INR 4060-001 Causes of War
Spring 2018

Instructor: Didara Nurmanova, didara@knights.ucf.edu
Class Meets: Tuesday, Thursday 3.00 pm – 4.15 pm in BA1 213
Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday 1.30 pm – 2.45 pm and by appointment in HPH 313
Credit: 3 Hours

Course Description

This course is designed to introduce undergraduate students to main theoretical explanations of causes of war. Students will acquire some basic knowledge about why states decide to go to war from these theoretical perspectives, specifically, system-level explanations, interactional theories of war, state-level explanations, and decision-making theories of war. We will study what conditions or factors make outbreak of war more or less likely. The historical examples will be analyzed. Upon completion of the course, students should be able to apply the acquired knowledge to hypothetical or real-world scenarios in order to assess prospects of war or peace.

Course Organization and Requirements

This course is conducted through a combination of lectures, in-class discussions, and individual assignments. The class will consist of two parts: in-class lecture and in-class discussion of the assigned readings/assignments. Every class will start with the discussion of the assigned readings and central issues. Students are expected to complete **all** of the required readings before each class and come to class fully prepared to participate in the discussions. Attendance will be taken; unexcused absence will affect the class participation grade.

Students are expected to write a research paper. The detailed instructions and topics research paper can be found on webcourses. Research papers must be submitted through webcourses. No email or hard copies will be accepted.

A short case study assignment will be assigned. The detailed instructions will be provided by instructor on webcourses.

Midterm and final exams will be in-class and consist of essay questions.

Grades will be based on the following assignments:

Research Paper 25%
Midterm exam 25%
Case Study Assignment 5%
Final exam 30%
Attendance 5%
Class participation 10%

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Points
A	93 – 100
A-	90 – 92
B+	87 – 89
B	83 – 86
B-	80 – 82
C+	77 – 79
C	73 – 76
C-	70 – 72
D+	67 – 69
D	63 – 66
D-	60 – 62
F	59 and below

Course Materials

Required Text

Causes of War by Jack S. Levy and William Thompson, 2010.

Other Materials

Students are assigned additional articles and/or multimedia materials available through UCF library and the Internet. Some of the articles are listed in the course schedule. However, I may also assign additional articles or videos throughout the semester. I will provide details about

additional materials and provide you with links or a clear indication where you can find the material, in a timely manner.

Course Policies

Federal Financial Aid Requirement

Beginning in the Fall 2014 semester, UCF must comply with a federal financial aid regulation that states that in order to receive federal aid, students must be actively academically engaged (according to a federal definition) in each course in which they are enrolled. As of Fall 2014, all faculty are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. Without verification of this engagement, students will not receive their financial aid. In order to document that you began this course, you will be required to complete a short quiz in Canvas during the first week of classes. Failure to do so may result in a delay in the disbursement of students' financial aid, or will mean that students will not receive their aid. In order to fulfill this requirement, you should complete a syllabus quiz that is due by 11:59 on Friday, August 25.

Academic Honesty

Students must demonstrate a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, self-plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records.

If you are not sure what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it, take the UCF library tutorial.

Students who cheat, plagiarize, falsify records or practice any other form of academic dishonesty will receive an automatic FZ grade for the class.

You will also be expected to complete the UCF Online Information Literacy tutorial "Avoiding Plagiarism Using Chicago Manual of Style, 16th Edition" (link will be provided by your instructor) and the assessment included in it by October 16th, 2017.

Class Attendance and Participation

Attendance is required. Lectures cover material that you will not be able to find in the book. I will not provide notes for students missing class. Attendance does not count as participation in class. Participating in class means answering questions and taking part in class discussions.

Make-up Policy

Exams are scheduled well in advance so that you can plan around these dates. No one may make up a test but for two exceptions.

First, for personal emergencies (medical problems), students should obtain a note from their physician. Second, for students with extra-curricular activities (athletic contests or other University-sponsored activities) that conflict with deadlines, arrangements for an alternate test date must be made at least a week in advance of the scheduled test or deadline. Students must provide verification of the activity in order to be eligible for an alternate test date.

Late submissions of written assignment or research paper will be penalized 10% for each full calendar day they are late, up to as much as 30%. Submissions late for more than three days will not be accepted.

Student Accessibility 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 contacted Student Accessibility Services, and the professor, in order to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Accessibility Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Religious Holidays

The University of Central Florida welcomes diversity of religious beliefs and practices, recognizing the contributions differing experiences and viewpoints can bring to the community. There may be times when an academic or work requirement conflicts with religious observances and practices. If that happens, students may request reasonable accommodation of their religious practices. In all cases, you must put your request in writing and present it to the instructor at the beginning of the semester.

E-mail Protocols

You can contact the instructor both via the webcourses email and UCF email. Grades will not be discussed over email.

Cancellation of Class

In the event that the class needs to be cancelled, an e-mail will be sent to all students via webcourses mail prior to class time.

Disclaimer

Please note that the instructor reserves the right to make changes to any part of this syllabus throughout the semester.

Course Schedule

Week 1

January 9: Course Introduction

January 11: Introduction to the Study of War
- Chapter 1

Week 2

January 16: The Nature of War
-Clausewitz, *On War*. Selection.

January 18: Levels of Analysis
-Waltz, *Man, the State, and War*. Selection.

Part I: System Level Explanations

Week 3

January 23: System Level Theories: Arms Races, Offense-Defense Balance, and Deterrence
- Chapter 2

January 25: System Level Theories: Arms Races, Offense-Defense Balance, and Deterrence
- Jervis, Robert. 1978. "Cooperation under the Security Dilemma." *World Politics* 30 (2):167-214.

Week 4

January 30: System Level Theories: Distribution of Power and Polarity; Power Transition Theory
- Waltz, Kenneth N. 1964. "The Stability of a Bipolar World." *Daedalus* 93 (3):881-909.

February 1: System Level Theories: Distribution of Power and Polarity; Power Transition Theory
- Deutsch, Karl, and J. David Singer. 1964. "Multipolar Power Systems and International Stability." *World Politics* 16 (3):390-406.

Part II: Interactional Theories of Conflict

Week 5

February 6: The Dyadic Interactions of States
-Chapter 3

February 8: The Dyadic Interactions of States

- Chapter 3

Week 6

February 13: The Dyadic Interactions of States
-Mark Peceny, Caroline C. Beer, and Shannon Sanchez-Terry. 2002. “Dictatorial Peace?” *American Political Science Review* 96(1): 15-26.

February 15: The Dyadic Interactions of States
- T.V. Paul. 2006. “Why has the India-Pakistan Rivalry Been so Enduring? Power Asymmetry and Intractable Conflict.” *Security Studies* 15(4): 600-630

Part III: State-Level Explanations

Week 7

February 20: The State and Societal Level
-Chapter 4

February 22: The State and Societal Level
-Chapter 4

Week 8

February 27: The State and Societal Level: Military Organizations and War
Feaver, Peter D., and Christopher Gelpi. 2002. "Speak Softly and Carry a Big Stick? Veterans in the Political Elite and the American Use of Force." *American Political Science Review* 96 (4):779-793.

March 1: The State and Societal Level: Diversionary Theory of War
-Amy Oakes, “Diversionary War and Argentina’s Invasion of the Falkland Islands,” *Security Studies*, 2006.

Week 9

March 6: Regime Insecurity and International Cooperation

March 8: ***Midterm Exam***

March 12 - March 17: Spring Break

Part IV: Decision-Making Theories of Conflict

Week 10

March 20: Decision-Making: The Individual Level
-Chapter 5

March 22: Decision-Making: The Individual Level. Personal Psychology
Post, Jerrold M. 2003. "Saddam Hussein of Iraq: A Political Psychology Profile." In The Psychological Assessment of Political Leaders, ed. J. M. Post. Ann Arbor, M.I.: University of Michigan Press. (335-365)

Week 11

March 27: Decision-Making: The Organizational Level
-Chapter 6

March 29: Decision-Making: The Organizational Level
-Mark J. C. Crescenzi. 2007. "Reputation and Interstate Conflict." American Journal of Political Science 51(2): 382-396.

Week 12

April 3: Case Study: Cuban Missile Crisis
-Watch the video and complete a short assignment

April 5: Case Study: Cuban Missile Crisis. ***Research Paper Due.***
-James G. Blight, Joseph S. Nye Jr., and David A. Welch. 1987. "The Cuban Missile Crisis Revisited." Foreign Affairs 66(1): 170-188.

Week 13

April 10: Civil War
-Chapter 7

April 12: Civil War
-Chapter 7

Week 14

April 17: Civil War
-Readings TBA

April 19: Final Exam Review

Final exam: Thursday 4/26/2018, 1.00 pm-3:50 pm in our regular classroom.