

# PSCI 3123: War and Peace / Spring 2023

Tu Th 3:30 – 4:45 pm, Humanities 250

Canvas course page: <https://canvas.colorado.edu/courses/89251>

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## COURSE DESCRIPTION AND LEARNING GOALS

This course examines the conditions that make for war and peace between countries. Special emphasis is given to the logical and empirical foundations for key hypotheses regarding war and peace. The roles of individual, state, relational, and systemic factors are considered among other topics. Upon completion of the course, a student should be familiar with the factors that mitigate or exacerbate military conflict between states and be able to apply them intelligently to real world situations.

## INCLUSION AND DIVERSITY

All students taking this course are to be treated with respect and are encouraged to bring up viewpoints related to the class topics informed by their backgrounds and worldviews. The class tackles issues of diversity, discrimination, and inequality on an international level, by for example addressing topics such as power discrepancies, economic and institutional inequalities and marginalization, and viewpoints relating to both more and less developed parts of the world. The students are strongly encouraged to further contribute to these goals by seeking out authors and topics relating to international-level diversity, discrimination, and inequality in the context of the class-related assignments, such as the research report.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

### Reading Materials

1. Betts, Richard K. ed. 2017. *Conflict After the Cold War*. 5<sup>th</sup> ed. Pearson. (other editions are acceptable)
2. Cashman, Greg. 2014. *What Causes War? An Introduction to Theories of International Conflict*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Rowman & Littlefield.
3. Supplementary materials, available through Canvas

### Student Initiative

Students should be alerted to the obvious fact that it will not be easy to summarize the complexity of war logic in terms of a few concepts and theories. Students should acquire the habit of regularly reading news magazines and national newspapers. It is important that students **read assigned materials thoughtfully and thoroughly** and that they **attend classes regularly**, since class time will be primarily devoted to the exploration and integration of assigned readings.

### Examinations

There will be two exams based on lectures, assigned readings, and class discussions. The exams will ask students to demonstrate a detailed grasp of the material covered. The description of the exam format will be given prior to the exam dates.

### Research Reports

Guidelines, assignments, deadlines, and criteria of evaluation are outlined at the end of the syllabus.



8. All the lecture materials are considered to be the intellectual property of the instructor and are only to be used by the students enrolled in the class for their own education. Any distribution of the said materials and/or use for commercial purposes **is expressly prohibited.**

9. Additional short readings (e.g. articles, news stories) may be assigned as the semester progresses.

**10. All students are expected to complete assigned readings before they are discussed in class and they are expected to discuss and respond to random questioning.**

## **TOPICAL OUTLINE**

### I. Introduction

- A. The Relevance of Studying War
  - Betts: Fukayama (pp. 4-15), Mearsheimer (pp. 16-32)
- B. Studying the Causes of War
  - Cashman: Chapter 1

### II. Sources of War

- A. The Quest for Power
  - Betts: Hobbes (pp. 80-84), Thucydides (pp. 70-75), Carr (pp. 84-101, esp. the “Military Power” section), Blainey (pp. 121-133)
- B. International System
  - Cashman: Chapters 10-11
  - Betts: Waltz (pp. 101-108), Gilpin (pp. 108-121)
- C. Leadership/Individual Decision-Making/Human Nature/Psychology
  - Cashman: Chapters 2-4 and pp. 319-330
  - Betts: Mead (pp. 230-235)
  - Fornari (TBD)
- D. Domestic Politics
  - Cashman: Chapters 4 and 6 and pp. 180-185
  - Betts: Mansfield and Snyder (pp. 331-344)

