

International Conflict
POLS 4238, Spring 2017
1024 Carroll Building
Tuesday and Thursday 12:30 pm – 1:45 pm
3 credit hours, CRN: 14490

Instructor: Dr. Courtney Burns
Office: 2205 Carroll Building
Office hours: Wednesdays 10:00 am – 1:00 pm and by appointment
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Course Description: Conflict, particularly armed conflict and organized violence, has been an endemic part of international relations, nation-states, and interstate dynamics since history began being documented. War, as defined by Carl Von Clausewitz, “is the continuation of policies (politics) by other means.” Moreover, the nature of warfare has changed rapidly in the last century with the use of nuclear weapons, asymmetric warfare, and deterrence.

This course introduces students to the study of international conflict within a political science context. We will seek to understand the causes and consequences of war and their implications for the international system. The class covers a wide array of topics within international conflict, including: the scientific study of war, why wars start, why wars endure, military strategy, why wars end, international rivalry, and feminist approaches to the study of war.

After leaving this course, students will have an in depth understanding of the complexity surrounding international conflict.

Learning Outcomes:

1. Students can demonstrate an understanding of the defining concepts, theories, and methods of the study of international conflict.
2. Students will explore the complex interrelationships between political, economic, social, cultural, and historical forces in the study of international conflict.
3. Students will develop a mastery of critical thinking skills by evaluating international conflict from an observational and theoretical standpoint in their research.

Course Requirements: The final grade for this course is based on attendance and participation, homework assignments, quizzes, documentary questions, and a final paper. I do NOT round final grades. I do NOT provide extra credit. The final grades are calculated as follows:

Attendance/Participation	140 points (14 x 10 points each)
5 SPUNKIs	50 points (5 x 10 points each)
7 Pop Quizzes	140 points (7 x 20 points each)
Documentary questions	70 points (2 x 35 points each)
Final paper	100 points
Total	500 points

The following point break down will be used for assigning final grades:

A (Exceptional)	450-500 points
B (Very good)	400-449 points
C (Average)	350-399 points
D (Below average)	300-349 points
F (Fail)	299 points and below

Required text:

Quackenbush, Stephen L. 2014. *International Conflict*. Los Angeles: CQ Press.

You will also be required to read contemporary journal articles from the study of international conflict each week. Extra readings will be posted on Folio and are denoted with ** on the syllabus.

Class Attendance and Participation

Lecture meets on Tuesday and Thursday each week. You are required to attend class regularly and take notes. 140 points of your final grade come from attendance and participation. You will receive 10 points per week if you come to class and participate at least once. If you only come to class and do not participate, you will receive 7 points. If you miss a class, you will receive 5 points, and if you do not come to class you will receive 0 points. I only ask that you participate just one time each week. Participation includes speaking up class by answering a question, raising a question, or providing on topic insight.

Final Paper

You are required to write a 10 – 12 page research design for this course worth 100 points of your final grade. Your paper may be no longer than 12 pages. You will first turn in a topic idea with research question, short expected theory, and hypothesis by Tuesday January 31. I will give you feedback, and if you need to greatly modify your topic an in person meeting will be required. Please see the research guidelines posted on Folio for organization of the paper. First drafts of the papers are due on Thursday March 23rd. They can be turned in early, if you would like. I will give you feedback, and final drafts are due by 2:30 pm on Tuesday May 2nd to my office (2205 Carroll Building) or the political science office.

A research design is comprised of three main parts: introduction/literature review, theory, and an explanation of the data or case that you would like to study. You will need to include a research question, thesis statement, and testable hypotheses in your paper. You may select to write a quantitative or qualitative research design. As the semester goes on, I will provide more information about the assignment.

SPUNKI

You must complete a SPUNKI for every class period over the assigned reading for that day. I will randomly collect 5 SPUNKIs throughout the course of the semester and they are worth 10 points each for a total of 50 points. However, on days when I do not collect a SPUNKI but we have a quiz, if you have your completed SPUNKI, you may use it to complete the quiz.

Quizzes

There will be a total of seven (7) multiple-choice and/or short answer quizzes in this course, totaling 140 points of your grade. Make-up quizzes will be given only to students with medical excuse, university excuse, or personal emergencies (death in the family). I will decide if your absence fits one of these criteria at my discretion. Quizzes may not be made up if you do not fit one of these criteria.

Documentary Questions

We will watch 2 documentaries this semester and you will be responsible for filling out questions while we watch. The questions will be due the following class after the documentary is complete. They are worth 35 points each for a total of 70 points.

Electronics Policy: Electronics (laptops, tablets, etc.) are not permitted in class. I will allow the use of electronics to accommodate any learning disabilities or if a student would like to get permission from the instructor. Plenty of scientific evidence demonstrates that students do not learn as effectively if they type their notes or play on their phones during class. I will NOT tolerate the use of cell phones during class. If I see you on your cell phone, you will be asked first to put the phone away. If you continue to use your phone, you will be asked to leave.

Video and/or Audio Recordings: During class, students MAY NOT make video and/or audio recordings for educational reasons. If you have a valid reason for needing a recording and I grant permission, then only you may use them. Furthermore, according to University policy students may not distribute any recordings to anyone outside of class without the expressed consent of all individuals in the class and the instructor. This includes prohibiting any recordings from being uploaded to any web-sharing services (e.g. YouTube, Facebook, Twitter, etc.). If you do this without consent, you could face legal consequences.

Academic Dishonesty: All members of the community recognize the necessity of being honest with themselves and with others. The integrity of the educational experience is diminished by cheating in class, plagiarizing, lying, and employing other methods of deceit. None of these should be used as a strategy to obtain a false sense of success. The need for honest relations among all members of the community is essential. If you are caught cheating, you will be given a 0 for that assignment and necessary steps will be taken to report the incident. I have a zero-tolerance policy for cheating.

Academic Commitment: All members of the community understand that to succeed in classes, students must be active participants in their education while understanding and complying with each course syllabus. Students should plan on spending at least **two** hours of study for every **one** hour in class. For example, a 15-credit-hour schedule requires at least a 45-hour commitment per week. Outside preparation and class attendance alone do not guarantee success or the highest grades; rather, mastery of the material and acquisition of necessary skills determine success and grades.

Academic Discussion and Respect: All members of the community are expected to communicate in a civil manner in their professional interaction at all times, both in and out of the classroom. Academic discourse, including discussion and argumentation, is to be carried out in a polite, courteous, and dignified manner that is respectful of and understanding toward both peers and professors.

Students with Disabilities/ADA: This class complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations must register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC), and provide a letter to the instructor from the SDRC indicating what your need may be for academic accommodation. This should be done within the first week of class. Cone Hall, Room 2010. Telephone 912-478-1566

Students may also find information online at <http://students.georgiasouthern.edu/disability>.

Course Schedule – the below schedule is subject to change
Topic 1 will be covered on Tuesdays, Topic 2 will be covered on Thursdays

Week 1 - January 10, 12
Introductions, Research, & the Scientific Study of War
Topic 1: Class Introduction & How to Read Research
No readings

Topic 2: The Scientific Study of War
Quackenbush Chp 1

Week 2 - January 17, 19
Topic 1: Library Visit
No readings, meet in library

Topic 2: What is War?
Quackenbush Chp 2

Week 3 - January 24, 26
Topic 1: Rational Choice
Quackenbush Chp 3

Topic 2: Game Theory
**Folio handouts, print and bring to class
**Fearon, James. 1995. "Rationalist Explanations for War." *International Organization* 49 (3): 379-414.

Week 4 - January 31, February 2
Topic 1: Causes, Part 1: Contiguity & Territory
Quackenbush Chp 4

Topic 2: Contiguity & Territory cont...
**Lee, Hoon and Sara Mitchell. 2012. "Foreign Direct Investment and Territorial Disputes." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 56(4): 675-703.

****Research topics due in class January 31****

Week 5 - February 7, 9
Topic 1: Causes, Part 2: Power
Quackenbush Chp 5

Topic 2: Power Transition Theory
Quackenbush Chp 5
**Lim, Yves-Heng. 2015. "How (Dis)Satisfied is China? A Power Transition Theory Perspective." *Journal of Contemporary China* 24 (92): 280-297.

Week 6 - February 14, 16

Topic 1: Causes, Part 3: Alliances
Quackenbush Chp 6

Topic 2: Defense Pacts & War

**Johnson, Jesse and Brett Ashley Leeds. 2011. "Defense Pacts: A Prescription for Peace?" *Foreign Policy Analysis* 7: 45-65.

Week 7 - February 21, 23

Topic 1: Causes, Part 4: Democratic Peace
Quackenbush Chp 7

Topic 2: Is it Really Just Democratic Peace?

**Caprioli, Mary. 2003. "Gender Equality and State Aggression: The Impact of Domestic Gender Equality on State First Use of Force." *International Interactions* 29: 195-214.

**Sobek, David, M. Rodwan Abouharb, and Christopher G. Ingram. 2006. "The Human Rights Peace: How the Respect for Human Rights at Home Leads to Peace Abroad." *Journal of Politics* 68 (3): 519-529.

Week 8 - February 28, March 2

Topic 1: Causes, Part 5: Deterrence
Quackenbush Chp 8

Topic 2: Testing Perfect Deterrence

**Quackenbush, Stephen L. and A Cooper Drury. 2011. "National Missile Defense and (dis)Satisfaction." *Journal of Peace Research* 48 (4): 469-480.

Week 9 - March 7, 9

Topic 1: Conflict Escalation
Quackenbush Chp 9

Topic 2: Conflict Escalation
Quackenbush Chp 9

Week 10 - March 13 – 17 SPRING BREAK, No class

Week 11 - March 21, 23

Topic 1: Military Doctrine and Strategy
Quackenbush Chp 10

Topic 2: Documentary

Korengal – questions due March 28

Week 12 - March 28, 30

Topic 1: Evolution of War
Quackenbush Chp 11

Topic 2: Evolution of War

**Filson, Darren and Suzanne Werner. 2002. "A Bargaining Model of War and Peace: Anticipating the Onset, Duration, and Outcome of War." *American Journal of Political Science* 46 (4): 819-837.

***First drafts due March 30**

Week 13 - April 4, 6

Topic 1: War Termination

Quackenbush Chp 12

Topic 2: War Consequences

Quackenbush Chp 12

**Lawrence, Michael J. et al. 2015. "The Effects of Modern War and Military Activities on Biodiversity and the Environment." *Environmental Reviews* 23 (4): 443-460.

Week 14 - April 11, 13

Topic 1: Recurrent Conflict and Rivalry

Quackenbush Chp 13

Topic 2: Recurrent Conflict and Rivalry cont...

** Schroeder, Theresa. 2015. "When Security Dominates the Agenda: The Influence of Ongoing Security Threats on Female Representation." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* :1-26.

Week 15 - April 18, 20

Topic 1: Introduction to Feminist Approaches to the Study of War

**Sjoberg, Laura. 2009. "Introduction to Security Studies: Feminist Contributions." *Security Studies* 18: 183-213.

**Hudson, Valerie et al. 2008. "The Heart of the Matter: The Security of Women and the Security of States." *International Security* 33 (3): 7-45.

Topic 2: Documentary

The Invisible War – questions due April 25

Week 16 - April 25, 27

Topic 1: Why Gender Matters in War

**Cohn, Carol. 1987. "Sex and Death in the Rational World of Defense Intellectuals." *Signs* 12 (4): 687-718.

Topic 2: Course Conclusions

Quackenbush Chp 14

Final papers due – Tuesday May 2 by 2:30 pm to my office (2205 Carroll Building) or the Political Science office. Papers MUST be stapled.