

San José State University
College of Social Sciences/ Department of Political Science
POLS 150, War and Peace, Section 80, Spring 2019

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Karthika Sasikumar
Office Location:	Clark 451
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Office Hours:	Online on Wednesdays 2.30 to 3.30 PM You can also come to in person office hours at these times Monday 9.30 to 11.30, Wednesday 3.30 to 5.30 and Thursday 9.30 to 12.30
Class Days/Time:	Online
Classroom:	https://sjsu.instructure.com/courses/1315927
Units:	3
Prerequisites:	100W
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	V

Course Format

This course adopts an online format. You will need access to a computer with a sound card to hear audio and video recordings, an Internet connection, and word processing software. Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](http://sjsu.instructure.com) at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the Canvas messaging system to learn of any updates.

Course Description

Fundamental human questions about causes of war, definitions of peace and approaches toward achieving peace from perspectives of historical and contemporary thinkers, including philosophers, political leaders, military strategists and diplomats. GE Area: V Prerequisite: Passage of the Writing Skills Test (WST) or ENGL/LLD 100A with a C or better (C- not accepted), completion of Core General Education and upper division standing are prerequisites to all SJSU studies courses. Completion of, or co-registration in, 100W is strongly recommended. Not counted as a core course in the international relations subfield.

This course examines the causes of war and efforts to secure peace. We begin by asking how war is defined, and examine trends in warfare. We consider four approaches to the causes of war. The second half of the course addresses how human beings have attempted to control conflict through the use of institutions and norms. Two special topics will be offered at the end of the course: nuclear weapons and United States foreign policy

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

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. The writing requirement will be satisfied by the take home exams.

Upon successful completion of this GE Course, 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

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

CLO1: Debate major social issues in a civil and collaborative manner

CLO2: Reflect on current events, apply theories of war and peace to them, and evaluate such theories

CLO3: Correctly define key terms relating to war and peace that are used in popular and scholarly discussion

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

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. The full citations for the readings are provided in a document on Canvas.

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 three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Evaluation

CLO	Assignment	Points	Due dates
1	Online Discussions	5 times 3	Feb 1, Feb 15, Mar 8
2	Take Home Exam 1 (1000 words)	5	Mar 15
3	Quizzes	13 times 4	weekly

3	Final Exam	13	May 6-10
2 & 3	Take Home Exam 2 (1000 words)	5	April 12
2 & 3	Final paper (2000 words)	10	May 10

Final examination or evaluation

The main assignment in this course is a final paper of 2000 words. You will choose a conflict from the Correlates of War database and analyze it, using perspectives from IR theory, international law, anthropology, and sociology. There will be two exams during the course of the semester. Both exams require you to respond to one to two essay questions. Your responses will add up to 1000 words. You will also take weekly quizzes online. Each quiz is worth 4 points, and you will have to answer 16 multiple choice questions. The final exam will have 52 multiple choice questions drawn from the weekly quizzes. You will participate in five online discussions that require you to relate the course concepts to specific policy questions.

Grading Information

Determination of Grades

- Grades will be determined as per the table below. Note this is a point system and not based on percentages.
- Extra credit points will be a maximum of 5 points. You will earn them by taking surveys about the class (giving feedback). These will be announced on Canvas.
- I do accept late work, however, the student will document the emergency to the best of his/her ability, and I reserve the right to deduct 10 percent of the total score for the assignment per six hours of lateness.

Grade	Points
A plus	Over 100
A	95 to 100
A minus	90 to 94
B plus	85 to 89
B	80 to 84
B minus	75 to 79
C plus	70 to 74
C	65 to 69
C minus	60 to 64
D plus	55 to 59
F	Less than 55

Grading Information for GE

Passage of the Writing Skills Test (WST) or ENGL/LLD 100A with a C or better (C- not accepted), and completion of Core General Education are prerequisite to all SJSU Studies courses. Completion of, or co-registration in, 100W is strongly recommended. A minimum aggregate GPA of 2.0 in GE Areas R, S, & V shall be required of all students.

University Policies (Required)

Per University Policy S16-9 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant information to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. is

available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs' [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/> Make sure to review these university policies and resources with students.

Citations for POLS 150 Spring 2019

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- Now This World. (2018, September 30). The Problem With the U.N. Veto Power. Retrieved from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HPAONq36HKg>
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POLS 150 / War and Peace, Spring 2019, Course Schedule

This is the schedule for the course. All hyperlinks and uploaded files are on Canvas under Modules. The schedule is subject to change with fair notice on Canvas.

Date	Topic	Readings	Assignment
Jan 28-Feb 1	Definitions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dinstein 2. Michaels read pages 19-24 & 67-68 3. Shields 	Online Discussion 1
Feb 4-8	Trends	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. RAND Report (read extract in Modules) 2. Pinker and Goldstein 3. TED Talk by Pinker 4. Snyder 	
Feb 11-15	Cyberwar	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Singer and Friedman read pages 90-147 2. Video of Singer 3. Rid 4. Video of Rid 	Online Discussion 2
Feb 18-22	Causes of war: power differentials	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Thucydides 2. Video of Melian Dialogue 3. Mearsheimer 	
Feb 25-Mar 1	Causes of war: economic forces	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lenin 2. McDonald read pages 1-20 3. Chua 4. Video <i>Why We Fight</i> 5. Seligman 	
Mar 4-8	Causes of war: political forces	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mansfield and Snyder 2. Video of Snyder 3. Video extract from <i>The Great Dictator</i> 	Online Discussion 3
Mar 11-15	Causes of war: ideas and identity	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Flibbert read pages 73-90 2. Houghton read pages 169-87 3. Video Bush's War (08:32-13, 24:11 to 26:05, 1:06: 34 to 1: 10: 41, 1:42: 48 to 1: 59: 50) 	Take Home Exam 1 due
Mar	Controlling	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Luttwak 	

Date	Topic	Readings	Assignment
18-22	war: intervention	2. Seybolt pages 2-18 only	
Mar 25-29		No class due to Instructor's professional travel	
Apr 1-5		No class due to Spring Break	
Apr 8-12	Controlling war: laws	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Just War theory extracts from Stanford Ency. 2. Geneva Conventions 3. ICC versus ICJ 4. Crawford 5. Video <i>The Reckoning</i> (3-12, 23-32 and 59-end) 	Take Home Exam 2 due
Apr 15-19	Controlling war: international organizations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kennedy 2. Video of the UN Security Council 3. Video on UNSC reform 	
Apr 22-26	Controlling war: justice and reconciliation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Herbert 2. Video Dilemma of the White Ant 3. Blog Post by Letha Victor 	Online Discussion 4
Apr 29-May 3	Special topics: nuclear weapons	Walton	
May 6-10	Special topics: US role in the world	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sullivan 2. Walt 	Final Exam available Final paper due
May 15-18	Culminating activity		Online Discussion 5