

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
Political Science Department

Political Science 27600/37600
War and the Nation-State
Winter 2018

Instructor: John Mearsheimer
TAs: Bonnie Chan (head), Andrea
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Jenkins, and Ramzy Mardini

Course Description: The aim of this course is to examine the phenomenon of war in its broader socio-economic context during the years between the emergence of the modern nation-state at the end of the eighteenth century and the conclusion of World War II in 1945.

Course Requirements: This course is oriented around the readings and the lectures. **Every** student is expected to do **all** the reading and attend **every** lecture. Each student will also be expected to attend a discussion section once a week. The grade will be based on a comprehensive final examination (75%) and classroom participation in the discussion section (25%).

Readings and Books: The following books, all of which are in paper, have been ordered through the Seminary Co-op Bookstore:

Clausewitz, *On War* (Princeton University Press version)
Michael Howard, *The First World War: A Very Short Introduction*
Michael Howard, *War in European History*
John Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics* (2014 edition)
Richard J. Overy, *Russia's War*
L.C.F. Turner, *Origins of the First World War*

All articles and book chapters with ** next to them are on **Canvas**.

Course Outline:

1. January 3, 2018 (Wednesday): Organizational Meeting and Overview

PART I: GENERAL THEMES

2. January 8 (Monday): The Napoleonic Wars and the Great Transformation

-- Howard, *War in European History*, chapters 4-5.

-- David A. Bell, *The First Total War*, chapters 6-7. **

3. January 10 (Wednesday): Nationalism and War - I

-- Clausewitz, *On War*, Books 1, 2 and 8.

**** January 15 (Monday): No Class – Martin Luther King Day**

4. January 17 (Wednesday): Nationalism and War - II

-- Stephen Van Evera, "Hypotheses on Nationalism and War," *International Security*, Vol. 18, No. 4 (Spring 1994), pp. 5-39. **

-- Barry R. Posen, "Nationalism, the Mass Army, and Military Power," *International Security*, Vol. 18, No. 2 (Fall 1993), pp. 80-124. **

5. January 22 (Monday): Democratization and War

-- Michael Doyle, "Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs, Part 1," *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, Vol. 12, No. 3 (Summer 1983), pp. 205-35. **

-- Dan Reiter and Allan C. Stam, "Democracy, War Initiation, and Victory," *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 92, No. 2 (June 1998), pp. 377-89. **

6. January 24 (Wednesday): Industrialization and War

-- Howard, *War in European History*, chapter 6.

-- Mearsheimer, *Tragedy*, chapters 3-4.

-- Just skim Karl Lautenschlager, "Technology and the Evolution of Naval Warfare," *International Security*, Vol. 8, No. 2, (Fall 1983), pp. 3-51. **

7. January 29 (Monday): The Military Profession and Militarism

-- Samuel P. Huntington, *The Soldier and the State*, chapters 1-3. **

PART II: CAUSES OF WORLD WAR I

8. January 31 (Wednesday): The War Was an Accident

-- Turner, *Origins of the First World War*, entire book.

9. February 5 (Monday): Wacky Domestic Politics Caused It

-- Immanuel Geiss, "The Outbreak of the First World War and German War Aims," *Journal of Contemporary History*, Vol. 1, No. 3 (July 1966), pp. 75-91. **

-- Eckart Kehr, "Anglophobia and Weltpolitik," in *Economic Interest, Militarism and Foreign Policy*, pp. 22-49. **

-- Jack Snyder, "Civil-Military Relations and the Cult of the Offensive, 1914 and 1984," *International Security*, Vol. 9, No. 1 (Summer 1984), pp. 108-46. **

10. February 7 (Wednesday): The System Caused It

-- Dale Copeland, *The Origins of Major War*, chapters 3-4. **

-- Lowes Dickinson, *The European Anarchy*, entire book. **

-- Scott Sagan, "1914 Revisited: Allies, Offense, and Instability," *International Security*, Vol. 11, No. 2 (Fall 1986), pp. 151-75. **

PART III: CONDUCT OF WORLD WAR I

11. February 12 (Monday): The Battlefield - I

-- Michael Howard, *The First World War: A Very Short Introduction*, read all.

12. February 14 (Wednesday): The Battlefield - II

-- Alexander Downes, *Targeting Civilians in War*, chapter 3. **

-- David Stevenson, *Cataclysm: The First World War as Tragedy*, chapter 10. **

-- Spencer Tucker, *The Great War*, chapter 7. **

13. February 19 (Monday): The Home Front

-- Roger Chickering, *Imperial Germany*, chapters 4-5. **

-- David M. Kennedy, *Over Here*, chapter 1. **

PART IV: CAUSES OF WORLD WAR II

14. February 21 (Wednesday): Causes of the War in Europe

-- Mearsheimer, *Tragedy*, pp. 155-65, 181-90, 267-72, 305-22, 209-19.

-- Mearsheimer, *Conventional Deterrence*, chapters 3-4. **

15. February 26 (Monday): Causes of the War in Asia

-- Mearsheimer, *Tragedy*, pp. 172-81, 219-24.

-- Scott D. Sagan, "The Origins of the Pacific War," *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, Vol. 18, No. 4 (Spring 1988), pp. 893-922. **

-- Bruce M. Russett, *No Clear and Present Danger*, chapters 2-3. **

-- Marc Trachtenberg, *The Craft of International History*, chapter 4. **

PART V: CONDUCT OF WORLD WAR II

16. February 28 (Wednesday): The Ground War on the Eastern Front

-- Overy, *Russia's War*, entire book.

-- "The Fallen of World War II" – a video categorizing deaths in WWII:
http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2015/06/06/world-war-two-fatalities-visualized_n_7526390.html

17. March 5 (Monday): The German Killing Machine

-- Omer Bartov, "Soldiers, Nazis, and the War in the Third Reich," *Journal of Modern History*, Vol. 63, No. 1 (March 1991), pp. 44-60. **

-- Christopher Browning, "The Decision Concerning the Final Solution," in Francois Furet, ed., *Unanswered Questions*, pp. 96-118. **

-- "Hunger Plan," http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hunger_Plan

-- "Generalplan Ost," http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Generalplan_Ost

-- Adam Tooze, *Wages of Destruction*, chapter 14. **

18. March 7 (Wednesday): Conduct of World War II - The Bombing of Japan

-- Kent Roberts Greenfield, *American Strategy in World War II*, chapter IV. **

-- Robert A. Pape, "Why Japan Surrendered," *International Security*, Vol. 18, No. 2 (Fall 1993), pp. 154-201. **

-- David Smurthwaite, *The Pacific War Atlas, 1941-1945*, chapter 2. **

**** March 8-9: Reading Period**

**** March 12-16: Exam Week**