

01:790:324:01: Causes of War
Professor Ewan Harrison
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Office: HH-508

Time: M & Th 10.55-12.15
Place: Remote: - Webex
Office Hours: M 2-3
Phone: Use email

Course Summary

This course offers a critical evaluation of the causes of international conflict. It begins by surveying some of the classic contributions to the study of war and peace by Thucydides, Aquinas, Hobbes, Machiavelli, Kant and Keohane and Nye. The course then examines the historical development of the modern system of states from its origins in the Peace of Westphalia in 1648 until the end of the nineteenth century. The final section of the course looks at the origins of the major international conflicts of the twentieth and twenty-first century, considering the First World War, the Second World War, the Cuban Missile Crisis, and the crisis in trans-Atlantic relations that developed during the 2003 Iraq War. The emphasis throughout the course is on the relevance of the theoretical and empirical material for issues facing contemporary American foreign policy.

Covid Remote Learning Statement

Webex synchronous class. In event that attendance in class is not possible due to sickness or care responsibilities, you must email Professor Harrison to let me know.

Syllabus - Fall 2020

1. (Thurs 3rd Sept) **Overview**

- Course and logistics.

2. (Monday 7th - Labor Day; TUESDAY 8th Sept and Thursday 10th Sept) **Introduction: War and Values**

- Aquinas (Vasquez #6)
- The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Political Thought "Just War" E-Res
- Walzer "Against Realism" E-Res

- Hobbes (Vasquez #29)
- Kagan "The Power Divide" E-Res
- Kennedy "The Eagle Has Landed" E-Res

- Thucydides Book I pp.35-123 (origins of the Peloponnesian War) [read in advance for next week]

3. (14^h & 17th Sept) **Thucydides and the Peloponnesian War**

- Thucydides Book I pp.35-123 (origins of the Peloponnesian War) [carried over from last week]

- Thucydides Book II pp.124-168 (Spartan invasion; Funeral Oration; Athenian Plague; Policy of Pericles)

- Book III pp. 194-223 (Mytilenian Debate); 150-155 (Corcyraean Revolution)

- Book IV pp.265-290 (Battle of Pylos)

- Book V pp.267-400 (Melian Dialogue)

- Book VI: pp.408-429 (Launching of Sicilian Expedition)

4. (21st & 24th Sept) **Machiavelli and the Origins of Modern Realism**

-Machiavelli, The Prince

5. (28th Sept and 1st Oct) **Kant's "Perpetual Peace"** (*Quiz #1*)

- Kant, "Perpetual Peace" in On History

- Maoz and Russett (Vasquez #51)

6. (5th and 8th Oct) **Interdependence and International Institutions**

- Keohane and Nye Power and Interdependence chs 1, 2 and 10

7. (12th and 15th Oct) **Westphalia, Sovereignty and the Balance of Power**

- Jackson and Owens E-Res

- Morse E-Res

8. (19th and 22nd Oct) **The Napoleonic Wars and the 1815 Settlement** (*Mid-term exam*)

- Thompson E-Res

- Gulick E-Res

9. (26th and 29th Oct) **The Nineteenth Century Concert of Europe**

- Elrod E-Res

- Richardson E-Res

10. (2nd and 5th Nov) **Levels of Analysis and Contemporary Realism**

- Morgenthau E-Res
- Waltz (Vasquez #39)
- Gilpin E-Res

11. (9th and 12th Nov) **The Onset of World War I and World War II (Part a)**

- Joll, Origins of the First World War, chs. 1-5
- Nye "The Balance of Power and World War 1" in Understanding International Conflicts
- Sir Eyre Crowe (memorandum) E-Res

- Calvocoressi & Wint chs 2 & 3
- Nye "The Rise and Fall of Collective Security" (E-res pp.93-103)

12. (16th & 19th Nov) **The Onset of World War II (Part b) and Foreign Policy Decision Making (Part a)**

- Calvocoressi & Wint chs 3-4 E-Res
- Nye "The Rise and Fall of Collective Security" (E-res pp.93-103)

- Allison & Halperin (Vasquez #24)

13. (23rd Nov & THANKSGIVING) - Spare capacity/overspill)

14. (30th Nov & 3rd Dec) **Foreign Policy Decision Making (Part b): The Cuban Missile Crisis**

- Oxford Encyclopedic Companion to World Politics "Cuban Missile Crisis" E-Res
- Allison E-Res
- Jervis (Vasquez #23)

15. (Mon 7th Dec and Thurs 10th Dec) **American Power, Rogue States and Terrorism I**

- Kagan "American Power and the Crisis of Legitimacy" E-Res
- Kennedy "The Eagle Has Landed" E-Res (repeated reading from week 1)

- Walzer - "Anticipations" E-Res (just war theory and pre-emptive strikes)
- Walzer - "The Right Way" E-Res (just war theory and Iraq intervention)

Other Notes:

Please print all readings and bring them to class

Final grade is based on:

Participation 10%

1 quiz @ 20%

1 midterm exam @ 30%

1 final exam @ 40%.

Books to Buy:

*Joseph Nye Understanding International Conflicts (latest edition)

James Joll, The Origins of the First World War (3rd edition)

Immanuel Kant, On History

Niccolo Machiavelli, The Prince

Thucydides, History of the Peloponnesian War (Penguin edition)

Robert Keohane and Joseph Nye Power and Interdependence (3rd edition)

Note:

In addition to the compulsory reading from Nye's excellent book Understanding International Conflicts, I suggest you read Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 and 8 in your own time to supplement your knowledge and understanding at appropriate stages in the course. For example, chapters 1 and 2 will be helpful to read for the first two weeks.

Summary of schedule for course:

Week 1

2

3

4

5 Quiz #1 Set on Thurs 1st Oct (take home, due date tbc early the following week)

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8 Mid-term Exam Thurs 22nd Oct (take home, due date tbc early the following week)

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FINAL EXAM