

San José State University
Political Science Department
POLS 150, War and Peace, Section 02, 47826, Fall 2020

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Jeremy Abrams
Office Location:	Clark Hall 402F (Closed due to COVID-19 restrictions)
Telephone:	(408) 924-8335
Email:	jeremy.abrams@sjsu.edu Twitter: @uspolisci
Office Hours:	Online via Zoom, Mondays and Wednesdays 11:00am – 12:00pm, link in Canvas
Class Days/Time:	Online – hybrid synchronous: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:30pm – 2:45pm
Classroom:	online
Prerequisites:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Passage of the Writing Skills Test (WST) or ENGL/LLD 100A with a C or better (C- not accepted)• Completion of, or co-registration in, 100W is strongly recommended
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	V

Course Format

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, this class will be different from the past. It will be conducted in a synchronous – hybrid mode. We will be having class synchronously online via Zoom, though there will be some asynchronous material, such as videos, and discussions, that you will be responsible for as well. You will need access to the internet and the Canvas LMS to complete the course. I will do my best to keep this class on track during the course of the semester and the almost inevitable problems that will occur. I understand that some of you will also face unanticipated hardships during the semester as well. I am here to help you succeed and will be happy to discuss any problems and concerns that you may have or that arise as the semester proceeds. Thank you in advance for your patience and perseverance.

Course Description

From the SJSU catalog: 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 is an introduction to the study of the causes of war and the conditions of peace. We will begin by looking at how war is defined for the purpose of studying it, as well as recent developments on war. We will then look at a number of different approaches to thinking about war, drawn from various fields but relying heavily on international relations. You will be introduced to these approaches by reading substantial works that examine conflict in different milieus, rather than from textbooks. We will look at important subfields, such as ethnic conflict and terrorism, as well as the conditions necessary for peace.

Contacting me

This class will be conducted online synchronously. I will be available through a number of different channels. The best method will be via email at jeremy.abrams@sjsu.edu as I check that throughout the day. I will always do my best to respond promptly. During the week I will usually respond within 24 hours, though often much quicker than that. **When you send me an email, please put your class section information (eg. 'War & Peace 1:30pm') in the Subject: field.** I teach several classes with many students and I need to know to which class you are referring. You may also leave me a voice mail at the number listed above, though I check it less frequently than email.

Course Goals

The Political Science Department has the following objectives for its students:

- 1) Breadth: Students should possess a broad knowledge of the theory and methods of the various branches of the discipline.
- 2) Application and Disciplinary Methods: Students should be able to formulate research questions, engage in systematic literature searches using primary and secondary sources, evaluate research studies, and critically analyze and interpret influential political texts. Students should be able to apply these techniques to identify, understand, and analyze domestic and international political issues and organizations.
- 3) 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.
- 4) 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 (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.

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.

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

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 this course. There will be readings, handouts and other materials provided by the instructor during the course of the semester which will be available on Canvas.

Wireless laptop/tablet/smart phone is required in class

Because we will be connecting through Zoom, you will need a computer and internet access. If you don't own a laptop or tablet, you can rent one at no cost from Student Computing Services (<https://library.sjsu.edu/scs>).

Even though this class will be conducted through Zoom, we will use iClicker as part of the participation component. You will need to create an iClicker account for use during the class. You may find instructions on how to do this at <http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/docs/iClicker%20Account%20-%20Setup%20Guide%20-%20Student.pdf> and at <http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/docs/iClicker%20-%20Add%20Your%20Course%20-%20Setup%20Guide%20-%20Student.pdf>.

You will also need access to the internet outside classroom to complete readings from Canvas, complete online homework assignments, upload assignments, and access syllabus, announcements, and course updates on Canvas. Computer access is available in the campus library and in Clark Hall 102.

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.

Your grade will be determined by (1) two midterm exams worth 20 points each; (2) a final exam worth 30 points; (3) a final paper worth 20 points; (4) two Discussion Boards worth 15 points each; (5) class participation using iClicker worth 10 points; (6) six quizzes worth 10 points each; and an annotated bibliography worth 10 points. See the section on 'Grading Information and Policy' below for more details on grading.

The quizzes, exams, Discussion Boards and final are designed to measure your understanding of basic concepts and Course Learning Outcomes related to the causes of war and peace and political science as listed above. As such, the exams will draw on materials from the books as well as class discussions and additional readings available on Canvas. The writing and annotated bibliography will delve deeper into key concepts that require more thoughtful treatment and reflection on the part of the student to understand some of the core problems and concepts related to war and peace. The deadlines for these assignments are listed in the course schedule below.

Course materials such as assignments and instructions, syllabus, handouts, notes, etc. can be found on the Canvas learning management system course website. You will need to be familiar with a computer, web navigation, e-mail and the Canvas system since your assignments and a number of readings are online. Your assignments will be submitted to me through Canvas. Do not e-mail me your assignments as an attachment. Due to the potential for computer viruses, I will not open nor accept any assignments sent via e-mail. They will be deleted. Please save your files in Word or PDF format and upload it to Canvas. You are responsible for knowing how to submit assignments through Canvas. You are responsible for regularly checking your email and with the messaging system through MySJSU to learn of any updates.

NOTE that University policy F15-12 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-12.pdf> states that “Students are expected to attend all meetings for the courses in which they are enrolled as they are responsible for material discussed therein, and active participation is frequently essential to ensure maximum benefit to all class members. In some cases, attendance is fundamental to course objectives; for example, students may be required to interact with others in the class. Attendance is the responsibility of the student.”

In a course that examines international politics discussions are very important. You will be better able to learn from these discussions by having a command of current events. Please keep up-to-date with national and world events by reading daily newspapers and listening to the news. I anticipate spending time in many classes discussing current political events and linking them to theories and ideas discussed in the course.

Final Examination

The final exam is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 9, 2020, from 1215pm – 2:30pm** on Canvas. Final exams may not be taken early. Please plan your travels accordingly. The final exam in this course will be cumulative and will cover course readings, lectures, activities, and discussions for the entire term. It will consist of short answer, and essay questions.

Grading Information

There is a possible total of 200 points. Your final grade will be determined by your total accumulation of points as follows:

Total Points	Percentage	Grade
194-200	97-100	A plus
186-193	93-96.9	A
180-185	90-92.9	A minus
174-179	87-89.9	B plus
166-173	83-86.9	B
160-165	80-82.9	B minus
154-159	77-79.9	C plus
146-153	73-76.9	C
140-145	70-72.9	C minus
134-139	67-69.9	D plus
126-133	63-66.9	D
120-125	60-62.9	D minus

Below 120 points is a failing grade. There will be no extra credit available. Please note that you must take all exams and turn in all assignments to pass the course. In addition, I will not give make ups for any of the quizzes except in the most extreme of cases (e.g. verifiable medical emergencies, etc.).. It is your responsibility to make sure you are available to take the quizzes. Late papers will be penalized one point per calendar day. **Please retain ALL of your exams, papers, and other assessments until after you have completed the course and received your grade.**

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.

Note that "All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades." See [University Policy F13-1](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf> for more details.

Classroom Protocol

E-mail: Each student must have an e-mail address which they check regularly. Please make sure you have updated your records in MySJSU. You must monitor your account on a regular basis. When I send out classwide messages it will be to this account. Failure to monitor this account may result in you missing important messages such as class cancellations, change of exam dates, and requests for timely information.

Attendance: Attendance itself will not be graded, though it is common sense that you cannot complete the Participation part of your grade without being in class. However, the lectures will address some themes presented in the course readings, as well as additional information that you will not find in the readings but which you will be expected to know for exams. It is your responsibility as a student to be in class on time. Further, it is common sense that by not attending regularly, you will miss important lectures, clarifications, handouts, scintillating discussions and brilliant insights from your instructor and fellow students.

Quizzes and Exams: There will be a quiz following each section. You will take each quiz on the Canvas website. There will be a total of four quizzes, of which I will drop the lowest score. I urge you to take the quizzes and final from a computer that is wired into the internet. **Losing a wi-fi connection during a quiz or the final is no more an excuse than running out of ink or forgetting a scantron during a paper-based exam.** You are responsible for having a reliable internet connection while taking the quizzes. The final exam may not be dropped and will be open during the scheduled final exam period listed in the schedule. It will be a comprehensive exam. On Canvas you can find the quizzes by clicking the 'Modules' link on the left side of the page. The exams will be a take home essay where I will give you 24 hours to complete and submit one of two prompts.

Annotated Bibliography and Paper: I will post information on this on the Canvas Website and send e-mails during class giving the details of these assignments.

Academic Freedom: Each student is strongly encouraged to participate in class discussions. In any classroom situation that includes discussion and critical writing, particularly about political ideas, there are bound to be many differing viewpoints. Students may not only disagree with each other at times, but the students and the professor may also find that they have conflicting views on sensitive and volatile topics. It is my hope that these differences will enhance class discussion and create an atmosphere in which students and professor alike will be encouraged to think and learn. Therefore, be assured that students' grades will not be adversely affected by any beliefs or ideas expressed in class or in assignments. Rather, we will all respect the views of others when expressed in classroom discussions.

Students are not allowed to record without instructor permission Students are prohibited from recording class activities (including class lectures, office hours, advising sessions, etc.), distributing class recordings, or posting class recordings. Materials created by the instructor for the course (syllabi, lectures and lecture notes, presentations, etc.) are copyrighted by the instructor. This university policy (S12-7) is in place to protect the privacy of students in the course, as well as to maintain academic integrity through reducing the instances of cheating. Students who record, distribute, or post these materials will be referred to the Student Conduct and Ethical Development office. Unauthorized recording may violate university and state law. It is the responsibility of students that require special accommodations or assistive technology due to a disability to notify the instructor.

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on Syllabus Information web page (<http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo>), which is hosted by the Office of Undergraduate Education. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Other Useful Information

Voter Registration (From <http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/frequently-asked-questions/>)

Who can register to vote?

To register to vote in California, you must be:

- A United States citizen,
- A resident of California,
- 18 years of age or older on Election Day,
- Not currently imprisoned or on parole for the conviction of a felony, and
- Not currently found to be mentally incompetent by a court of law.

“The deadline to register to vote is 15 days prior to Election Day, often called E-15. You must submit the voter registration application by midnight on the registration deadline day. A timestamp will be attached to your online voter registration application. If you register to vote using a paper application, it must be postmarked or hand-delivered to your county elections office by E-15. After the registration deadline, in most elections any individual may conditionally register to vote and cast a provisional ballot by visiting their county elections official.”

Last Day to Register to Vote:

October 19, 2020

General Election:

November 3, 2020

You may find more information and register to vote at <https://registertovote.ca.gov/>

Political Science Scholarships – see <http://www.sjsu.edu/polisci/scholarships/> for info. From the website:

“The Political Science Department is fortunate to be able to award more than 10 scholarships to our students each year–this is an extraordinary level of support that surpasses what any other department on campus can offer. The scholarships were created by generous benefactors–often former faculty, students, and friends of the department–who desired to ease the financial burden on our students as they seek to earn their degrees in Political Science. The department encourages all of our students to apply for one or more of these awards.”

Library information:

liaison for Political Science: Paul Kauppila
University Librarian (Political Science Liaison)
(408) 808-2042
Paul.Kauppila@sjsu.edu

Political Science subject guide: <http://libguides.sjsu.edu/politicalscience>

This syllabus is subject to change at the instructor’s discretion. Any changes will be announced in class and on Canvas. It is your responsibility to sign into Canvas regularly and check for any important announcements and updates.

Course Schedule

Week	Topics, Readings	Assignments
2	<p>Levy, Jack S, and Thompson, William R. Causes of War. Hoboken: John Wiley & Sons, Incorporated, 2011.</p> <p>Lebow, Richard Ned. "The Past and Future of War." International Relations 24.3 (2010): 243-70. <i>skim</i></p> <p>Allison, Graham. "The Thucydides Trap: Are the U.S. and China Headed for War?" The Atlantic Sept 24, 2015.</p>	
3-4	<p>Thucydides "The Melian Dialogue" at https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/melian.htm</p> <p>Hobbes, Leviathan, Chapter XIII "Of the Natural Condition of Mankind as Concerning Their Felicity and Misery"</p> <p>Van Evera, S. (1998). Offense, Defense, and the Causes of War. International Security, 22(4), 5-43.</p> <p>Tuchman, B. (1962). The Guns of August. New York: Macmillan. Chapters 2-4</p>	
4-6	<p>Doyle, M. (1986). Liberalism and World Politics. The American Political Science Review, 80(4), 1151-1169.</p> <p>"Paradise is a Bazaar" in Blainey, G. (1988). The causes of war (3rd ed., 1st American ed.). New York: Free Press.</p> <p>"Germany and the Pattern of Late Development" in Snyder, Jack L, & Snyder, Jack L. (1991). Myths of empire: Domestic politics and international ambition (Cornell studies in security affairs). Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press.</p> <p>Mintz, Alex. "How Do Leaders Make Decisions? A Poliheuristic Perspective." Journal of Conflict Resolution, vol. 48, no. 1, February 2004, p. 3-13.</p> <p>"Calculation, Miscalculation and Conventional Deterrence II: The View from Jerusalem" in Jervis, R., Lebow, R. N., & Stein, J. G. (1989). Psychology and deterrence. Baltimore, Md: Johns Hopkins University Press.</p>	<p>Quiz 1: Sept 8 on weeks 2-4</p> <p>Quiz 2: Sept. 22 on weeks 4-6</p> <p>Exam 1: Sept 24</p>
7-8	<p>Finnemore, M., & Sikkink, K. (2001). TAKING STOCK : The Constructivist Research Program in International Relations and Comparative Politics. Annual Review of Political Science, 4(1), 391-416.</p> <p>Wendt, Alexander. 1995. "Constructing International Politics." International Security 20 (1): 71. doi:10.2307/2539217.</p> <p>"Ancient Greece" in Reus-Smit, C. (1999). The moral purpose of the state: Culture, social identity, and institutional rationality in international relations (Princeton studies in international history and politics). Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press.</p>	<p>Quiz 3: Oct 6 on weeks 6-8</p> <p>Discussion Board 1: Oct. 2-9</p>

Week	Topics, Readings	Assignments
8-10	<p>chapters 1&2 in Crenshaw, M. (2016). Countering terrorism: No simple solutions. Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Pr. See also the online Global Terrorism Database at https://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/</p> <p>“The Terror” in Aussaresses, Miller, and Miller, Robert L. The Battle of the Casbah: Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism in Algeria, 1955-1957. First English Language ed. New York: Enigma, 2002.</p> <p>Movie: The Battle of Algiers</p>	<p>Quiz 4: Oct 20 on weeks 8-10</p> <p>Exam 2: Oct. 22</p>
11-13	<p>Collier, P., & Hoeffler, A. (2004). Greed and grievance in civil war. Oxford Economic Papers, 56(4), 563-595.</p> <p>Michael Brown, “Ethnic and Internal Conflicts,” in Turbulent Peace, ch. 13, pp. 209-26</p> <p>“The Crime with a Name” and “Kosovo: A Dog and a Fight” in Power, Samantha. A Problem from Hell: America and the Age of Genocide. New York: Basic, 2002.</p> <p>Chapters 4 & 5 in Gourevitch, P. (1998). We wish to inform you that tomorrow we will be killed with our families: Stories from Rwanda. New York: Picador.</p>	<p>ELECTION DAY: Nov. 3</p> <p>Annotated Bibliography due Nov. 3</p> <p>Quiz 5: Nov. 10 on weeks 11-13</p>
13-15	<p>Kupchan, Charles, & Kupchan, Clifford A. (1995). The Promise of Collective Security. International Security, 20(1), 52-61.</p> <p>Reiter, D. (2009). Bargaining, Information, and Ending Wars. In How Wars End (pp. 8-21). PRINCETON; OXFORD: Princeton University Press. doi:10.2307/j.ctt7pff4.6</p> <p>Chapters 4-5 in Iklé, F. (1911). Every war must end. Revised ed. (Columbia paperback ; no. 116). New York: Columbia University Press.</p> <p>Chapter 1 in McGarry, J., & O'Leary, B. (1993). The politics of ethnic conflict regulation: Case studies of protracted ethnic conflicts. London ; New York: Routledge.</p>	<p>Discussion Board 2: Nov. 17-24</p>
16	<p>Wrap up and review</p>	<p>Quiz 6: Dec 1 on weeks 13-15</p> <p>Paper due Dec. 3</p>
Final Exam	Wednesday, December 9, 2020, from 1215pm – 2:30pm	On Canvas

