

San José State University
Political Science Department
POLS 150, War and Peace, Fall 2017

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Karthika Sasikumar
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Office Hours:	Mondays 10-1:30 pm, Thursdays 12-1:30 pm, Fridays 9-10 am
Class Days/Time:	Tuesdays and Thursdays 9 am to 10.15 am
Classroom:	DMH 161

Course Format

Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. are available on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](http://sjsu.instructure.com) at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking messages on Canvas to learn of any updates.

Course Description

This course examines the causes of war and efforts to secure peace. We begin by asking how war is defined. We consider three approaches to the causes of war (psychological, domestic politics and structural explanations). The course also examines the conduct of small wars or insurgencies. The second half of the course addresses how human beings have attempted to control conflict through the use of institutions and norms.

Course Goals

The Political Science Program Learning Outcomes are

- **Breadth**
Students should possess a broad knowledge of the theory and methods of the various branches of the discipline.
- **Application**
Students should be able to apply a variety of techniques to identify, understand, and analyze domestic and international political issues and organizations.
- **Disciplinary methods**
Student should be able to formulate research questions, engage in systematic literature searches using

primary and secondary sources, have competence in systematic data gathering using library sources, government documents, and data available through electronic sources, should be able to evaluate research studies, and should be able to critically analyze and interpret influential political texts.

- **Communication Skills**

Students should master basic competencies in oral and written communication skills and be able to apply these skills in the context of political science. This means communicating effectively about politics and/or public administration, public policy, and law.

- **Citizenship**

Students should acquire an understanding of the role of the citizen in local, state, national, and global contexts and appreciate the importance of lifelong participation in political processes.

GE Learning Outcomes

This is an upper-division (SJSU Studies) General Education course in Area V (Culture, Civilization and Global Understanding). Students are strongly encouraged to take courses to satisfy GE Areas R, S, and V from departments other than their major department.

The minimum writing requirement is 3000 words in a language and style appropriate to the discipline.

Upon successful completion of this program, students will be able to:

GELO 1: Compare systematically the ideas, values, images, cultural artifacts, economic structures, technological developments, or attitudes of people from different societies

GELO 2: Identify the historical context of ideas and cultural practices and their dynamic relations to other historical contexts

GELO 3: Explain how a culture changes in response to internal and external pressures

GELO 4: Students will be able to apply multidisciplinary material to a topic relevant to policy and social action at the local, national, and/or international levels.

In accordance with these objectives, students will

1. Compare definitions of war from a state-centric versus human-centric perspective
2. Consider laws and organizations that control armed conflict in the context of the religious and political context of their constitution
3. Discuss the links between conflict and the capitalist- democratic regime type of dominant states

The writing requirement will be satisfied by the term paper (including two drafts).

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

CLO1. Conduct original research

CLO2. Critique and summarize key texts

CLO3. Debate major social issues in a civil and collaborative manner

CLO4. Reflect on current events, apply theories of war and peace to them, and evaluate such theories

CLO5. Define key terms relating to war and peace that are used in popular and scholarly discussion

Required Texts/Readings

There is no textbook for the course. All readings, and other required resources such as videos, will be available on Canvas under Modules. If you are unable to access them, it is your responsibility to inform me at the earliest.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally 3 hours per unit per week with 1 of the hours used for lecture) for instruction or preparation/studying or course related activities including but not limited to internships, labs, clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Final Examination or Evaluation

The final examination is a closed book in-class exam, held on December 19. It will consist of twenty questions to be answered in one-three sentences, and one short essay. The questions will be drawn from a study guide that will be made available one week before the exam.

Grading Information

Determination of Grades

All grades, including extra credit points, will be available on Canvas. Each assignment, including class participation, will have a specific rubric indicating the criteria that will be used in grading. Please make sure, before submitting your assignment, that it meets all the criteria. As per the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, I cannot discuss your grades via email. You must visit me during office hours, or make an appointment to discuss grades.

The major assignment for this course is the term paper which is approximately 3000 words (15 double-spaced pages). You will be submitting three preliminary versions of this paper, so that you may incorporate feedback and revise your work to produce a final paper that represents a solid piece of research.

Determination of Grades

- Extra credit opportunities will be announced throughout the semester via Canvas Announcements. Extra credit points are added to your total score and have the same weight as other scores. There is no limit on how many extra credit points you can earn in this course.
- If you miss the deadline for submission for an assignment, you will lose 5 percent of your score for that assignment per 5 hours of lateness (pro-rated). For example, if you submit the term paper 6 hours after the deadline, and your score would have been 15 points, you will lose one point. Most assignments require submission on Canvas. If you wish to request an extension on your submission, be prepared to provide a reason and documentation.

CLO	Assignment	Points	Due date
4	In-class writing assignments	10	Various
3	Class participation	5	Various
2	Review of scholarly article	7	Oct 3
2	Review of documentary	7	Oct 10
4 & 5	Prelim 1	10	Oct 12
1	Structured essay	10	Oct 19

1	Abstract for term paper	4	Oct 31
4 & 5	Prelim 2	10	Nov 7
1	First draft of term paper	6	Nov 21
1	Second draft of term paper	6	Nov 30
4 & 5	Final exam	15	Dec 19
1	Term paper	10	Dec 19

Final letter grades are based on this scale

A only	95-100
A minus	90-94
B plus	85-89
B only	80-84
B minus	75-79
C plus	70-74
C only	65-69
C minus	60-64
D plus	55-59
F	<55

Classroom Protocol

This is an upper-level course, therefore, I expect students to take responsibility for their educational experience. While attendance is not mandatory, a substantial percentage of your grade depends on your participation in class. You do not need to inform me about absences in class, unless you will be missing a graded activity and wish to re-take it. In those cases, you will need to provide a valid reason and be prepared to back it up with documents.

While in class, I expect you to have all electronic devices powered off. The use of cellphones, laptops, or tablets is not required or allowed in class. The only exception to this is in the case of student disability or dire emergency (please consult with me).

Expect to be called on, by name, in every class. Research has shown that active participation in class is more effective than passive listening for mastering the material. In addition, debating social issues in a civil manner is one of the learning outcomes for this course. To this end, please engage with the instructor and classmates in a manner that shows you are prepared to defend your viewpoint politely and reasonably; and that you are prepared to listen to others' viewpoints.

Please note that since this is a class about politics, there will (hopefully) be heated discussions. During these discussions, I may pose questions or make arguments that reflect various opinions. These questions or arguments need not be based on my personal convictions. My goal is to keep my own opinions out of the picture and create a positive learning experience for all. If you are concerned about the tone or content of class discussion, please contact me outside class.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9, university-wide policy information relevant to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, etc. will be available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](#) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>"

Full citations in alphabetical order

Borger, J. (2016). *The Butcher's Trail: How the Search for Balkan War Criminals Became the World's Most Successful Manhunt*. New York: Other Press.

Bruneau, E. (2015). Putting Neuroscience to Work for Peace. In E. Halperin & K. Sharvit (Eds.), *The Social Psychology of Intractable Conflicts* (pp. 143-155). Cham, Switzerland: Springer International Publishing.

Chivers, C. J. (2010). *The Gun*. New York: Simon and Schuster.

Cohen, D. K., Green, A. H., & Wood, E. J. (2013). *Wartime sexual violence: Misconceptions, implications, and ways forward* Washington DC: US Institute of Peace.

Dinstein, Y. (2011). *War, aggression, and self-defence* (5th ed.). Cambridge; New York: Cambridge University Press.

Davis, P. H. (2000). The Politics of Prosecuting Rape as a War Crime *The International Lawyer*, 34(4), 1223-1248.

Doyle, M. (1986). Liberalism and World Politics. *American Political Science Review*, 80(4), 1151-1169.

Driver, J. (1988). *How Christians Made Peace with War*. Waterloo, Ontario: Herald Press.

Ellis, J. (1975). *The Social History of the Machine Gun*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Ghaddar, H. (2016, December 4). Stop calling the Syrian conflict a 'civil war.' It's not. Retrieved from <https://www.washingtonpost.com/posteverything/wp/2016/12/14/stop-calling-the-syrian-conflict-a-civil-war-its-not>

Glover, J. (1999). *Humanity: a moral history of the twentieth century*. London: J. Cape.

Goldstein, J. (2001). *War and Gender*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Hanson, V. D. (2001). Democratic Warfare, Ancient and Modern. In D. McCann & B. S. Strauss (Eds.), *War and Democracy: A Comparative Study of the Korean War and the Peloponnesian War* (pp. 3-33). Armonk, NY and London: M.E.Sharpe.

Herbert, D. G. (2017, March 2). Kony 2017: From Guerrilla Marketing to Guerrilla Warfare. Retrieved from <http://foreignpolicy.com/2017/03/02/kony-2017-from-guerilla-marketing-to-guerilla-warfare-invisible-children-africa/>

Human Security Report Project. (2013). *Human Security Report 2013: The Decline in Global Violence: Evidence, Explanation, and Contestation*. Vancouver: Human Security Press.

Jarstad, A. K. (2008). Dilemmas of war-to-democracy transitions: theories and concepts. In A. K. Jarstad & T. D. Sisk (Eds.), *From War to Democracy: Dilemmas of Peacebuilding* (pp. 17-36). Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

Kennedy, P. M. (2006). *The parliament of man: the past, present, and future of the United Nations*. New York: Random House.

Lieber, K. (2007). The New History of World War I and What It Means for International Relations Theory. *International Security*, 32(2), 155-191.

Long, J. M. (2006). *Strategic Culture, Al-Qaida, and Weapons of Mass Destruction*. Washington DC: Defense Threat Reduction Agency.

Luttwak, E. (1999). Give War A Chance. *Foreign Affairs*, 78(4), 36-44.

Maoz, I. (2011). Does contact work in protracted asymmetrical conflict? Appraising 20 years of reconciliation-aimed encounters between Israeli Jews and Palestinians. *Journal of Peace Research*, 48(1), 115-125.

Mearsheimer, J. J. (2014). *The tragedy of great power politics*. New York: W.W. Norton.

Roscoe, P. (2007). Intelligence, coalitional killing and the antecedents of war. *American Anthropologist*, 109(3), 485-495.

Snyder, T. (2012). War no more? Why the world has become more peaceful. *Foreign Affairs*.

Thucydides, Strassler, R. B., & Crawley, R. (1996). *The landmark Thucydides: a comprehensive guide to the Peloponnesian War*. New York: Free Press.

United States Army and United States Marine Corps. (2006). *Paradoxes of Counterinsurgency Operations*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Walzer, M. (1977). *Just and unjust wars: a moral argument with historical illustrations*. New York: Basic Books.

Welsh, J. M. (2008). The Security Council and Humanitarian Intervention. In V. Lowe, A. Roberts, J. M. Welsh, & D. Zaum (Eds.), *The United Nations Security Council and War: The Evolution of Thought and Practice since 1945* (pp. 535-562). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

POLS 150 /War and Peace Fall 2017, Course Schedule

The schedule is subject to change with fair notice through Announcements on Canvas. Please do the readings BEFORE class, videos will be shown in class.

Course Schedule

Date	Topics	Reading	Assignment	Concepts
Aug 24	Introduction			
Aug 29	What is war?	Dinstein 3-14; Ghaddar		Legal versus practical definitions
Aug 31	Trends in war	Human Security Report 2013 Overview		Decline in violence?; causes for decline
September 5	Trends in war	Snyder; <i>Pinker TED talk (video)</i>		Decline in violence?; causes for decline
September 7	Causes of war—psychology	Roscoe 485-93; Glover 47-67		Is killing natural?
September 12	Causes of war—psychology	Goldstein 304-31		War as a gendered activity
September 14	Causes of war—domestic politics	Doyle 1151-69		Liberal democracies avoid war
September 19	Causes of war—domestic politics	Hanson 3-33; <i>Why we Fight (video)</i>		Military-industrial complex
September 21	Causes of war—power differentials	Thucydides 351-56; Mearsheimer 334-59; <i>Melian dialogue video</i>		Anarchy as a permissive cause
September 26	Case study: WW I	Lieber 155-191		
September 28	Case study: WW I	Lieber 155-191		
October 3	Case study: Iraq	<i>Bush at War</i>	Scholarly article review due online	
October 5	Weapons of	Ellis 47-78		Technology and

Date	Topics	Reading	Assignment	Concepts
	war			society
October 10	Weapons of war	Chivers pages 340-44, 354-68, 372-79	Documentary review due online	Technology and society
October 12	PRELIM ONE			Minute thesis activity in class
October 17	Conduct of war			<i>Guest lecture by Professor (former Colonel) Len Lira</i>
October 19	Conduct of war	US Army COIN doctrine 47-51	Structured essay due online	
October 24	Justice (laws of war)	Walzer 3-33		When is it right to go to war?
October 26	Justice (laws of war)	Driver 71-87; Long 1-27		When is it right to go to war?
October 31	Justice (implementation)	Borger xi-44	Abstract for term paper due online	Who is in charge of punishing war crimes?
November 2	Justice (rape)	Davis 1223-48; Cohen, Green and Wood 1-16		When is wartime rape likelier? How to punish it?
November 7	PRELIM TWO			
November 9	Making peace (system level)	Kennedy 56-76; Luttwak 36-44		Can the United Nations prevent war?
November 14	Making peace (system level)	Welsh 535-62		
November 16	Making peace (regime type)	Jarstad 17-36		Do democracy and peace go together
November 21	Making peace	<i>Give War a Chance</i>	First draft of term paper	When should the US intervene?

Date	Topics	Reading	Assignment	Concepts
	(regime type)	(video)	due online	
November 28	Making peace (individual level)	Bruneau 143-55		Can we change psychology?
November 30	Making peace (individual level)	Maoz	Second draft of term paper due online	Can we change psychology?
December 5	Case study: Uganda	<i>Dilemma of the White Ant</i> (video); Herbert		Are (child) soldiers culpable?
December 7	Review for final exam			
December 19		Final exam 8 AM-9.30 AM	Term paper due online	