Political Science 370
International Conflict
Fridays 9:00-11:40 a.m.
Bolton B-92
Fall 2012

Instructor: Dr. Kristin Trenholm
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Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00-11:50 a.m. and by appointment.
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Final exam: Friday, December 14, 2012, 10:00-12:00 noon. Final Paper (optional) is due December 7, 2012, at the beginning of class. I do not accept late papers.

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) participate in class discussion. For this three-credit course, students are expected to devote six hours per week reading, studying, and working on assignments.

In assessing the various authors’ works, students should be able to answer the following questions: 1) What does the writer seek to explain? 2) What evidence does the author offer in support of the argument? 3) What are the key concepts? 4) From what theoretical perspective does each argument originate? 5) Are there counter-arguments that can be made? 6) What do you make of the author’s overall argument?

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. (See the PS 370 Research Paper Guide for more information.)

Each student must present on three class discussion questions. 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 7th week of class (Friday, October 19, 2012). The final exam will be given during the regularly scheduled final exam time (Friday, December 14, 2012, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.).**

*Please note that because this class meets on Fridays, there is a chance that the scheduled final exam period for PS 370 may conflict with a Monday and Wednesday morning course at 9:00 or 9:30 a.m. Please check your final exam schedule for all of your courses so that alternative arrangements can be made well before the final exam period.

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. For additional information about UWM University policies see http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf. This web site contains a list of University policies regarding such issues as incompletes, grade appeal procedures, and policies about academic misconduct, among other things.

**Required Readings**
The required textbooks are available in the bookstore:


Other required readings are available on electronic reserve in Golda Meir Library, at:
<https://millib.wisconsin.edu/cgiin/Pwebrecon.cgi?DB=local&PAGE=rbSearch>

- Thucydides, “The Peloponnesian War, Melian Dialogue (Book 5, Chapter 17).”

Also available at: <http://www.wellesley.edu/ClassicalStudies/CLCV102/Thucydides--MelianDialogue.html>
BBC News, “From Scandal to Rocket Raids: Mixed Response from GOP.” Also available at:  
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/events/crisis_in_the_gulf/latest_news/236582.stm>


Huntington, Samuel P., “Arms Races: Prerequisites and Results.” Reprinted in Betts, third edition (pp. 391-411).


There are also a number of **required films** (and/or sections of documentaries) that have been placed on media reserve as part of the course. These movies are listed both on the syllabus and are also briefly discussed on the PS 370 Media Reserve hand-out.

**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 (September 7): 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), Recent Wars (pp. 69-79), Lessons of Intervention (pp. 97-104), German Reaction to Versailles and the Rise of Hitler (pp. 25-30), and the Manchurian Crisis (pp. 202-205).

II. Causes and Correlates of War

Week #2 (September 14): Individual and State Level Explanations: Human Nature and Realism.

3. E-reserve or web: Thucydides, “The Peloponnesian War, Melian Dialogue (Book 5, Chapter 17).” Available at:

4. Walzer: Against Realism (pp. 3-20).

Regime Types, Liberalism and Democratic Peace Theory.
1. Ziegler: Democratic Peace (pp.137-140).
2. Betts: Kant, Immanuel. “Perpetual Peace.” (pp. 136-142); Doyle, Michael W., “Liberalism and World Politics (pp. 149-164) and Keohane, Robert O. and Nye, Joseph S., “Power and Interdependence.” (pp. 164-171).

Week #3 (September 21): **QUIZ #1.** Nationalism and Civilizations.
1. Ziegler: State and Non-State Actors (pp. 105-115); Nationalism (pp. 133-135); Terrorism (pp.147-152); Re-read Some Recent Wars (pp. 69-79 and pp. 95-104).

Civilizations.

Week #4 (September 28): Diversionary Theory and Transnational Tension.
3. Media reserve: Just for fun, watch the movie “Wag the Dog.” This comedy/drama is based upon the book *American Hero* by Larry Beinhart. The film is about a President caught in a sex scandal just before the election. The Administration decides to create a fictitious war to divert attention away from the scandal and top Hollywood producers are called to the White House to “produce” the war.

Transnational Tension.
2. Betts: Homer Dixon, Thomas F. “Environmental Changes and Causes of Acute Conflict” (pp. 607-621) and De Soysa, Indra, “Ecoviolence” (pp. 629-640).

Week #5 (October 5): Territorial Claims.
1. Ziegler: Chapter 4, Wars in the Middle East (pp. 53-68).
2. Walzer: The Rights of Political Communities (pp.53-58).

Anarchy, the Security Dilemma, and Arms Races.
1. Ziegler: Sovereignty (pp. 108-110), Anarchy (pp. 115-118), Arms races (pp. 221-228).
2. E-reserve: Huntington, Samuel P., “Arms Races: Prerequisites and Results.” from Betts, third edition (pp. 391-411).

Week #6 (October 12): Balance of Power Theory.
1. Betts: Blainey, Geoffrey, “Power, Culprits, and Arms” (pp.120-132).

Midterm: October 19, 2012
III. Methods and Ethics of War
Week #7 (October 19) Aggression and Neutrality and the Midterm Exam.
2. Media reserve: Hew Strachan’s “The First World War.” Disc 1. “To Arms” (also discussed Week #11) and “Under the Eagle” which shows the German invasion of Belgium and France.

Week #8 (October 26) Noncombatant Immunity and Military Necessity, and War Against Civilians: Sieges and Blockades.
1. Walzer: Chapter 9 (pp.138-159).
3. Walzer: Chapter 10 (pp.160-175).

Week #9 (November 2): Guerrilla War, Terrorism and Unconventional War.
1. Walzer: Chapter 11 (pp.176-196).
2. Betts: Bin Laden, Osama, “Speech to the American People” (pp. 511-516), Tse-Tong, Mao. “On Guerrilla Warfare” (pp. 539-549), and Sageman, Marc, “Jihadi Networks of Terror.” (pp. 516-530).

Supreme Emergency: The Decision to Bomb German Cities and Japan.
1. Walzer: Chapter 16 (pp. 251-268).
   a. War: Episode One: “A Necessary War.” Go to main menu and choose “scene selection.” Chose “Pearl Harbor” and also “We Haven’t Got a Chance.”
   b. War: Episode Six: “The Ghost Front.” Go to the main menu and choose “scene selection.” Choose “Our Boys.” This section discusses the American and British bombing of the German cities and the American fire-bombing campaign against Tokyo.


IV. Outcomes and Consequences of War

Week #10 (November 9): QUIZ #2 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).

Week #11 (November 16): Recurrent Conflict and Rivalry.
   1. Ziegler: Chapters 1 and 2, France-Germany Rivalry (pp. 5-31).
   3. Ziegler: Chapter 3 (pp. 35-49) and pp. 89-95 (US-Soviet Cold War).


V. Prevention or Limitation of War

Week #13 (November 30): QUIZ #3 Nuclear Proliferation and Deterrence I: General Principles.
   1. Ziegler: Allies and Extended Deterrence (pp. 141-143).
   2. Walzer: Reprisals (pp. 207-222).

Proliferation & Deterrence II: Weapons of Mass Destruction.
   1. Ziegler: Proliferation (pp. 140-141, 143-147).


Optional Research Papers Due.

   1. Ziegler: Chapter 13, Collective Security (pp. 199-220) and Chapter 17, The United Nations (pp. 267-281).
2. Betts: Mueller, John. “The Obsolescence of Major War” (pp. 249-261) and Mearsheimer, John, “Why We Will Soon Miss the Cold War” (pp. 18-35).
3. Ziegler: Chapter 20, Conclusions (pp. 303-305).

Final Exam: Friday, December 14, 2012, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon.