POLI 433/533 Causes of War Peace (Seminar)

Instructor Fall 2021: Dr. Will Greaves

Course delivery: In the Fall 2021 term, this course will be delivered face-to-face and on campus.

Course description:
What causes war and peace? What are war and peace? These questions are foundational to the discipline of International Relations and this course will examine these questions alongside related questions of international conflict and security. We explore diverse theoretical approaches to the study of war and peace at the individual, state, and international levels of analysis. The course will include a thematic focus on the role of discourse, narrative, and media in shaping human understanding of social events. We will examine texts that reflect and represent different types of popular and academic understandings of war and peace; and focus on the causes of conflict in two historical case studies -- the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Rwandan Genocide.

Prerequisite: None

Course outcomes/objectives:
- Develop written and verbal communication through essay writing and discussion
- Explore different theoretical approaches for understanding war and peace
- Develop a critical awareness of recent trends and current events in war and peace and an appreciation for the relationships between international history, political institutions, individual and collective motivations and contemporary issues related to war and peace
- Analyze accounts of war and peace within global politics, including those from news sources, academia, think-tanks, popular culture and government

Topics may include:
Rationality and conflict
Geography and resources
Identity and violence
Theoretical approaches to the study of conflict

This summary provides an overall sense of the course and is not considered an official course outline. Detailed course outlines will be available for all registered students on the first day of class.