

INTL 4220: INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT
Spring 2007
MWF 12:20 pm to 1:10 pm
Baldwin 264

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Course Objectives

“The commerce and industry of a people no longer depends on the expansion of its political frontiers...military power is socially and economically futile, and can have no relation to the prosperity of the people exercising it...it is impossible for one nation to seize by force the wealth or trade of another – to enrich itself by subjugating, or imposing its will by force on another...in short, war, even when victorious, can no longer achieve those aims for which peoples strive.” – Norman Angell (1913, one year prior to the outbreak of the First World War)

In this course, we will investigate the outbreak of interstate war. This phenomenon, though relatively rare, has proven remarkably resilient over the years. On a number of occasions, social, economic and technological evolutions have led leaders and scholars alike to underestimate the likelihood of interstate conflict. As recently as 2002, Robert Jervis argued that *“War among the leading great powers – the most developed states of the United States, Western Europe and Japan – will not occur in the future, and indeed is no longer a source of concern for them.”* Indeed, forms of “non-traditional” violence such as ethnic conflict, global terrorism, civil war and genocide have grown in frequency in recent years. But we need only consider ongoing tension between rivals like India and Pakistan, China and Japan, or Israel and Iran to see potential flashpoints for interstate conflict. Should these – or other – states escalate to the point of outright war, the human and material costs would be staggering.

Substantively, this course will help you answer the broad question: What causes war? In the first half of the course, major theories of international conflict will be addressed, with explanations based on human nature, psychology, group interest, government-type, arms races and the distribution of power in the international system. In the second half of the course, theories will be applied to three major cases of interstate confrontation (The First World War, Second World War and Cuban Missile Crisis) – two of which ended in war and one which did not. From a practical standpoint, the course is designed around two writing-intensive exams that will not only challenge your ability to comprehend the reading and lecture material, but also your ability to produce a clear, persuasive argument in a limited amount of time.

Course Requirements

1. Attendance and Participation (20%): You are expected to come to every class meeting, with the assigned reading completed and ready to contribute. Although the course will include lectures, we will spend much of our time engaging in classroom discussion and debates. Your grade in this area will be based on your overall contribution to the course. If you are hesitant to participate in class, the WebCT discussion board is an excellent way for you to communicate your ideas and comments. Obviously, you cannot participate if you don't attend class, so your grade also depends on your physical presence. I will take attendance every day. You are allowed three unexcused absences over the course of the semester. For each additional absence, you will lose 10% of your grade in this area (in other words, two percent for the course as a whole).

2. Midterm Examination (40%): The midterm examination for this course will take place over the span of three consecutive class meetings at roughly the midpoint of the semester. On each of the three days, you will be presented with one essay question to answer during that 50-minute class. I will score all three essays, with the two highest scores counting toward your midterm grade. The week prior to the midterm, there will be no assigned reading, and we will watch a movie (*The Fog of War*) in class.

3. Final Examination (40%): The final examination will take place from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm on Wednesday, May 2nd, 2007. The exam will be cumulative – you will be asked to apply one or more theories we have covered in class to one or more cases of international conflict. You will write one answer from the two options provided to you, and you will have the entire three-hour period to complete your answer.

Reading Material

There are three required books for this course, all of which can be purchased at the UGA bookstore. Online booksellers like Amazon (amazon.com), Barnes and Noble (barnesandnoble.com) and Powell's Books (powells.com) may also have these titles in stock. The reading for this course is not overwhelming, so I do expect a high level of comprehension when it comes to what is assigned. I also encourage you to monitor current news relating to interstate conflict. Some good, free sites include the New York Times (www.nytimes.com), Christian Science Monitor (www.csmonitor.com) and the BBC (www.bbc.co.uk).

Cashman, Greg. *What Causes War? An Introduction to Theories of International Conflict*. Lanham, MA: Lexington Books, 1993.

Kagan, Donald. *On the Origins of War and the Preservation of Peace*. New York: Doubleday, 1995.

Waltz, Kenneth N. *Man, the State and War: A Theoretical Analysis*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1959.

Course Policies

1. Citizenship: You are expected to be a good citizen in this course. This includes behavior toward other seminar participants as well as your own academic work. Cases of academic dishonesty will be dealt with according to the University's guidelines. Make it easy on everyone - don't plagiarize, use work from previous courses, cheat on exams or engage in other conduct that violates the University's *Culture of Honesty*. Each student should take the time to read the *Culture of Honesty* handbook (<http://www.uga.edu/~ovpi/honesty/ah.pdf>).
2. Disability: The University of Georgia seeks to provide students with disabilities the opportunity to fully participate in educational programs and services. In keeping with this philosophy, it is University policy that students with documented disabilities receive reasonable accommodations through access to classroom information. I am more than happy to work with the UGA Disability Resource Center in order to facilitate your performance in this class. Please consult their website (www.dissvcs.uga.edu) for policies and procedures.
3. Absences: Absences will be considered unexcused unless they are due to a university obligation of which I am previously notified, or if I am provided with written, official (e.g. doctor/hospital note) documentation explicitly stating that a student was unable to attend class.

Course Schedule

PART ONE: INTRODUCTION

1. Introduction to the Study of War

Theory, Empirical Study and the Historical Approach

Waltz: 1-15

Cashman: 1-13

Kagan: 1-13

2. Ancient Wars

The Peloponnesian War 431-404 BC

Kagan: 15-79

The Second Punic War 218-201 BC

Kagan: 232-280

PART TWO: THEORIES OF WAR: THREE IMAGES AND THE LEVELS OF ANALYSIS

3. The First Image: Humans

International Conflict & Human Behavior

Waltz: 16-41

Implications of the First Image

Waltz: 42-79

Theories of Human Aggression

Cashman: 14-35

Psychological Explanations

Cashman: 36-76

4. The Second Image: The State

International Conflict & the Internal Structure of States

Waltz: 80-123

Implications of the Second Image

Waltz: 124-158

Governmental Decision Making

Cashman: 77-123

States and War

Cashman: 124-159

5. The Third Image: The System

International Conflict & International Anarchy

Waltz: 159-186

Implications of the Third Image

Waltz: 187-223

International Interaction: Stimulus-Response Theory and Arms Races

Cashman: 160-192

International Interaction: Game Theory and Deterrence

Cashman: 193-223

Theories of Anarchy

Cashman: 224-253

Cyclical and Structural Theories

Cashman: 254-278

6. Movie: The Fog of War (One Week)

Eleven Lessons about War from the Life of Robert McNamara

No Reading, Prepare for Midterm Examinations

7. Midterm Examination (One Week)

Day 1: The First Image (in class; answer one of two)

Day 2: The Second Image (in class; answer one of two)

Day 3: The Third Image (in class; answer one of two)

PART THREE: APPLICATION OF THEORY TO CASES

8. The First World War 1914-1918

The Emergence of Germany

Kagan: 81-114

The Character of the Peace

Kagan: 114-145
The Road to War
Kagan: 145-183
The Final Crisis
Kagan: 183-205
The Causes of the War
Kagan: 205-231

9. The Second World War 1939-1945

The Legacy of 1918
Kagan: 281-297
Testing the Peace
Kagan: 297-334
Hitler's First Steps
Kagan: 334-366
Escalation and Response
Kagan: 366-388
Munich and Appeasement
Kagan: 388-413
The Causes of the War
Kagan: 413-436

10. Near-Miss: The Cuban Missile Crisis

The Cold War as Context
Kagan: 437-456
Khrushchev versus Kennedy
Kagan: 456-507
Thirteen Days
Kagan: 507-546
Causes of the Crisis
Kagan: 546-565

11. Final Examination (12:00 pm to 3:00 pm; Wednesday, May 2nd, 2007)

Note: This syllabus is a general plan for the course; it may be necessary to make adjustments to the course schedule, assignments or grading policies. That said, I will do my very best to adhere to what is written in this document.