

State University of New York at Buffalo
Fall 2006

Political Science 326
War and International Security

Dr. Michelle Benson

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Course Description

The study of war and conflict is one of the most exciting sub-fields of international relations research. The goal of this course is to introduce students to studies of war and international security that examine why states use force against each other. The secondary goal of this course is to improve students' analytical skills and help them gain a better understanding of political science research. Thus, the theory and methods of conflict literature will be compared and contrasted both to improve students' knowledge of why nations go to war and to develop rigorous analytical skills. We will briefly discuss several wars in the first several weeks of the course, however, PSC 326 is *not* a history course so we will not be studying specific wars in detail. . Instead we will be discussing *why* wars happen *in general* (which is much more interesting!).

This is an upper-division course, consequently, there are many high-level readings and concepts discussed throughout the semester. To facilitate understanding and class discussion, students are expected to have completed each day's reading *before* the beginning of each class.

Required Textbooks

These textbooks are available at The College Store on Maple Road.

- 1) Stoessinger, John G., 2001. *Why Nations Go to War*, 8th edition. Boston, MA: Bedford/St. Martins.
- 2) Vasquez, John A. and Marie T. Henehan. 1999. *The Scientific Study of Peace and War*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books. (Hereafter referred to as SSP&W)
- 3) Remarque, Erich Maria. *All Quiet on the Western Front*. (Any complete version)

Additional Readings

In addition to the textbooks, there are several articles assigned throughout the semester. The articles fall in to two groups; a) those available online at www.jstor.org and b) those available online through UB course reserve materials at ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries. It is very easy to access these articles from any computer on campus or on a computer from home. There are handouts at the front desk of the library which explain how to do this. If you can't figure it out, come and talk with me.

To access the "**JSTOR**" articles follow the following steps:

1. Get connected to the internet...
2. Go to <http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries>
3. Find the **Library Databases** heading on the right of the web-page.
4. Click on **Databases by Subject**
5. Click on **Political Science**.
6. Click on **JSTOR**
7. Click on **Search JSTOR**
8. Then type in your search terms. For example, for your first article, under SEARCH FOR type in "David Singer" (Make sure the AUTHOR is selected in the box to the right) and below, under SEARCH IN check "**All Political Science Journals.**"

To access the "**ART**" Library Reserve articles:

1. Get connected to the internet
2. Go to <http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries>
3. Click on **Course Reserve** at the top of the website (in red letters).
4. Type in INSTRUCTORS LAST NAME (in this case it's **Benson**) –you need to click within the box first. Or type in the class number PSC326.
5. Click on SEARCH.

Course Requirements

Students' final grades will be based on the following:

- 1) Three Non-Cumulative Exams 90% (30%, 30%, 30%)
- 2) Attendance/Participation-in class discussions and simulation participation 10% (Attendance is taken randomly during the semester)
- 3) There is *no extra credit* in this class.

Exams

To prepare for the exams you should attend class and do all of the readings. Exam questions will be based on class material and readings, even if material in the readings was not covered in class. I understand that sometimes, because of special circumstances, you do not perform as well on an exam as you normally do. If this happens, come talk with me **immediately** to discuss the situation—do not wait until the semester has almost ended.

Make-up Policy

Make-up exams will be given only to students with medical or personal emergencies (e.g. death in the family). If an emergency arises, you need to contact me well **before** the exam. *I will be strict on this policy.* If you fail to communicate with me (in person, via e-mail, or with a message on my phone) prior to the exam, you will receive a grade of 0 for that exam. That means that if you inexplicably fall ill the day of the exam you must find a way to inform me at least several hours before the exam. Once again, even if you tell me you were unable to take the exam because you were ill, if you do not contact me **beforehand** you will receive a 0 on the exam.

The make-up exam will only be given to individuals who have contacted me before the exam and with a valid letter from a medical professional. The exam will be different and more difficult than the original, scheduled exam.

If you are one of those students to whom “unfortunate” events always seem to occur and have difficulty with deadlines or showing up for examinations, you are strongly encouraged to select another class.

Classroom Etiquette and Attendance

Attendance will be taken randomly during the semester. Class attendance plus your participation in class as well as your response to in class questions will count for the 10% of your attendance grade.

Please be on time to class, you are free to bring coffee, sodas, etc. but not food. The classroom policy is to respect and be considerate to all members of the class. You are expected to attend class regularly and take notes. A large segment of the exams will be taken from the lectures. I will use material for lecture that is not covered in the readings. If you miss class, it is your responsibility to get the lecture notes from a classmate. It would also be a good idea to come and discuss the class material you have missed, once you have acquired the notes from one of your classmates. I will not, under any circumstances, give my lecture notes to students. Furthermore, outstanding class participation might bump you up part of a grade (example: from B to B+).

Other Issues

If you have any disabilities or language difficulties that might affect your participation in the class, please let me know at the beginning of the course. Anyone having difficulties in the course should see me during office hours or after class. The earlier we talk about potential problems, the better we can handle them.

Class Lecture and Reading Plan

SECTION I

Week 1

Mon 8/28: **Introduction:** Read the entire syllabus carefully.

Wed 8/30: **Theory and Analysis**

- ART: Bruce Russett and Harvey Starr. "How Do We Think About World Politics?" *World Politics: The Menu for Choice*. New York: Freeman
- SSP&W- Vasquez, Introduction: Studying War Scientifically.
- JSTOR: Singer, David. 1961. "The Levels of Analysis Problem in I.R." *World Politics*, 16, pp. 77-92. (Available at www.jstor.org)

Friday 9/1: **No Class (Professor Benson will be at the American Political Science Association Meetings)**

Week 2:

Monday 9/4: **No Class (Labor Day)**

Wed 9/6: **Is War a Biological Necessity?**

- JSTOR: Pierre L. van den Berghe 1974. "Bringing Beasts Back in: Toward a Biosocial Theory of Aggression." *American Sociological Review* 39: 777-788 (Available at [jstor.org](http://www.jstor.org) : look under **Sociology** journals)
- ART: Margaret Mead. "Warfare is Only and Invention-Not a Biological Necessity." From John Vasquez, ed. *Classics of International Relations*.(available at: <http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries>)
- ART: Thomas Hobbes. "Of the Natural condition of Mankind as Concerning Their Felicity and Misery." From John Vasquez, ed. *Classics of International Relations*.(available at: <http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries>)

Friday 9/8: **Morality and War**

- ART: Thomas Aquinas. "Of War." From John Vasquez, ed. *Classics of International Relations*.
- ART: Paul Christopher. 1994. "Hugo Grotius and the Just War." *The Ethics of War and Peace*. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall.
- ART: Leo Tolstoy. "Patriotism and Government." From John Vasquez, ed. *Classics of International Relations*.
- ART: Mark Twain, "The War Prayer."
- ART: Wilfred Owen, "Dulce et Decorum Est."
- Michael Novak article available on the course web page at: <http://www.acsu.buffalo.edu/~mbenson2/PSC326.htm>
- Jimmy Carter article available on the course web page at: <http://www.acsu.buffalo.edu/~mbenson2/PSC326.htm>

Week 3: Tibet and the Dalai Lama (Special Week in Preparation for His Holiness the Dalai Lama's Visit to UB)

Monday 9/11: **Tibet and the US**

- JSTOR: Guangqui Xu. 1997. "The United States and the Tibet Issue" *Asian Survey*. 37(11): 1062-1077.

Wed 9/13: **Tibet and the Dalai Lama**

- Read information about Tibet and the Dalai Lama on Tibetan Government in Exile's Official Website at: www.tibet.com.
- Read the Dalai Lama's Nobel Acceptance Speech: <http://www.tibet.com/DL/nobellecture.html>

Friday 9/15: **Lecture by Kunchok Youdon**

Week 4: Historical/Personality Approaches to War

Mon 9/18: **WWI & WWII**

- WWI: Stoessinger, Chapter 1
- WWII: Stoessinger, Chapter 2

Wed 9/21: **Korea and Vietnam**

- Korea: Stoessinger, Chapter 3
- Vietnam: Stoessinger, Chapter 4

Fri 9/23: **Lecture by Seong-Keun Choi**

Week 5

Mon 9/25: **India and Pakistan, The Middle East**

- India and Pakistan: Stoessinger, Chapter 5
- Wars in the Middle East: Stoessinger, Chapters 6 and 7

Wed 9/27: **A Cultural Explanation of War**

- ART: Huntington, Samuel P. 1996. "The West and the Rest: Intercivilization and Issues." In *The Clash of Civilizations*. Simon and Schuster. pp.183-206. (On Reserve at <http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries>.)

Fri 9/29: **Opportunity and Willingness**

- ART: Benjamin A. Most and Harvey Starr. 1989. "Opportunity and Willingness" *Inquiry, Logic and International Politics*. Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina Press.

Week 6

Mon 10/2: **No Class (Yom Kippur)**

Wed 10/4: **Discussion and Review of Section I**

Fri 10/6: **FIRST EXAM**

SECTION II

Week 7

Mon 10/9: **Necessary and Sufficient Conditions**

- JSTOR: Benjamin A. Most; Harvey Starr. 1982. "Case Selection, Conceptualizations and Basic Logic in the Study of War." *American Journal of Political Science*, 26(4): 834-856.

Wed 10/11: **Balance of Power**

- ART : Niccolo Machiavelli. *From "The Prince."* from From John Vasquez, ed. *Classics of International Relations*.
- ART: Hans Morgenthau. "A Realist Theory of International Politics" from From John Vasquez, ed. *Classics of International Relations*.
- ART: Kenneth N. Waltz. *From "Theory of International Politics."* from From John Vasquez, ed. *Classics of International Relations*.

Fri: 10/13: **Capability Distributions**

- SSP&W- Singer, Bremer, and Stuckey, Chapter 2: Capability Distribution.

Week 8

Mon 10/16: **Collective Security**

- ART: Woodrow Wilson. "The 14 Points." From John Vasquez, ed. *Classics of International Relations*.
- ART: Inis L. Claude, Jr. "A Critique of Collective Security." From John Vasquez, ed. *Classics of International Relations*.

Wed 10/18: **Power Transition Theory**

- ART: Power Transitions, Ch. 1: Power Transition Theory for the 21st Century and Ch 2. Power Transition Theory Tested

Fri 10/20: **Power Transition Theory, continued**

- ART: Power Transitions, Ch 2. Power Transition Theory Tested

Week 9

Mon 10/23: **The Democratic and Institutional Peace**

- ART: Russett, Bruce 1993. *Grasping the Democratic Peace*". Princeton University Press. Pages 3-42. (On Reserve at <http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries>.)
- JSTOR: Bruce Bueno de Mesquita; James D. Morrow; Randolph M. Siverson; Alastair Smith. 1999. "An Institutional Explanation of the Democratic Peace" *The American Political Science Review*, 93(4). 791-807.

Wed 10/25: **Alliances and War**

- JSTOR: James D. Morrow. 1993. "Arms Versus Allies: Trade-Offs in the Search for Security." *International Organization*. 47(2): 207-233.
- SSP&W- Levy, Chapter 1: Alliance Formation and War Behavior

Fri 10/27: **Arms Races**

- SSP&W- Diehl, Chapter 4: Armaments and Escalation

Week 10

Mon10/30: **Diversionsary Theory**

- ART: Chapter 11: The Diversionsary Theory of War: A Critique from Midlarsky: *The Handbook of War Studies*.
- Recommended film: "Wag the Dog" with Dustin Hoffman and Robert DeNiro

Wed 11/1: **Discussion and Review of Section II**

Fri 11/3: **SECOND EXAM**

SECTION III

Week 11

Mon 11/6: **Economic Interdependence and Conflict**

- JSTOR: John R. O Neal; Bruce M. Russett. 1997. "The Classical Liberals Were Right: Democracy, Interdependence, and Conflict 1950-1985" *International Studies Quarterly*. 41(2): 267-293.
- JSTOR: Katherine Barbieri. 1996. "Economic Interdependence: A Path to Peace or a Source of Interstate Conflict?" *Journal of Peace Research*. 33(1): 29-49.

Wed 11/8: **Economic Interdependence and Conflict, continued**

- ART: Michelle Benson. 2006. "The Relevance of Politically Relevant Dyads in the Study of Interdependence and Dyadic Disputes." *Conflict Management and Peace Science*.

Fri 11/10: **No Class (Professor Benson will be at the Peace Science Society Meetings)**

Week 12:

Mon 11/13: **The Impact of Major Wars**

- SSP&W- Organski and Kugler, Chapter 12: The Phoenix Factor
- SSP&W- Rasler and Thompson, Chapter 13: War Making and State Making

Wed 11/15: **Terrorism**

- ART: Martha Crenshaw, "Terrorism and International Violence"
- ART: David Tucker, "Responding to Terrorism."
- ART: Stephen L. Pomerantz, "The Best Defense."

Fri 11/17: **The UN and International Conflict (the 1990's and the 21st C)**

- JSTOR: Roger A. Coate; Donald J. Puchala. 1990. "Global Policies and the United Nations System: A Current Assessment" *Journal of Peace Research*: 27(2): 127-140. (Special Issue on the Challenge of Global Policy)
- JSTOR: Paul F. Diehl; Jennifer Reifschneider; Paul R. Hensel. 1996. "United Nations Intervention and Recurring Conflict" (in Research Note) *International Organization*. 50(4): 683-700.
- ART: Stephen Ryan. 2000. The United Nations and International Politics. Conclusion

Week 13

Mon 11/20: **A Soldier's Perspective**

- Start Reading *All Quiet on the Western Front*

Wed 11/22: **HAPPY THANKSGIVING (Classes Cancelled)**

- (Read *All Quiet on the Western Front* over the break)

Fri 11/24: **HAPPY THANKSGIVING (Classes Cancelled)**

- (Read *All Quiet on the Western Front* over the break)

Week 14: Power, Democracy, and Foreign Policy: War or Peace?

Mon 11/27: **Enterline and Jepson "Chinazambia & Boliviafranca: A Simulation of Domestic Politics and Foreign Policy." Handouts to be distributed in-class. (it is important to be here for all three days of this simulation).**

Wed 11/29: **Simulation continued.**

Friday 12/1: **Simulation continued.**

Week 15

Mon 12/4: **All Quiet on the Western Front.**

- Read all of Remarque

Wed 12/6: **Discussion and Review of Section III**

Fri 12/8: **THIRD EXAM**

-HAVE A GREAT WINTER BREAK! ☺