

**State University of New York at Buffalo
Spring 2017**

Political Science 326

War and International Security

Dr. John Cordaro

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Office Hours by Appointment, (addition times can be arranged)
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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 Materials Plus Lecture Material

Stoessinger, John G. *Why Nations Go to War*. Boston, MA: Bedford/St. Martins. (11 Edition) ISBN-13 978-0-495-79718-0 and ISBN-10 0-495-79718-9

Terrorism and Counterterrorism: Understanding the New Security Environment, Readings and Interpretations,(4TH EDITION),By Russell Howard and Bruce Hoffman. ISBN: 978-0-07-352778-9

International Politics on the World Stage,(12TH EDITION), By John Rourke. ISBN-13: 978-0-07-340388-5, ISBN-10:0-07-340388-1

Course Requirements

Students' final grades will be based on the following:

- 1) Three Exams: 80% (25%, 25%, 30%)
- 2) Attendance/Participation-in class discussions - 20%

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.

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 do not give my lecture notes to students.

Attendance/Participation (10%, 10%)

It is expected that you will have read the course material before class and come prepared to discuss the material in a thoughtful manner.

Classroom Etiquette and Attendance

Attendance will be taken most days of the semester. Class attendance plus your participation in class as well as your response to in class questions orally 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.. 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.

Learning Outcomes and Assessment

This course provides students with a variety of tools for both feedback and evaluation. The table below presents the learning outcomes of the course as well as the coursework that assesses these outcomes.

Learning Outcome Assessment Measure(s)

Understand and explain the theoretical approaches to war and conflict.

Class participation

Exams 1-3 essay and Fill in the Blank Questions

Acquire a basic understanding of some international wars. Use these cases and others to analyze different theoretical approaches to war.

Exam 1—history and basic theory

Exams 2 and 3—Security/Terrorism and Security and Politics

Understand the levels of analysis of international conflict and how they relate to one another.

Exams 1-3

Demonstrate the ability to understand and apply theoretical concepts. Ability to communicate ideas/concepts in a clear and concise manner.

Demonstrate the ability to communicate and cooperate with others using the theoretical perspectives discussed in class.

Class participation

3 Exams (Essay and 25 Full In The Blank Questions) per Exam

Acquire a basic understanding of some International Wars, Security regarding Terrorism, Security related to World Politics

Exam 1

Why Nations Go To War

Exams 2

Terrorism and Counterterrorism

Exams 3

International Politics on the World Stage

Class Lecture and Reading Plan

SECTION I

Week 1

Tues 1/31 **Introduction:**

Thurs 02/02 :

WWI: Chapter 1

WWII: Chapter 2

Week 2

Tues 2/07:

Korea: Chapter 3

Vietnam: Chapter 4

Thurs 2/09 :

India and Pakistan: Chapter 5

Wars in the Middle East: Chapters 6

Week 4

Tues 2/14 :

The Sixty Years War in The Holy Land: Chapter 7

Thurs 2/16

The War Lover: Chapter 8

New Wars for a New Century: Chapter 9

Why Nations Go To War: Chapter 10

Tues 2/21 Exam 1

Week 5

Book : Terrorism and Counterterrorism

Thurs 2/21 :

Definition Terrorism: Chapter 1

Understanding the Facilitators of Modern Terrorism: Chapter 2

Tues 2/21

The New Terrorism : Chapter 3

Religion and the Intersection with Terrorism: Chapter 4

Week 6

Thurs 2/23

Evolving Methods and Modes of Attack: Chapter 5

The Challenges of Terrorism to a Free Society: Chapter 6

Tues 2/28

Strategies for Combating Terrorism: Chapter 7

Eclectic : Approaches to Countering Terrorism: Chapter 8

Week 7

Thurs 3/02

Winning the war on Terrorism: Chapter 9

Counterterrorism in a Post-bin Laden World: Chapter 10

Exam 2 Tues 3/07

Book 3 – International Politics on the World Stage

Week 8

Thurs 3/9

Thinking and Caring about World Politics- Chapter 1

The Evolution of World Politics- Chapter 2

Thurs 3/14

Levels of Analysis and Foreign Policy- Chapter 3

Nationalism: The Traditional Orientation-Chapter 4

Week 9

Tues 3/16

Globalism-Chapter 5

Week 8 SPRING BREAK (March 20 - Saturday, March 25, 2017)

Week 10

Tues 3/28:

National State- Chapter 6

Intergovernmental Organizations- Chapter 7

Week 11

Thurs 4/06

National Power and Statecraft- Chapter 8

International Law and Justice- Chapter 9

Week 12

Thurs 4/13

National Security- Chapter 10

Week 13

Thurs 4/25:

International Security- Chapter 11

Week 14

Tues 5/02:

National Economic Competition-Chapter 12

Week 15

Tues 5/09

International Economic Cooperation- Chapter 13

Week 15

Thurs 05/11: **THIRD EXAM**

-HAVE A GREAT SUMMER BREAK!