

POL 2621 WAR & PEACE
SPRING 2008 DR JOES

THE NATURE OF THIS COURSE:

War is that activity which most distinguishes international relations from all other forms of human intercourse. It has been the principal determinant in the shaping of the modern state.

The study of war, and the strategic principles undergirding it, makes the world more intelligible. Indeed, a knowledge of history and politics without a basic acquaintance with war and strategy is a contradiction. The study of these subjects is also a path to practical wisdom: as Aristotle observed in his *Rhetoric*, responsible citizenship requires an ability to make informed judgments on military expenditures, alliances, and force commitments. As Clausewitz wrote: "War is the continuation of politics with other means." In today's United States, inadequate military budgets, declining attention to global affairs, and increasing world instability make familiarity with the sources and nature of International and intranational conflict more urgent than ever.

In this post-cold war period it is often stated that war between or among major powers is no longer a serious possibility. One heard similar sentiments in the years right after World War II. Whatever one's present judgment on the likelihood of armed conflict between major powers, it is clear that neither war nor preparation for war is about to disappear from the world. Threats to peace and order abound: one has but to glance at the Middle East, the 38th parallel, the Indo-Pakistan border, or the Taiwan Strait. Weapons of mass destruction become ever more available. Internal conflict abounds: see the Iraqis, the Bosnians, the Armenians, the Chechens, the Colombians, the Kurds, the Afghans, the Somalis, etc. Population growth and immigration aggravate ethnic tensions. Nor is it clear that democratic institutions will survive much beyond the year 2015 in Russia, India and other places. Meanwhile China has increased its military expenditure by fifty percent over the past several years, and Japan ponders a fundamental restructuring of its military capabilities. At the moment it is uncertain that the United States would become heavily involved in any of these trouble areas, but it is quite certain that Americans will care very much whether these conflicts expand, and who wins.

In this course we will base our approach to this most fundamental of topics on the comparative method outlined by John Stuart Mill in his *System of Logic*. We will seek guidance from classical wisdom, attend to questions of ethics, and employ *explication de texte*. *Students who cannot or will not commit to serious reading should not take this course.*

EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

Students successfully completing this course will be conversant with:

- *The influence of war in human development, and especially in the shaping of states in the past century;
- *The principal explanations for the outbreak of wars;
- *The basic components of strategy in war, including political, military, economic, cultural and geographical;
- *The concept of strategic culture;
- *The respective strategic cultures of many different societies, from the Athenians and the Romans to the Soviets and the Israelis, from 16th century Spain to 21st century United States of America.

REQUIRED READINGS:

Members of the course need to acquire and master:

Blainey, *The Causes of War* (3d edition)
Murray et al., *The Making of Strategy*

GRADING:

Grades are based on two examinations and an original research paper, the values of which are 35%-35%-30%, as well as attendance (see below). *A student who misses an examination without prior permission or subsequent satisfactory documentation will receive a grade of F for the examination; no exceptions.*

ORIGINAL PAPER:

For the written term assignment, the student will submit a comparative analysis of two books from the list below. The paper should be of approximately eight pages of text, in aerial 12 font or smaller; college-level in appearance, expression and structure; and in accord with the *Chicago Manual of Style*, especially with regard to citation. The University policy on plagiarism is of course in effect; the student therefore needs to understand what *plagiarism* means. Ignoring these requirements will entail serious grade penalties, up to and including failure for the assignment. The instructor is of course available to discuss suitable selections and approaches with individual students. The forward-looking student will strive to prepare a paper of sufficient quality to be suitable as a writing sample to post-graduate institutions or prospective employers. Paper are due in hard copy Friday, April 18, 3:00 PM. Late penalty: three points per day including week-

ends; *no exceptions, no extensions*. Papers delivered to my office on week-ends will count as delivered on the following Monday.

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance at all class meetings is the norm. Attendance means not merely physical presence but alert and mature involvement. There is no maximum number of “cuts”, but frequent absence (more than five) indicates a lack of mature commitment incompatible with high grades. Habitual lateness is disruptive, discourteous to everyone, and hence not acceptable. Not being present when role is taken constitutes an absence. *Frequent lateness, frequent absence and/or manifest lack of involvement will negatively impact the final grade.*

OFFICE HOURS:

My office is 106 Barbelin. Students are cordially welcomed MWF afternoons. Except for true emergencies, I cannot commit to replying in a timely manner to every e-mail or telephone message.

OUTLINE OF THE COURSE: (This is an approximation)

WEEKS BEGIN JANUARY 14

WEEK 1: *AN INTRODUCTION TO WAR*

READ: Blainey, pp. VI - 67

WEEK 2: *THE WEB OF WAR*

READ: Blainey, pp. 68 - 146

WEEK 3: *WHO MAKES WARS?*

READ: Blainey, pp.146 -228

WEEK 4: *VARIETIES OF WAR AND SUMMATION*

READ: Blainey, pp. 228 - 296

WEEK 5: *STRATEGY IN CLASSICAL TIMES*

READ: Murray, pp. 1 - 84

WEEK 6: *THE SPANISH AND THE ENGLISH, 1556-1713*

READ: Murray, pp. 115 - 178

WEEK 7: *THE FRENCH AND THE AMERICANS, 1661-1865*

READ: Murray, pp.178 – 242

[MIDSEMESTER EXAMINATION]

WEEK 8: *THE PRUSSIANS AND THE BRITISH, 1871-1918*
 READ: Murray, pp. PP. 242 - 307

WEEK 9: *THE ITALIANS AND THE GERMANS, 1882-1945*
 READ: Murray, pp. 307 - 393

WEEK 10: *THE BRITISH AND THE AMERICANS, 1919-1945*
 READ: Murray, pp. 393-466

WEEK 11: *THE FRENCH AND THE SOVIETS, 1919-1941*
 READ: Murray, pp. 466 - 534

WEEK 12: *THE ISRAELIS*
 READ: Murray, pp. 534 - 579

WEEK13: *THE AMERICANS NOW, AND SOME CONCLUSIONS*
 READ: Murray, pp. 579-645

[FINAL EXAMINATION]

BOOKS FOR COMPARATIVE ANALYTICAL PAPERS:

An asterisk (*) denotes special recommendation.

SUN TZU, THE ART OF WAR*
 THUCYDIDES, THE PELOPONNESIAN WAR [the Landmark edition)*
 JULIUS CAESAR, COMMENTARIES ON THE GALLIC WAR*
 D. EISENHOWER, CRUSADE IN EUROPE
 MICHAEL GRANT, THE ARMY OF THE CAESARS
 CLAUSEWITZ, ON WAR, BOOKS ONE, THREE AND EIGHT *
 F. ANDERSON, CRUCIBLE OF WAR*
 THE PENTAGON PAPERS, VOL. 1 (SELECTIONS)
 H. BUTTERFIELD, NAPOLEON*
 A. CAULAINCOURT, WITH NAPOLEON IN RUSSIA
 A. JONES, THE ART OF WAR IN THE WESTERN WORLD.
 J. LUCAS, THE LAST EUROPEAN WAR
 R. WEIGLEY, THE AMERICAN WAY OF WAR.
 N. SPYKMAN, AMERICA'S STRATEGY IN WOR,D POLITICS
 S. HUNTINGTON, THE SOLDIER AND THE STATE
 S.E. MORISON, RISING SUN IN THE PACIFIC
 W. DAVIS, LINCOLN'S MEN
 R. WEIGLEY, THE AGE OF BATTLES
 D. STEVENSON, CATAclysm
 C. GRAY, THE LEVERAGE OF SEA POWER
 R. CITINO, FROM BLITZKRIEG TO DESERT STORM
 T. HARRY WILLIAMS, LINCOLN AND HIS GENERALS*

M. VAN CREVELD, COMMAND IN WAR
 K. WALTZ, MAN, THE STATE, AND WAR
 C. BARNETT, ENGAGE THE ENEMY MORE CLOSELY
 C. POWELL, MY AMERICAN JOURNEY
 G. GALLAGHER, THE CONFEDERATE WAR
 S. WALT, REVOLUTION AND WAR
 J. HARSH, CONFEDERATE TIDE RISING*
 G. PARKER, GRAND STRATEGY OF PHILIP 11
 H. HATTAWAY AND A. JONES, HOW THE NORTH WON
 R. BERINGER, WHY THE SOUTH LOST THE CIVIL WAR
 P. PARET, ED., MAKERS OF MODERN STRATEGY (SELECTED CHAPTERS)
 E. EARLE, MAKERS OF MODERN STRATEGY (SELECTED CHAPTERS)
 B. H. LIDDELL HART, STRATEGY*
 B. H. LIDDELL HART, HISTORY OF THE SECOND WORLD WAR
 BARBARA TUCHMAN, THE GUNS OF AUGUST*
 JOHN KEEGAN, THE FACE OF BATTLE
 JOHN KEEGAN, A HISTORY OF WARFARE
 JOHN KEEGAN, THE PRICE OF ADMIRALTY
 E. MAY, STRANGE VICTORY
 RICHARD OVERY, WHY THE ALLIES WON*
 MICHAEL HOWARD, THE CAUSES OF WARS
 SAMUEL GRIFFITH, MAO TSE-TUNG ON GUERRILLA WAR
 CHALMERS JOHNSON, AUTOPSY ON PEOPLE'S WAR*
 BERNARD FALL, HELL IN A VERY SMALL PLACE
 BERNARD FALL, STREET WITHOUT JOY
 MAHAN, THE INFLUENCE OF SEAPOWER UPON HISTORY
 ANTHONY JAMES JOES, THE WAR FOR SOUTH VIET NAM
 ANTHONY JAMES JOES, AMERICA AND GUERRILLA WARFARE
 ANTHONY JAMES JOES, RESISTING REBELLION
 DON OBERDORFER, TET!
 WILLIAM H. MCNEIL, THE PURSUIT OF POWER
 G. MATTINGLY, THE ARMADA*
 JOHN MUELLER, RETREAT FROM DOOMSDAY
 DAVID KAISER, POLITICS AND WAR
 D. REITZ, COMMANDO
 LEN DEIGHTON, BLITZKRIEG*
 H & M SPROUT, THE RISE OF AMERICAN NAVAL POWER
 THEODORE ROPP, WAR IN THE MODERN WORLD
 L. SORLEY, A BETTER WAR
 M. WINDROW, THE LAST VALLEY

NOTE to all future National Security Advisers, Secretaries of Defense and State, Directors of Intelligence Agencies, members of the Senate and House Armed Services and Foreign Affairs committees, etc: Churchill, *The Second World War* is in itself equal to a six-credit concentration on international politics, strategy and leadership. A student may select any two volumes of Churchill's account for a comparative analysis.

A student may select a book or books not on this list *with the permission of the instructor*.