



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY

**Political Science 4315
International Security and the Causes of War**



**Class Meetings
Tuesdays and Thursdays: 11:10am - 12:30pm
Ramseyer Hall 059**

**Professor Christopher Gelpi
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Columbus OH 43201**

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<http://u.osu.edu/gelpi.10>
614-292-3392**

**Office Hours: Mondays and Thursdays 1:00pm - 2:00pm
In-Person: 2032 Derby Hall**

Or Via Zoom

**Join Zoom Office Hours
<https://osu.zoom.us/j/3034792413?pwd=Y1JzbGl0dk5TWGlhNVlqQndKMGT09>
Meeting ID: 303 479 2413
Password: 861036**

Course Description

In this course we will read and evaluate the social science literature on the causes of international peace and war. We will focus our attention on both theoretical and empirical works in this area, and we will address a wide variety of research strategies. After reviewing many of the prominent theories of war and peace, we shall apply these ideas to the analysis of several historical case studies.

Learning Objectives

Upon successful completion of the course, students will have learned: 1) to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the literature concerning the causes of international peace and conflict, 2) to define specific questions and issues that should be addressed by future research in this area, 3) to use their knowledge of the causes of peace and conflict to understand and interpret several prominent historical case studies, 4) to use their knowledge of the causes of peace and conflict to understand and interpret current international events, and 5) to develop the ability to conduct independent research on issues of war and peace.

Course Requirements: Student performance will be evaluated on the following basis:

1) 6 bi-weekly (i.e. every other week) multiple choice quizzes on the reading materials. Quizzes are available online through Carmen and can be completed after reviewing the readings for that biweekly period. Students must access the readings for each period and complete the quiz before proceeding to the assignments for the following period. Each student's lowest quiz score will be dropped from the calculation of their grade. The remaining 5 quiz scores will account for 10% of your grade.

2) 5 very short news analyses on how theories from this class can help us understand current events. These assignments are marked on the syllabus and occur on weeks when no other assignments are due. Students will be asked to submit a link to a newspaper story from the past year and write a short paragraph on how a theory from this course could be applied to help us understand the events in the news story. Paragraphs will not be graded, but students will be given 2% credit toward their final grade for the submission of each assignment if they are submitted via Carmen before class begins on each respective due date. Current event submission credits will count for a total of 10% of your grade.

3) A 75-minute, online midterm exam covering the theories of war discussed in the first section of the course **on March 21**. The exam will account for 20% of your grade. The exam will be administered via Carmen Canvas in class and will be closed book. The format will be multiple choice.

4) A research paper of approximately 10-12 (double-spaced) pages will be due near the end of the semester **on April 25**. Students will be expected to present evidence from an historical case and use two of the theories reviewed in this course in order to interpret the events in the historical case. A "case" refers either to a war or to a crisis in which war was averted. After reviewing the events of their historical case students will be expected to evaluate and discuss whether or not events in the case are consistent with the expectations of each theory.

The research paper assignment will be divided into four segments in order to allow students to receive feedback and guidance on how to organize and research the paper.

- A) Students will submit a 4-5 page (double-spaced) historical summary of the case that they will examine in their paper. Students will receive credit for submitting the summary (4% of your grade) and will receive written feedback.
- B) Students will submit a 2-3 page (double-spaced) summary and application of the first theory from the course to their historical case. The summaries will not be graded, but students will receive credit for submitting the summary (3% of your grade) and will receive written feedback.
- C) Students will submit a 2-3 page (double-spaced) summary and application of the second theory from the course to their historical case. The summaries will not be graded, but students will receive credit for submitting the summary (3% of your grade) and will receive written feedback.
- D) Students must combine the three summaries into a single paper and must draw conclusions about which aspects of each of the theories (if any) are supported by the historical evidence from the case and which aspects of each theory are not supported. The research paper will account for 25% of your grade.

All sections of the paper assignment must be turned in via the course Carmen dropbox.

- 5) A final exam is scheduled for the university determined final exam period on **May 1**. This exam will be cumulative across the entire semester. The exam will be administered via Carmen Canvas and will be closed book. The time and date of the exam are set by the University and no changes can be made. This exam will account for the final 25% of your grade.

EXTRA CREDIT! In addition to these assignments, students enrolled in PS 4315 are strongly encouraged to attend class. Years of experience in teaching this class have shown me that attendance is the best predictor of a good grade. As a result, I will take attendance at every lecture. Students who attend 18 or more of the substantive (numbered) lectures on the syllabus will receive 1% extra credit toward their final grade. Finally, if at least 75% of all students complete their SEI ratings for the course, then the entire class will receive an additional 1% extra credit toward their final grade.

Required Books: Most of the readings for this course can be found on the Carmen online course page and through JSTOR or other databases available at OSU. Additionally, we will use several chapters from a modular textbook, *Understanding War and Peace*. The required chapters from the textbook can be purchased individually on Amazon for \$2.99 each. Links to each chapter are available on the Carmen site. All chapters can also be purchased directly at: <https://www.understandingwarandpeace.com>

Academic Misconduct Policy:

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 098 Baker Hall 113 W. 12th Ave. Columbus, OH 43210. Telephone: 614-292-3307. For exam accommodations email: **slds-exam@osu.edu**.

Schedule of Readings and Lectures - All listed readings are required:

January 10: Lecture 1 – **Organizational Meeting**

January 12: Lecture 2 - **The Structure of International Conflict and Cooperation**

Robert Jervis, "Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma," *World Politics*, vol.30., no.2, (1978).

Axelrod, Robert. "Effective choice in the prisoner's dilemma." *Journal of conflict resolution* 24.1 (1980): 3-25.

January 17: – **Library Resources and Logistical Strategies for Research Paper News Analysis Paragraph Due**

January 19: Lecture 3 - **The Causes and Effects of Alliances**

Dan Reiter. 2018. "International Alliances." in Dan Reiter, ed. *Understanding War and Peace*, Chapter 2.

Brett Ashley Leeds. 2003. "Do Alliances Deter Aggression? The Influence of Military Alliances on the Initiation of Militarized Disputes," *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 47, No. 3, pp. 427-439.

January 24: Lecture 4 - **System Structure and Global Stability**

Glenn Snyder. 1984. "The Security Dilemma in Alliance Politics," *World Politics*, Vol. 36, No. 4, pp. 461-495.

Randall Schweller, 2016. "The Balance of Power in World Politics." in OXFORD RESEARCH ENCYCLOPEDIA, POLITICS (politics.oxfordre.com). (c) Oxford University Press USA, 2016.

News Analysis Paragraph Due

January 26 – No Class Lecture – Catch up on Readings!

January 31: Lecture 5 - **Culture as a Cause of Peace and Conflict**

LECTURE POSTED ONLINE FOR ASYNCHRONOUS VIEWING

Samuel Huntington. 1993. "Clash of Civilizations?" *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 72, No. 3, pp. 22-49.

Mary Caprioli. 2000. "Gendered Conflict." *Journal of Peace Research* Vol. 37, No. 1, pp. 51-68.

Reading Quiz Due Online

February 2 – No Class Lecture – Catch up on Readings!

February 7: Lecture 6 - **Norms, Institutions and Conflict Resolution**

Axelrod, Robert, and Robert O. Keohane. "Achieving cooperation under anarchy: Strategies and institutions." *World politics* 38.1 (1985): 226-254.

Kyle Beardsley. 2018. "Third Party Peacemaking and Peacekeeping." in Dan Reiter, ed. *Understanding War and Peace*, Chapter 7.

February 9: Lecture 7 - **Power Transitions and Arms Races**

Henk Houweling and Jan G. Siccama. 1988. "Power Transitions as a Cause of War." *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* Vol. 32, No. 1, pp. 87-102

Michael Wallace. 1982. "Armaments and Escalation," *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 26, No. 1, pp. 37-51.

February 14: Lecture 8 - **Crisis Bargaining and Conflict Resolution**

Stephen Quackenbush. 2010. "Deterrence theory: where do we stand?" *Review of International Studies* vol. 37 no. 2, pp. 741-762.

Dan Reiter. 2018. "Bargaining and War." in Dan Reiter, ed. *Understanding War and Peace*, Chapter 1.

News Analysis Paragraph Due

February 16: Lecture 9 - **Conventional Deterrence and the Prevention of War**

Paul Huth, "Extended Deterrence and the Outbreak of War," *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 82, No. 2, pp. 423-443.

Richard Ned Lebow and Janice Gross Stein. 1989. "Deterrence: The Elusive Dependent Variable." *World Politics* Vol. 42, No. 3, pp. 336-369.

Reading Quiz Due Online

February 21: Lecture 10 - **Nuclear Weapons and Deterrence**

Michael Horowitz. 2018. "Nuclear Weapons." in Dan Reiter, ed. *Understanding War and Peace*, Chapter 3.

John Mueller. 1988. "The Essential Irrelevance of Nuclear Weapons: Stability in the Postwar World." *International Security* Vol. 13, No. 2, pp. 55-79.

February 23: Lecture 11 - **Nuclear Proliferation – A Cause of War or Peace?**

Kenneth Waltz. 1990. "Nuclear Myths and Political Realities," *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 84, No. 3, pp. 731-745.

Scott Sagan. 1994. "The Perils of Proliferation", *International Security*, vol.18, no.4, pp. 66-107.

News Analysis Paragraph Due

February 28: Lecture 12- **Economic Causes of Peace and War**

Paul Poast. 2018. "Economics and War." in Dan Reiter, ed. *Understanding War and Peace*, Chapter 6."

A.M. Eckstein. 1991. "Is There a 'Hobson-Lenin Thesis' on Late Nineteenth-Century Colonial

Expansion?" *The Economic History Review*, New Series, Vol. 44, No. 2, pp. 297-318.

March 2: Lecture 13 – **Domestic Conflict and Diversionary Wars**

Christopher Gelpi. 1997. Democratic Diversions. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. Vol. 41, No. 2, pp. 255-282.

Levy, Jack S. "Domestic Politics and War." *The Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 18.4 (1988): 653-673.

Reading Quiz Due Online

March 7: Lecture 14 – **Democracy as a Cause of Peace and War**

Christopher Gelpi. 2017. Democracies in Conflict: The Role of Public Opinion, Political Parties, and the Press in Shaping Security Policy." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. Online First, August 4, 2017.

Stephen Walt. 1992. "Revolution and War," *World Politics*, vol.44, no.3, pp.321-368.

Draft of Historical Case for Research Paper Due (Part I of IV)

March 9: Lecture 15 – **Individual Leaders and War**

Michael Horowitz. 2018. "Leaders, Institutions, and Foreign Policy." in Dan Reiter, ed. *Understanding War and Peace*, Chapter 4.

Janice Gross Stein. 1988. "Building Politics into Psychology: The Misperception of Threat." *Political Psychology* Vol. 9, No. 2, pp. 245-271.

March 14 and 16 – **No Class – Spring Break**

March 21: In Class MIDTERM EXAM

March 23: Lecture 16 - **The Cuban Missile Crisis (Part I)**

Graham Allison. 1969. "Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis," *American Political Science Review*, vol.63, no.3, pp.689-718.

Robert A. Pollard. 1982. "The Cuban Missile Crisis: Legacies and Lessons." *The Wilson Quarterly* Vol. 6, No. 4, pp. 148-158.

March 28: Lecture 17 – **The Cuban Missile Crisis (Part II)**

Timothy J. McKeown. 2000. "The Cuban Missile Crisis and Politics as Usual." *The Journal of Politics* Vol. 62, No. 1, pp. 70-87.

Marc Trachtenberg. 1985. "The Influence of Nuclear Weapons in the Cuban Missile Crisis." *International Security* Vol. 10, No. 1, pp. 137-163.

Reading Quiz Due Online

March 30: Lecture 18 - **World War I (Part I)**

Crash Course video on HOW World War I Started (link in Carmen)

Jack Snyder. 1984. "Civil-Military Relations and the Cult of the Offensive, 1914 and 1984." *International Security* Vol. 9, No. 1, pp. 108-146.

Stephen Van Evera. 1984. The Cult of the Offensive and the Origins of the First World War." *International Security* Vol. 9, No. 1, pp. 58-107.

April 4: Lecture 19 - **World War I (Part II)**

Crash Course video on WHY World War I Started (link on Carmen)

Paul Kennedy. 1984. "The First World War and the International Power System,"
International Security, vol.9, no1, pp. 7-40.

Scott D. Sagan. 1986. "1914 Revisited: Allies, Offense, and Instability." International
Security Vol. 11, No. 2, pp. 151-175.

Draft of Application of Theory 1 to Case for Research Paper Due (Part II of IV)

April 6: Lecture 20 - **The Six Day War**

Crash Course video on Israel and Palestine (link in Carmen)

Janice Stein, "The Arab-Israeli War of 1967: Inadvertent War Through Miscalculated
Escalation," in Alexander George, Avoiding War. Chapter 8. (Available in Carmen)

Ronald Popp. 2006. "Stumbling Decidedly into the Six-Day War." Middle East Journal
Vol. 60, No. 2, pp. 281-309.

April 11: Lecture 21 - **The October War**

Janice Stein. 1985. "Calculation, Miscalculation and Conventional Deterrence 1: The View
from Cairo." in Jervis, Lebow, and Stein eds., Psychology and Deterrence. (Baltimore:
Johns Hopkins University Press). (Available in Carmen)

Nadav Safran. 1977. "Trial by Ordeal: The Yom Kippur War, October 1973." International
Security Vol. 2, No. 2, pp. 133-170.

Reading Quiz Due Online

Draft of Application of Theory 2 to Case for Research Paper Due (Part III of IV)

April 13: Lecture 22 – **Post-Cold War Europe**

Crash Course video on the Cold War (link in Carmen)

John J. Mearsheimer. 1990. "Back to the Future: Instability in Europe after the Cold War."
International Security Vol. 15, No. 1, pp. 5-56.

Stephen Van Evera. 1991. "Primed for Peace: Europe after the Cold War." International
Security Vol. 15, No. 3, pp. 7-57.

April 18: Lecture 23 – **Public Opinion and the Iraq War**

Crash Course video on Terrorism, War and Bush 43 (link in Carmen)

Christopher Gelpi. 2018. "Public Opinion and Conflict." in Dan Reiter, ed. *Understanding
War and Peace*, Chapter 6.

News Analysis Paragraph Due

April 20: Lecture 24 – **Terrorism**

Abrahms, Max. "Why terrorism does not work." *International Security* 31.2 (2006): 42-78.

Robert A. Pape . 2003. "The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism." American Political
Science Review August Vol. 97, No. 3, pp. 343-361.

Reading Quiz Due Online

April 25: Research Papers Due at 5:00 pm. via Carmen dropbox

Please have the name of the file begin with your last name

Final Exam: MONDAY MAY 1 – 10:00 – 11:45am