Political Science 379: Morality, Conflict and War
Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 9:30-10:45 a.m.
Curtin Hall 124
Spring 2020

Instructor: Dr. Kristin Trenholm
Office: Bolton Hall Room 630
Office hours: Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:00-3:00 p.m. and by appointment.
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Course Description
This course examines the conditions that make for war and peace in world politics, and also considers relevant moral and ethical arguments about war. In the first part of the course, we examine historical patterns and trends in warfare, as well as the many causes of war. In the second part, we consider the morality and ethics of war, the outcomes and consequences of war, and proposals to help prevent or limit war.

Having completed this course, students should be familiar with many factors that seem to mitigate or exacerbate military conflict between states. Students should be able to apply such factors to real-world scenarios—such as historical cases of war or current conflicts in troubled areas of the world. Students will also be able to thoughtfully consider moral and ethical arguments relevant to the onset, conduct and consequences of conflict and war.

Class Preparation
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.

In assessing various authors’ works, students should be able to answer the following questions: 1) What does the author 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?

For this three-credit course, students (on average) should expect to spend 144.5 hours on this course. This class meets twice a week for 75 minutes, for a total of 37.5 hours of required lecture and discussion time. Students should expect to spend approximately 70 hours reading the course material and watching the required films. There are also three essay quizzes, a student presentation, and discussion notes that will require approximately 12 hours. Students should reserve at least 25 hours to study for the midterm and final exams.

Grades
Grades will be based on the best two of three short essay quizzes (worth 8.33% each), attendance and participation (8.34%), one midterm exam (35%), and one final exam (40%).

Interested students may choose to write a seven-to-ten-page research paper on a topic approved by me. In this case, the research paper counts for 20% and the final exam 20%. The
research paper guide with more information and specific guidance is available at the end of the syllabus. *The optional research paper is due Tuesday, May 5, 2020, at the beginning of class.* I do not accept late papers.

**Student Presentations, Participation, and Attendance**

Each student must present on two class discussion questions and serve as a discussant for one other. Students presenting (or providing written commentary) in a given week should talk to me after class on Thursday the week before, in order to agree on what will be debated or discussed. Each student making a presentation or providing commentary will prepare their own talking points and these notes are due after class on the day that the presentations/discussions are scheduled. Students that miss four class periods will receive a zero for the 8.34% of their participation and attendance grade.

There will be no make-up quizzes, although one quiz may be dropped. No make-up exams will be given without a documented medical or University accepted excuse. 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 miss an exam, please contact 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 the exam, or you will not be allowed to take a make-up exam. 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* (Tuesday, March 3, 2020). *The final exam will be given during the scheduled final exam time* (Thursday, May 14, 2020, 7:30-9:30 a.m.).

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

**Required Readings and Films**

The three required textbooks, available to purchase online at [http://www.uwm@ecampus.com](http://www.uwm@ecampus.com) are:


I have placed a copy of all of the required textbooks on two-hour reserve in the UWM library. There are also a number of additional required readings for the course. All of these required readings are listed on the syllabus and are available on our course Canvas site (under “content”).

Additionally, there are a number of **required films** (and/or sections of documentaries) that have been placed on media reserve in the UWM library as part of the course. These movies are listed
both on the syllabus and are also briefly discussed in the PS 379: Morality, Conflict and War Media Reserve Guide. Please take notes while you watch these films and strive to incorporate some of this material (where relevant) into your exam essays.

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 and 2 (Tuesday, 1/21 and Thursday, 1/23): 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), and 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 (Tuesday, 1/28): Individual-Level Explanations: Human Nature and Regime Type: Realism.
   4. Walzer: Against Realism (pp. 3-20).

(Thursday, 1/30): Regime Type: Liberalism and Democratic Peace Theory.
   1. Ziegler: Democratic Peace (pp.137-140).
   2. Betts: Kant, Immanuel. “Perpetual Peace.” (pp. 138-144); Doyle, Michael W. “Liberalism and World Politics.” (pp. 151-166) and Keohane, Robert O. and Nye, Joseph S., “Power and Interdependence.”(pp. 167-174).

Week 3 (Tuesday, 2/4): Nationalism and Identity
   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).

(Thursday, 2/6): Civilizations. QUIZ #1
Week 4 (Tuesday, 2/11): 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.

(Thursday, 2/13): Transnational Tension.

Week 5 (Tuesday, 2/18): Territorial Claims.
1. Ziegler: Chapter 4, Wars in the Middle East (pp. 53-68).
2. Walzer: The Rights of Political Communities (pp.53-58).

(Thursday, 2/20): Anarchy, the Security Dilemma, and Arms Races.
1. Ziegler: Sovereignty (pp. 108-110), Anarchy (pp. 115-118), Arms races (pp. 221-228).

Week 6 (Tuesday, 2/25): Balance of Power Theory.
1. Betts: Blainey, Geoffre, “Power, Culprits, and Arms.” (pp.121-133).
2. Walzer: Preemptive War and The Balance of Power, Preemptive Strikes (pp. 75-85).

(Thursday, 2/28): Intervention.

Week 7 (Tuesday, 3/3): Midterm Exam

III. Methods and Ethics of War
Week 7 (Thursday, 3/5): Aggression and Neutrality.
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 (Tuesday, 3/10): Noncombatant Immunity and Military Necessity.
1. Walzer: Chapter 9 (pp.138-159).

(Thursday, 3/12): War Against Civilians: Sieges and Blockades.
1. Walzer: Chapter 10 (pp.160-175).

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Week 9 (Tuesday, 3/24): Guerrilla War, Terrorism and Unconventional War.
1. Walzer: Chapter 11 (pp.176-196).

(Thursday, 3/26): 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” and “Fire Storm.” 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 (Tuesday, 3/31): QUIZ #2 Costs of War; Winners and Losers.
1. Ziegler: Iran-Iraq War (pp. 79-84).

(Thursday, 4/2): Costs of War; Winners and Losers Continued.
1. Walzer: The Tyranny of War (pp. 29-33); War’s End and the Importance of Winning (pp. 109-124).
Week 11 (Tuesday, 4/7): Recurrent Conflict and Rivalry.
1. Ziegler: Chapters 1 and 2, Franco-German Rivalry (pp. 5-31).
   The film discusses the origins of the Great War.

(Thursday, 4/9): Recurrent Conflict and Rivalry Continued.
1. Ziegler: Chapter 3 (pp. 35-49) and pp. 89-95 (US-Soviet Cold War).

V. Prevention or Limitation of War

Week 12 (Tuesday, 4/14: QUIZ #3 Proliferation and Deterrence I: General Principles.
1. Ziegler: Allies and Extended Deterrence (pp. 141-143).
2. Walzer: Reprisals (pp. 207-222).

(Thursday, 4/16): Proliferation & Deterrence II: Weapons of Mass Destruction.
1. Ziegler: Proliferation (pp. 140-141, 143-147).
   (pp. 418-430).
   July/August 2012, pp.2-5.

Week 13 (Tuesday, 4/21): Weapons of Mass Destruction Continued.
2. Canvas: Joffee, Joseph and Davis, James W. “Less than Zero: Bursting the New
   Disarmament Bubble.” Foreign Affairs. 90:1 January/February 2011.
3. Canvas: Blair, Bruce, Brown, Matt, and Burt, Richard. “Can Disarmament Work?

(Thursday, 4/23): Arms Control and Disarmament.
1. Ziegler: Disarmament (pp. 228-283).
2. Canvas: Fairbanks, Jr., Charles H. and Abram N. Shulsky. “Arms Control: The
   Historical Experience” (pp. 454-465).
3. Canvas: Reread Huntington, Samuel P. (1958) “Arms Races: Prerequisites and
   Results” in Conflict After the Cold War: Arguments on the Causes of War and Peace,

Week 14 (Tuesday, 4/8): Collective Security
1. Ziegler: Chapter 13, Collective Security (pp. 199-220) and Chapter 17, The United
   Nations (pp. 267-281).
Week 14 (Thursday, 4/30): Peacekeeping

Week 15 (Tuesday, 5/5): Regional Integration and World Government.
1. Ziegler: Chapter 11, Regional Integration (pp. 171-179) and Chapter 10, World Government (pp. 155-168).

(Thursday, 5/7): Threat Assessment: Russian Intervention in Ukraine and Wrapping Things Up.

**Final Exam: Thursday, May 14, 2020, 7:30-9:30 a.m.**