What causes war? What do we need to know to prevent war if possible, and prepare for it when necessary? The mission of this course is to use historical and contemporary cases to formulate and test theories on causes of war, as well as to make policy prescriptions.

This course first systematically examines major schools of thoughts on the origins and prevention of war, including systemic level theories of war and peace, domestic and societal sources of conflict, military policy, and ideational and psychological causes of war. The second part of this course applies these theoretical approaches to a series of classic cases of war and conflict in world politics.

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**Required Readings**


All other required readings are available in PDF files on Course Site.

**Graded Assignments**

Grades will be based on one in-class exam (30%), research report (20%), presentation (10%), final research paper up to 15 double-spaced pages (25%), and class participation (15%). Grades for each graded assignment are given according to its numerical proportion indicated in the syllabus (i.e. the full score for the in-class exam is 30 points, for the final paper 25 points, and for class participation 15 points). Your final grade will be the sum of the assignment scores, with a possible, marginal adjustment upward using an impressionistic evaluation of your performance improvement toward the latter part of the course.

**Grading scale:**

- **A** 94-100%
- **A-** 90-93%
- **B+** 87-89%
- **B** 83-86%
- **B-** 80-82%
- **C+** 77-79%
- **C** 73-76%
- **C-** 70-72%
- **D+** 67-69%
- **D** 63-66%
- **D-** 60-62%
- **F** 59% and below
Course Information and Policies

Readings
Readings should be done before the classes for which they are assigned. Lectures will not substitute for the readings, nor vice versa. Fulfilling the reading requirements will help your performance in class participation and course assignments.

Class participation and courtesy rules
Attendance at all classes is mandatory. You are also expected to contribute to class discussion actively and intelligently, with explicit engagement with the assigned readings.

Politeness and consideration are expected of everyone in the classroom. If you walk in late you may disrupt the class, and it also means you have failed to participate in part of the class. It is rude and disruptive to be checking email, surfing the web, or messaging when you are supposed to be participating in classroom activities. Use of computers and other electronic devices (i-products, beepers, cell phones, you name it) is generally prohibited in this class unless you have extenuating circumstances, in which case you should communicate with me.

Policy on make-up, and late paper, and extra credit
In principle, make-up exam or extension of paper due date is not permitted for this course. You will receive a "zero" score for a missed exam. Paper submitted within one week after the due date will be downgraded two points per day and, if submitted more than one week late, will not only be downgraded two points per day but also result in a course grade of "incomplete." In case when there is a true emergency, a note from the Office of the Dean of Students with qualified supporting documentation is required, preferably in advance. A makeup exam, if granted, should take place as soon as possible and no later than one week from the exam day.

All students are encouraged to attend at least one session of the China and World Conference organized by the professor at Lehigh University on March 3, 2016. Your attendance will earn you 2% extra credit.

Academic integrity
Cheating will not be tolerated. Do not consult readings, notes, online sources, etc., or your classmates for the close-book in-class exams. For completing the final essay, you are allowed to consult all of the above sources except for your classmates. Do not plagiarize. Plagiarism is when writers use other people’s words or ideas but do not give them credit. Do not quote or paraphrase without giving footnotes or endnotes. Do not copy other people’s old papers. Do not submit the same paper to multiple courses. Do not copy or buy papers or sections of papers from the web or other sources. Your ideas, your arguments, and the vast majority of your text must be your own. For details, please refer to the International Relations Department Policy on Intellectual Integrity, Plagiarism, and Documentation. Students who cheat on a graded assignment will receive a "zero" score for it, and will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.
Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting accommodations, please contact both your instructor and the Office of Academic Support Services, University Center C212 (610-758-4152) as early as possible in the semester. You must have documentation from the Academic Support Services office before accommodations can be granted, and provide at least seven days notification for any requested accommodation.

The Principles of Our Equitable Community:
Lehigh University endorses The Principles of Our Equitable Community (http://www4.lehigh.edu/diversity/principles). We expect each member of this class to acknowledge and practice these Principles. Respect for each other and for differing viewpoints is a vital component of the learning environment inside and outside the classroom.

Topic 1: (1/25) Introduction


Topic 2: (1/27, 2/1, 2/3) Systemic Level Causes of War


- Nazli Choucri and Robert C. North, “Lateral Pressure in International Relations: Concept and Theory”

Topic 3: (2/8, 2/10) State-Society Level Causes of War
Steven Walt, “Revolution and War,” World Politics 44, No. 3 (1992)


Manus I. Midlarsky, ed., Handbook of War Studies:
**Topic 4: (2/15, 2/17) Military Policy and Causes of War**


“Dreams and Delusions of a Coming War,” pp. 35-56

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**Topic 5: (2/22, 2/24) Ideational/Psychological/Individual Causes of War I**

(national misperception, national-mythmaking, nationalism, media)


Nicholas Kristof, “A Tojo Battles History, for Grandpa and for Japan,” *New York Times*, April 22, 1999

John Mearsheimer and Stephen M. Walt, "The Israel Lobby and US Foreign Policy."

*Middle East Policy* 13, No. 3 (Fall 2006): 29-87


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**Topic 6: (2/29, 3/2) Ideational/Psychological/Individual Causes of War II**

(religion, culture, gender, personality, emotions) *(Research report due in class in hard copy on 3/2)*


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**Topic 7: (3/7, 3/9) The Peloponnesian War**


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Topic 8: (3/21, 3/23) What Caused WWI?

Topic 9: (3/28, 3/30) WWII
Jack Snyder, Myths of Empire: Domestic Politics and International Ambition, Chapter 4, “Japan’s Bid for Autarky.”

Topic 10: (4/4, 4/6, 4/11) Arab-Israeli Conflict (Show Documentary film The Six Day War)
Michal Ben-Josef Hirsch, "From Taboo to the Negotiable: The Israeli New Historians and the Changing Representation of the Palestinian Refugee Problem," Perspectives on Politics 5, No. 2 (June 2007): 241-258

4/13 Review and discussion

4/18 In-class exam


**4/27 & 5/2 & 5/4 Student presentations**

All final papers due on Monday, 5/9, at 10am, both electronically (upload at Course Site) and in hard copy (drop in my mailbox at IR department headquarter or under my office door)

**Suggested cases:**

1. Anglo-French Seven Year’s War, 1756-1763
2. Italian Wars of Independence, 1848-1870
3. Mexican-American War, 1846-1848
4. Crimean War, 1853-1856
5. Austro-Prussian War of 1866
6. Franco-Prussian War of 1870
7. Second Boer War, 1899-1902
8. Russo-Japanese War, 1904-1905
10. French Indochina War, 1946-1954
14. Argentina-Britain War over the Falklands, 1982
15. Iran-Iraq War, 1980-1988
17. Wars in the Former Yugoslavia: Serbia/Bosnia 1992-1995
18. Your choice, with professor’s approval