questions (i.e. short essay) that will require critical thought about one or two of the major topics we have discussed. You will be given a set of possible questions and you will answer two of them in the time allotted. This exam will be given through Webcourses, you may use your notes. Refer to Webcourses for the directions. You will be given one attempt.

Final Exam: The Final exam will be cumulative. This will cover current events that have occurred since the midterm. This will be approximately 15-20 questions. Your written response (i.e., short essay) that will require critical thought about one or two of the major topics we have discussed. You will be given a set of possible questions and you will answer two of them in the time allotted. For this exam you must acquire a green book and a brown scantron before coming to class. None will be provided for you. **Any student who arrives after the first student has submitted his or her exam will not be allowed to take the exam. April 27th, 7:00am – 9:50am**

Term Paper: This paper will be approximately 8-10 pages (minimum of 2,000 words) long not including references. For this assignment, you will choose an event that you can explain using some of the theories you have learned about in this class. You must propose a project to me in advance, I do not wish to read 35 papers about the outbreak of World War II. Only one or two students will be allowed to write about one topic. You should limit your topics to things we talk about in class (War initiation, war termination, the continuance of peace, etc.). You should be sure that you can find a decent amount of information about the case so that you can write a coherent paper about it. The paper will be broken down into several parts (outlined below). First, you will submit a proposal to me. Proposal topics are approved on a first-come, first-served basis, so you are encouraged to start thinking about them ASAP. If you do not have your proposal approved by me in time, you cannot get started on your paper soon enough, so be diligent here. Then you will submit a complete rough draft to me. If you submit an incomplete draft you will receive a zero for your final paper. You will not be graded for quality of the rough draft, you will simply be given credit for turning it in. I will give you a tentative grade that will tell you what grade you would have received on this paper if this had been your final draft. Then you will have the means to fix your work and get a fresh grade. This means I will treat your paper as though it is the first time I'm looking at it and grade you accordingly. **You must complete each step to receive credit. If you do not get your topic approved, your rough draft will not be accepted, no rough draft will result in a zero grade for the final paper.**

Proposal Due: 02/14/2017
Rough Draft Due: 03/16/2017
Final Draft Due: 04/20/2017

Participation: Being present is necessary for participation, but it is not sufficient. Meaning, you cannot simply show up, take up space, and get a participation grade. You must read the material and be ready to discuss the material in class. Each time you contribute something substantive in class, you will write it down on a scrap of paper with your name and date on it and I will tell you whether it is approved for credit or not when it is handed to me. To be considered substantive your comment or question must be related to the content of the course or relevant to the discussion. You must submit ten of these for the semester to get full credit for participation.

Course Schedule

Social Science Concepts & What is War?

01/10/2017

Introduction to the course, its expectations, and general "housekeeping" matters.
Discussion of key social science research concepts
Discussion of war broadly

01/12/2017

Levy Chapters 1 & 2

01/17/2017

Levy Chapters 3 & 4

01/19/2017

Vasquez (WPR) – pps: 21-50.

01/24/2017

Vasquez (WPR) – pps: 61-87.

Geography, Territory, and War

01/26/2017

Vasquez (WPR) – Chapter 4

01/31/2017

Vasquez (WDK) – Chapter 1

Power & War

02/02/2017

Vasquez (WPR) – Chapter 3

02/07/2017

Vasquez (WPR) – Chapter 5

Alliances and War

02/09/2017

Vasquez (WDK) – Chapter 2

02/14/2017

Vasquez (WDK) – Chapter 3

TERM PAPER TOPIC DUE

Liberal Explanations for War and Peace

02/16/2017

Vasquez (WDK) – Chapter 8

02/21/2017

Vasquez (WDK) – Chapter 9

02/23/2017

No Class – Midterm on Webcourses

02/28/2017

Vasquez (WPR) – Chapter 6

Wars of Rivalry – What Are They? Why are They Different

03/02/2017

Vasquez (WPR) – pps: 78-87
Vasquez (WDK) – Chapter 4

03/07/2017

Vasquez (WDK) – Chapter 5

Leaders and War

03/09/2017

Levy – Chapter 5

03/14/2017

Horowitz, Stam, and Ellis (WLF) – Introduction & Chapter 1

03/16/2017

Horowitz, Stam, and Ellis (WLF) – Chapter 2

ROUGH DRAFT DUE

03/21/2017

Horowitz, Stam, and Ellis (WLF) – Chapter 3

03/23/2017

Horowitz, Stam, and Ellis (WLF) – Chapters 4 & 5

03/28/2017

No readings – Lecture on different types of psychological studies of Decision-Making

03/30/2017

Levy – Chapter 6

War Severity, Duration, and Peace

04/04/2017

Vasquez (WPR) – Chapter 7

04/06/2017

Vasquez (WPR) – Chapter 8

What do we Know about War?

04/11/2017

Vasquez (WPR) – Chapter 9

04/13/2017

Vasquez (WPR) – Chapter 10

04/18/2017

Vasquez (WKD) – Chapter 14

04/20/2017

FINAL DRAFT DUE
Last minute Final Exam Review