

**Political Science 370**  
**International Conflict**  
**Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30-10:45 a.m.**  
**Bolton B-60**  
**Spring 2008**

**Instructor: Dr. Kristin Trenholm**

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Final exam: Wednesday, May 14, 2008, 7:30-9:30 a.m.

**Course Description**

This course examines the conditions that make for war and peace in world politics. First, we examine historical patterns and trends in warfare. Then, we examine the causes of war, the morality and ethics of war, the outcomes and consequences of war, and solutions to help prevent or limit war.

Having completing this course, students should be familiar with many factors that seem to mitigate or exacerbate military conflict between states. Students should also be able to apply such factors to real-world scenarios—such as historical cases of war or conflicts in troubled areas of the world.

Students are expected to: 1) finish the assigned readings before the class for which they are assigned, 2) attend class regularly, 3) show up to class on time, and 4) to participate in class discussion.

**Grades**

Grades will be based on the best two of three short quizzes (worth 8.33% each), attendance and participation (8.33%), one midterm exam (worth 25%), and one final exam (worth 50%).

Interested students can choose to write a ten-page research paper on a topic approved by me. In this case, the research paper counts for 25% and the final exam 25%. Students will select a crisis or war from the past two centuries. The first section of the paper will discuss the events leading up to the crisis/war as well as a brief summary of the major events of the crisis. The second section of the paper allows students to analyze the causes of the crisis and to speculate on the prospects for renewed conflict.

Each student must present on one class discussion question. Students presenting in a given week should talk to me after class the week before, in order to agree on what will be debated or discussed. (Each student will prepare their own talking points, and should never read long statements written by others. Presentation notes are due after class on the day that presentations are made.)

There will be no make-up quizzes, although one quiz may be dropped. No make-up exams will be given without a medical excuse or an excused University absence. Students must produce the appropriate documentation stating why they were not able to be in class at the exact time of the exam.

*If you have a problem or miss an exam, get in touch with me immediately (beforehand if possible). If you miss the midterm or final exam without giving me prior notice, you MUST contact me within 24 hours of that exam or you will not be allowed to take a make-up exam under any circumstances.*

The midterm and final exams are both non-cumulative exams. The midterm exam will be given during the regular class period during the 7<sup>th</sup> week of class (Thursday, March 6, 2008). The final exam will be given during the regularly scheduled final exam time (Wednesday, May 14, 2008 from 7:30-9:30 a.m.).

Students with special needs are responsible for making their needs known in the first two weeks of the semester, especially if accommodations are needed in order to meet any of the requirements of this course.

### **Required Readings**

The required textbooks are available in the bookstore:

Richard K. Betts (ed.), *Conflict after the Cold War: Arguments on Causes of War and Peace*, third edition. Boston: Pearson Longman, 2008.

Michael Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars: A Moral Argument with Historical Illustrations*, fourth edition. New York: Basic Books, 2000.

David W. Ziegler, *War, Peace, and International Politics*, eighth edition. New York: Addison Wesley Longman, 2000.

### **Course Schedule and Reading Assignments**

The following schedule is subject to modification. Try to finish each day's reading before class.

#### I. Introduction

Week#1 (1/22 Tuesday and 1/24 Thursday): Overview of the Course; Studying Conflict and War/Patterns of Conflict, Crisis, and War.

1. Ziegler: Studying Causes (pp. 125-127), Studying War (pp. 87-89), and Recent Wars (pp. 69-79), and Lessons of Intervention (pp. 97-104).
2. Betts: Blainey, Geoffrey, "Power, Culprits, and Arms" (pp.106-117).

#### II. Causes and Correlates of War

Week #2 (1/29 Tuesday): Individual-Level Explanations: Human Nature, Psychology.

1. Ziegler: Human Nature and "Troublemakers" (pp. 127-133).
2. Betts: Hobbes, Thomas. "The State of Nature and the State of War"(pp. 66-69).
3. Thucydides, "The Peloponnesian War, Melian Dialogue (Book 5, Chapter 17)." Available at <http://www.wellesley.edu/ClassicalStudies/CLCV102/Thucydides—MelianDialogue.html>
4. Walzer: Against Realism (pp. 3-20).

(1/31 Thursday): Democracy and Liberalism.

1. Ziegler: Democratic Peace (pp.137-140).
2. Betts: Kant, Immanuel. "Perpetual Peace." (pp. 122-128); Doyle, Michael W., "Liberalism and World Politics (pp. 135-149) and Keohane, Robert O. and Nye, Joseph S., "Power and Interdependence."(pp. 161-167).

Week #3 (2/5 Tuesday and 2/7 Thursday): Nationalism and Civilizations.

1. Ziegler: State and Non-State Actors (pp. 105-115); Nationalism (pp. 133-135); Terrorism (pp.147-152); Some Recent Wars (pp. 69-79 and pp. 95-104).
2. Betts: Gellner, Ernest, "Nations and Nationalism." (pp. 336-346) and Kaufman, Chaim. "Possible and Impossible Solutions to Ethnic Civil War." (pp. 360-377).

(2/7 Thursday): **QUIZ #1.**

1. Betts: Huntington, Samuel P., "The Clash of Civilizations?" (pp. 34-51).

Week #4-5 (2/12 Tuesday): Diversionary Theory, Transnational Tension and Territorial Claims.

1. Web: CNN.com (8/20/1998), "Most Lawmakers Support Clinton's Military Strikes." Available at:  
<<http://www.cnn.com/ALLPOLITICS/1998/08/20/strike.react/>>
2. Web: BBC News, "From Scandal to Rocket Raids: Mixed Response from GOP." Available at:  
<[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/events/crisis\\_in\\_the\\_gulf/latest\\_news/236582.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/events/crisis_in_the_gulf/latest_news/236582.stm)>

(2/14 Thursday)

1. Betts: Cooley, John K., "The War over Water" (pp. 596-606) and Homer-Dixon, Thomas F., "Environmental Changes and Causes of Acute Conflict" (pp. 607-621).

Week #5 (2/19 Tuesday)

1. Ziegler: Chapter 4, Wars in the Middle East (pp. 53-68).
2. Walzer: The Rights of Political Communities (pp.53-58)..

(2/21 Thursday): Anarchy, the Security Dilemma, and Arms Races.

1. Ziegler: Sovereignty (pp. 108-110), Anarchy (pp. 115-118), Arms races (pp. 221-228).
2. Betts: Huntington, Samuel P., "Arms Races: Prerequisites and Results" (pp. 391-411).

Week #6 (2/26 Tuesday): Balance of Power Theory.

1. Betts: re-read Blainey (pp.87-94).
2. Walzer: Preemptive War and The Balance of Power, Preemptive Strikes (pp. 76-85).

(2/28 Thursday): Intervention.

1. Walzer: Self-Determination and Self-Help (pp. 86-108).

Week #7 (3/4 Tuesday) Aggression and Neutrality

1. Walzer: Aggression and Neutrality (pp.233-250).

**(3/6 Thursday) Midterm Exam**

### III. Methods and Ethics of War

Week #8 (3/11 Tuesday): Noncombatant Immunity and Military Necessity.

1. Walzer: Chapter 9 (pp.138-159).

(3/13 Thursday): War Against Civilians: Sieges and Blockades.

1. Walzer: Chapter 10 (pp.160-175).

### **Spring Break, 3/16-3/23.**

Week #9 (3/25 Tuesday): Guerrilla War.

1. Walzer: Chapter 11 (pp.176-196).

(3/27 Thursday) Supreme Emergency: The Decision to Bomb German Cities and Hiroshima.

1. Walzer: Chapter 16 (pp. 251-268).

### IV. Outcomes and Consequences of War

Week #10 (4/1 Tuesday): Costs of War; Winners and Losers.

1. Ziegler: Iran-Iraq War (pp. 79-84).
2. Walzer: The Tyranny of War (pp. 29-33); War's End and the Importance of Winning (pp. 109-124).

(4/3 Thursday): **QUIZ #2.** Political and Economic Consequences.

1. Web: "Can the Serbs Get Rid of Milosevic?" *The Economist*, 3 July 1999:39.
2. Web: A.F.K. Organski and Jacek Kugler (1977), "The Costs of Major Wars: The Phoenix Factor." *American Political Science Review* 71,4:1347-1366. JSTOR, available at: <<http://www.uwm.edu/libraries/databases/#j>>

Week #11 (4/8 Tuesday): Recurrent Conflict and Rivalry.

1. Ziegler: Chapters 1 and 2, France-Germany Rivalry (pp. 5-31).

(4/10 Thursday): Recurrent Conflict and Rivalry (Continued).

1. Ziegler: Chapter 3 (pp. 35-49) and pp. 89-95 (US-Soviet Cold War).

### V. Prevention or Limitation of War

Week #12 (4/15 Tuesday): Proliferation and Deterrence I: General Principles.

1. Ziegler: Allies and Extended Deterrence (pp. 141-143).
2. Walzer: Reprisals (pp. 207-222).

(4/17 Thursday) Proliferation & Deterrence II: Weapons of Mass Destruction

1. Ziegler: Proliferation (pp. 140-141, 143-147).
2. Betts: Waltz, Kenneth N., "The Spread of Nuclear Weapons: More May Be Better" (pp. 451- 462).
3. Walzer: Nuclear Deterrence (pp. 269-283).

Week #13 (4/22 Tuesday): Arms Control and Disarmament.

1. Ziegler: Disarmament (pp. 228-240).
2. Betts: Charles H. Fairbanks, Jr. and Abram N. Shulsky, "Arms Control: The Historical Experience" (pp. 441-450).

(4/24 Thursday) **QUIZ #3.** Regional/Global Integration and Institutions.

1. Ziegler: Chapter 11, Regional Integration (pp. 171-181), and Chapter 10, World Government (pp. 155-170).

Week #14 (4/29 Tuesday): Collective Security and Peacekeeping.

1. Ziegler: Chapter 13, Collective Security (pp. 199-220) and Chapter 17, The United Nations (pp. 267-281).

(5/1 Thursday): Collective Security and Peace Keeping (Continued).

1. Ziegler: Chapter 18, United Nations Peace Keeping (pp. 283-291).

Week #15 (5/6 Tuesday and 5/8 Thursday): Is War Obsolete? Wrapping Things Up.

1. Ziegler: (Mueller) pp.137-138.
2. Betts: Fukuyama, Francis, "The End of History?" (pp. 6-16), Mueller, John, "The Obsolescence of Major War," (pp. 224-235), and Mearsheimer, John, "Why We Will Soon Miss the Cold War" (pp. 18-33).
3. Ziegler: Chapter 20, Conclusions (pp. 303-305).

**Final Exam: Wednesday, May 14, 2008, 7:30-9:30 a.m.**