IR 222: PREVENTIVE WARS

Semester: Fall 2009
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Lectures: Thu: 02:00 PM—4:40 PM
Location: Hylan 206
Office Hours: Tue./Thur. 11 AM-12 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Prevention is perhaps the most common justification for war. Both world wars, and more recently the invasion of Iraq and concerns over China’s economic and military rise, illustrate its historical and present relevance. In this seminar, we analyze the theory, history, and practice of preventive wars – wars fought to avoid negotiating in a position of weakness in the future. When and why do states fight them, and what lessons can we draw from history to avoid them in the future?

GRADING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examination</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>Participation to discussions / questions.</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Presentations</td>
<td>Present a point of view on one of the subjects proposed and lead the debate against members of the other team.</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Summaries (4)</td>
<td>Summarize one paper (additional reading) and present it to the class.</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>Essay on a subject of your choice, to be discussed with me (about 10 pages), due before thanksgiving break</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Written, in class. 6 short questions+ 1 short essay.</td>
<td>20%</td>
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**Short questions** aim to test your knowledge. Any fact or concept covered in the class or the readings can be asked. Answers need only be a few sentences long, half a page at most.

**Examples of short questions:**
- What is appeasement?
- What is the difference between a preventive and a preemptive war?
- What are the main accomplishments of the Washington naval agreement?

**The short essay** will test your understanding of concepts and their relationships. Your answer should be around three hand-written pages.

**Examples of short essay:**
- Is the 2003 Iraq war a preventive war? Discuss
- Can preventive wars be just?

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**TEXTBOOKS / READING MATERIAL**


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**COURSE OUTLINE**

**PART I: THEORY**

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**SEMINAR 1 – 09/03 – PRESENTATION & OVERVIEW**

**SEMINAR 2 – 09/10 – WHY STUDY WAR AND HOW TO STUDY IT?**

**Trends**
- Carl Kaysen, "Is War Obsolete?" in Lynn-Jones, Cold War and After, pp. 81-103

**How to study it?**

SEMINAR 3 – 09/17 – CLASSICAL THEORIES OF WAR

• Hobbes, Thomas. Leviathan. Ch. 13
• Kenneth N. Waltz, Man, the State, and War. New York: Columbia University Press, 1959. Chap. 1
• Cashman. 1993. What Causes War? An Introduction to Theories of International Conflict. Lexington Books. Ch. 8

SEMINAR 4 – 09/24 – BARGAINING AND WAR

• Powell, Robert. 1999. In the Shadow of Power. Princeton University Press. Ch. 3, 4 (make your best effort at understanding the models, but focus more on the text).
• Thomas C. Schelling, Arms and Influence (New Haven: Yale, 1966), ch. 2 (pp. 35—92)

SEMINAR 5 – 10/01 – PREVENTIVE AND PREEMPTIVE WAR THEORIES

• Organski. 1968. World Politics. Knopf.
• Dan Reiter, "Exploding the Powder Keg Myth: Preemptive Wars Almost Never Happen." International Security 20 (Fall 1995): 5-34
• Powell, Robert. 2006. “War as a Commitment Problem”. International Organization.
**SEMINAR 6 – 10/08 – ARMS RACES / OFFENSE-DEFENSE**


**SEMINAR 7 – 10/15 – AVOIDING PREVENTIVE WARS AND ENDING THE WAR**


**SEMINAR 8 – 10/22 – DOMESTIC POLITICS AND PREVENTIVE WAR**

**Two-level games**


**Militarism**

Bureaucracy


Propaganda


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SEMINAR 9 – 10/29 – ETHICS: CAN PREVENTIVE WARS BE JUST?

- Bellamy, Alex. 2006. *Just Wars: From Cicero to Iraq*. Polity. pp. 158—180

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SEMINAR 10 – 11/05 – CIVIL WARS


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PART II: CASE STUDIES

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SEMINAR 11 – 11/12 – WARS UP TO WWI

The Peloponnesian War


The Seven-years war

**The Crimean War**


**The Wars of German Unification**

• Ziegler, War, Peace & IR, Chapter 1, "The Wars for German Unification," (pp. 7-20)

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**SEMINAR 12 – 11/19 – WWI AND WWII**

**World War I**

**Required Reading:**

• Fergusson, Niall. 1999. The pity of War.
• Van Evera, ch. 7

**Additional Readings**


**World War II**

**Required Reading:**
• Sebastian Haffner, *The Meaning of Hitler*, pp. 3-165.

**Additional Readings**

11/26 – THANKSGIVING BREAK

SEMINAR 13 – 12/03 – 1945 - PRESENT

To be discussed in class

SEMINAR 14 – 12/10 – REVIEW AND CONCLUSION

**LECTURE POLICIES**

**LATE WORK POLICY**

The following penalties may be applied for late work:
• Work submitted 1-2 calendar days AFTER its due date may be graded down a maximum of 10%.
• Works submitted 3-6 calendar days AFTER its due date may be graded down a maximum of 20%.
• Work submitted 7-21 days AFTER its due date may be graded down a maximum of 30%.
• Work submitted more than 21 days AFTER its due date will receive an automatic zero.

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PAPER SUBMISSIONS
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Your paper should include:

A **title page** with an abstract. This page should contain: the paper's title and your name; the date, course number and the name of the assignment (e.g., “Final paper”).

**The paper itself** should be double-spaced, 1” margins on all sides, 12 pt font size, and right-justified. There should be no spaces between paragraphs within the paper.

**A references page (APA style).** Sources should be alphabetized by the author’s last name (or, for sources without authors, by the first letter in the title).