POL1 433/533 Causes of War and Peace
Spring 2020

Department of Political Science
University of Victoria

Lectures: Mondays 10:00 am – 12:50 pm
Location: DTBA357, David Turpin Building

Instructor: Dr. Wilfrid Greaves
Office: A341, David Turpin Building
Office Hours: Wednesdays 10:00-12:00 or by appointment
Email: wgreaves@uvic.ca

Course Overview
What causes war and peace? What are war and peace? These questions are foundational to the discipline of International Relations, and will be examined alongside related questions of international conflict and security. This course explores diverse theoretical approaches to the study of war and peace at the individual, state, and international levels of analysis. It employs an interdisciplinary and pluralistic approach to the subject, including: a thematic focus on the role of discourse, narrative, and media in shaping human understanding of social events; examination of texts that reflect and represent different types of popular and academic understandings of war and peace; and detailed focus on the causes of conflict in two historical case studies: the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Rwandan Genocide.

Course Objectives
The objectives of this course are threefold. The first is to provide students with an advanced understanding of diverse theoretical approaches to the study of conflict, and with diverse methodological tools for engaging with questions across social science. The second is to improve students’ understanding of important historical and contemporary issues in the study of war and peace. The third is to promote development of students’ core academic skills, such as evidence-based research, critical thought, advanced reading, academic writing, and rigorous analysis.

Learning Objectives
By the conclusion of this course, students should have developed:
- an understanding of different theoretical approaches for understanding war and peace;
- a critical awareness of recent trends and current events in war and peace;
- an appreciation for the relationships between international history, political institutions, individual and collective motivations, and contemporary issues related to war and peace;
- the ability to critically analyze accounts of war and peace within global politics, including those from news sources, academia, think-tanks, popular culture and government;
- core undergraduate skills such as effective writing, analysis, and argumentation.

Course Format
The course is composed of one 170 minute lecture per week.
Marking Scheme & Course Requirements

Attendance and Participation – 10%
Critical Readings Review – 20%
Film Analysis #1 – 20%
Film Analysis #2 – 20%
Take Home Exam – 30%

Attendance and Participation (10%): Attendance in class and participation in class discussions are required components of this course. Active participation is expected, and students should come to class prepared to discuss the readings and concepts under examination that week. Students are expected to attend all classes and participate in class discussions.

Critical Readings Review (20%): In the critical readings review, students will critically analyze both the required and additional reading(s) assigned for a single week. The assignment should be approximately 2000 words long, and should: summarize the main argument of each reading; evaluate the readings’ strengths, weaknesses, similarities, differences, and theoretical orientations in relation to each other; and reflect the usefulness or validity of the readings for understanding the causes of war or peace. Critical readings reviews are due in class the week after the readings were assigned. Students will sign up in Week 1, and detailed instructions will be provided in class and on CourseSpaces.

Film Analysis (20% + 20%): Each student is required to write two assignments, each analyzing a different film that will be screened in class. Each analysis should be approximately 2000 words long (plus references), and should employ assigned readings and additional research materials to examine the relationship between the film and the course themes. Detailed instructions for the film analyses will be provided in class.

Take Home Exam (30%): There will be a take-home exam in the course. The exam question will be posted to CourseSpaces at 4 pm on Friday April 3, 2020. Completed exams are due by 4 pm on Monday April 13, 2020.

All written assignments should be printed double-sided using 12pt Times New Roman font with one-inch margins. Assignments should be stapled.

PERCENTAGE GRADING SCALE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Passing Grades</th>
<th>Grade Point Value</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>90 – 100</td>
<td>Exceptional, outstanding and excellent performance. Normally achieved by a minority of students. These grades indicate a student who is self-initiating, exceeds expectation and has an insightful grasp of the subject matter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>85 – 89</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>80 – 84</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>77 – 79</td>
<td>Very good, good and solid performance. Normally achieved by the largest number of students. These grades indicate a good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>73 – 76</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Grade</td>
<td>Grade Point Value</td>
<td>Percentage</td>
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<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>70 – 72</td>
<td>grasp of the subject matter or excellent grasp in one area balanced with satisfactory grasp in the other area.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>65 – 69</td>
<td>Satisfactory, or minimally satisfactory. These grades indicate a satisfactory performance and knowledge of the subject matter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>60 – 64</td>
<td>Satisfactory, or minimally satisfactory. These grades indicate a satisfactory performance and knowledge of the subject matter.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>50 – 59</td>
<td>Marginal Performance. A student receiving this grade demonstrated a superficial grasp of the subject matter.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Failing Grades</th>
<th>Grade Point Value</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0 – 49</td>
<td>Unsatisfactory performance. Wrote final examination and completed course requirements; no supplemental.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0 – 49</td>
<td>Did not write examination or complete course requirements by the end of term or session; no supplemental.</td>
</tr>
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</table>

1. The percentage grading scale applies to all Faculties at the University of Victoria.
2. The percentage grades should be associated with a letter grading schema.
3. A percentage grade for an N grade should be assigned in the following manner:
   **N GRADE**: If a student has not completed the exam, or has not completed the course requirements, but has submitted course requirements that total more than 49% of the total grade for a course, an instructor will assign a percentage grade of 49%.

**COURSE RULES AND POLICIES**

**Communication**: Students with questions or concerns about the course are welcome to contact the professor by email, during office hours, or by appointment. Before asking basic or logistical questions about the course, students should consult the syllabus.

All email communication should be clear and professional, and should include the course code or name in the subject line. **Pro Tips**: Don’t start emails with ‘hey’ or ‘yo’; do use full sentences; do spell your professor’s name correctly; and do sign your name at the end of your message. Before you press send, ask yourself “How does this email make me look in the eyes of the person receiving it?”. Except in extenuating circumstances, the professor will respond to all emails within 48 hours (not including weekends).

**Extensions and make-ups**: Extensions will only be granted for valid and documented medical or personal reasons. If possible, students should discuss extensions with the professor in advance of assignment deadlines.

**NB**: Valid reasons for extensions or make-ups do not include scheduling conflicts with assignments from other courses, work commitments, oversleeping, technical/printing difficulties, hungry pets, commuting/transit problems, hangovers or bad weather, so plan accordingly.

**Late penalties**: Assignments are due at the start of class on the date for which they are assigned. In fairness to students who hand in their work on time, a 1% penalty will be applied to
assignments received after class has started but before 5 pm on the day they are due. After that, late penalty is 2% per late day, *weekends included*, up to a maximum of seven days late. Assignments submitted after 4 pm will be considered submitted on the next workday. Assignments submitted more than one week after they were due will not be accepted without an extension from the instructor.

**Submitting late assignments:** Late assignments should be submitted to the mailbox marked ‘Greaves; in the Department of Political Science, 3rd floor David Turpin Building A. All late work will be time and date stamped and assigned any appropriate late penalties. Remember to submit your work during business hours or no one will be there to receive it, and it will be considered submitted the next workday. Essays will only be accepted by email if prior arrangements have been made with the instructor. Students are required to keep copies of their work until marked assignments have been returned and grades posted on CourseSpaces.

**Writing Resources:** Support for student writing is available through the Centre for Academic Communication: [http://www.uvic.ca/learningandteaching/home/home/centre/](http://www.uvic.ca/learningandteaching/home/home/centre/). They can provide assistance to you in preparing and writing your essays and other assignments for this course.

Students for whom English is a second language can also access support and resources through the English Language Centre: [https://continuingstudies.uvic.ca/elc](https://continuingstudies.uvic.ca/elc).

**CourseSpaces and E-mail:** Students should ensure that they have access to CourseSpaces, as reading materials and course announcements concerning dates and requirements will be posted online. Students should also ensure they have access to a UVic email, and all emails sent to the professor or TA should be from a UVic email account.

**Accessibility:** Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to contact me and/or Centre for Accessible Learning as soon as possible. We will work with you to ensure you can achieve your learning goals in this course. Enquiries are confidential. The Centre for Accessible Learning ([http://www.uvic.ca/services/cal/](http://www.uvic.ca/services/cal/)) is available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations.

**Care Obligations Policy:** If you have an unexpected care obligation during one of our lectures (for example, you lack child care due to a babysitter cancellation or school P.D. day), you are welcome to bring the person under your care with you to lecture, tutorials, or office hours.

**COURSE EXPERIENCE SURVEY (CES)**

I value your feedback on this course. Towards the end of term, as in all other courses at UVic, you will have the opportunity to complete an anonymous survey regarding your learning experience (CES). The survey is vital to providing feedback to me regarding the course and my teaching, as well as to help the department improve the overall program for students in the future. The survey is accessed via MyPage and can be done on your laptop, tablet, or mobile device. I will remind you and provide you with more detailed information nearer the time but please be thinking about this important activity during the course.
PLAGIARISM and ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is intellectual honesty and responsibility for academic work that you submit individually or as a member of a group. It involves commitment to the values of honesty, trust and responsibility. It is expected that students will respect these ethical values in all activities related to learning, teaching, research and service. Therefore, plagiarism and other acts against academic integrity are serious academic offences.

The responsibility of the institution - Instructors and academic units have the responsibility to ensure that standards of academic honesty are met. By doing so, the institution recognizes students for their hard work and assures them that other students do not have an unfair advantage through cheating on essays, exams, and projects.

The responsibility of the student - Plagiarism sometimes occurs due to a misunderstanding regarding the rules of academic integrity, but it is the responsibility of the student to know them. If you are unsure about the standards for citations or for referencing your sources, ask your instructor. Depending on the severity of the case, penalties include a warning, a failing grade, a record on the student’s transcript, or a suspension. It is your responsibility to understand the University’s policy on academic integrity, which can be found on pages 32-34 of the undergraduate calendar.

Plagiarism is not the only form of academic integrity issue that students should be aware of. Other potential offences include, but are not limited to: submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor; making up sources or facts; obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment; using or possessing unauthorized aids on tests and quizzes; looking at someone else’s answers during an exam or test; falsifying institutional documents or grades; falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including doctor’s notes. For further details, please see the (revised) academic integrity policy: http://web.uvic.ca/calendar2017-09/undergrad/info/regulations/academic-integrity.html
LECTURES and READING SCHEDULE

Week 1 (January 6, 2020) – Theory, Explanation, War, and Peace

Week 2 (January 13, 2020) – Anarchy I: States Make War

Additional Reading:

Week 3 (January 20, 2020) – Anarchy II: States Make Peace

Additional Reading:

Week 4 (January 27, 2020) – Animals, Instincts, and Evolution

**Additional Reading:**

**Week 5 (February 3, 2020) – Rationality and Conflict**

**Additional Reading:**

**Week 6 (February 10, 2020) – War on Film I**

• **Film Screening:** Thirteen Days (2000)

**Reading Break (February 17-21, 2020) – No Lectures**

**Week 7 (February 24, 2020) – Gender, Sex, and Violence**
• Film Analysis #1 Due


**Additional Reading:**
Week 8 (March 2, 2020) – Building Peace? Institutions, Democracy, and Power


Additional Reading:


Week 9 (March 9, 2020) – Identity and Violence


Additional Reading:


Week 10 (March 16, 2020) – Case Study: Rwanda

- [Video] “Show Time: The Logic and Power of Violent Display with Lee Ann Fujii,” Available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m3mgt2WSzXI.

Additional Reading:


Week 11 (March 23, 2020) – War on Film II

- Mystery Film Screening

Week 12 (March 30, 2020) – Geography and Resources


Additional Reading:

April 3, 2020
• Film Analysis #2 Due
• Take Home Exam Released