This course examines the development of warfare and growth of the state. In particular, we examine the phenomenon of war in its broader socio-economic context between the emergence of the modern nation-state and the end of World War II. Students are required to do all the reading, which may add up to hundreds of pages per week, and are required to make a (potentially joint) presentation in class on the readings for one class (25% of the grade). Students have the choice between a research paper and one big final (75%).

For this class I feel it is necessary to warn that some of the readings will directly confront you with the horrors of war. And they are truly horrs. There is just no way around this, if we want to even begin to understand war. There will be some books with pictures that you may want to skip, I fully understand that.

**Academic Integrity**

Be familiar with the University’s policies on academic integrity and disciplinary action ([http://www.rochester.edu/living/urhere/handbook/discipline2.html#XII](http://www.rochester.edu/living/urhere/handbook/discipline2.html#XII)). Violators of University regulations on academic integrity will be dealt with severely, which means that your grade will suffer, and I will forward your case to the Chair of the College Board on Academic Honesty.

**Texts**

I may make some minor tweaks in the syllabus during the semester, but the course largely builds on the following books which should be available at Amazon.com. Since this is a long list, I list in bold books that you definitely should get.


Course Outline

Thursday August 29

1. CANCELLED
   No Class–APSA Conference

General Themes

Thursday September 5

2. Introduction and Global Historical Background

   • Hew Strachan, *European Armies and the Conduct of War*, chapters 2–4, pp.8 – 59

   Optional:

   • Michael Howard, *War in European History*, chapters 4–5, pp.54 – 93

Thursday September 12

3. Nationalism and War

   • Clausewitz, *On War*, Books 1, 2 and 8.

Thursday September 19

4. **Democratization and Industrialization**

**Democratization**


**Industrialization**

• Kennedy, *The Rise and Fall of British Naval Mastery*, introduction and Chapter 7, pp.xiii – xxx, 177 – 204
• Kennedy, *Strategy and Diplomacy*, Chapter 3, pp.87 – 108
• Strachan, *European Armies and the Conduct of War*, Chapter 8, pp.108 – 129

**Optional:**

• Michael Doyle, “Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs: Part 2,” *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, 12 (Fall 1983), 323–53
Thursday September 26

5. Bureaucratization


Causes of the World Wars

Thursday October 3

6. Causes of World War I

Military Strategy


Domestic Politics

- Eckart Kehr, “Anglophobia and Weltpolitik,” in his *Economic Interest, Militarism and Foreign Policy*, pp.22–49

**Thursday October 10**

7. **Causes of World War I**

**Systemic Explanations**


**Thursday October 17**

8. **Causes of World War II**

**Versailles and its consequences**

- John Maynard Keynes, *The Economic Consequences of the Peace*, introduction, Chapter 6

**Deterring the Third Reich**

- Kennedy, *The Rise and Fall of British Naval Mastery*, Chapter 10
- Kennedy, *Strategy and Diplomacy*, Chapter 1
- John Mearsheimer, *Conventional Deterrence*, Chapters 3–4

Optional:

Conduct of the World Wars

Thursday October 24

9. Conduct of World War I

Attrition Warfare

- John Keegan, *The Face of Battle*, Chapter 4
- David Kennedy, *Over Here*, prologue, Chapters 1, 2 and 6

Optional: The Homefront


Thursday October 31

10. Conduct of World War II

The Ground War on the Eastern Front


Or, alternatively:


Thursday November 7

Conduct of World War II

The Killing Machine and the Eastern Front

- Christian Streit, “Wehrmacht, Einsatzgruppen, Soviet POWs and anti-Bolshevism in the emergence of the Final Solution,” in *The Final Solution; Origins and Implementation*, pp.103 – 118
• Be sure to check out this animation of Western Allies Bombing Campaigns in Europe September 1939 - May 1945: https://www.reddit.com/r/dataisbeautiful/comments/anflpp/oc_western_allies_air_missions_through_world_war/

Optional

• Christopher Browning, “The Decision Concerning the Final Solution,” in Francois Furet, *Unanswered Questions*, pp.96 – 118
• Jürgen Förster, “The relation between Operation Barbarossa as an ideological war of extermination and the Final Solution,” in *The Final Solution; Origins and Implementation*, pp.85 – 102
• Omar Bartov, “Operation Barbarossa and the origins of the Final Solution,” in *The Final Solution; Origins and Implementation*, pp.119 – 136

Thursday November 14

**Conduct of World War II**

**The Killing Machines on the Eastern Front**


Thursday November 21

11. **Conduct of World War II**

**War with Japan**

“Death of the Ball Turret Gunner”

Randall Jarrell

From my mother’s sleep I fell into the State,
And I hunched in its belly till my wet fur froze.
Six miles from earth, loosed from its dream of life,
I woke to black flak and the nightmare fighters.
When I died they washed me out of the turret with a hose.
• Schaeffer, *Wings of Judgment*, Chapters 2, 6 – 8
• Kennedy, *Strategy and Diplomacy*, Chapter 7

For racial attitudes check out: [http://libraries.ucsd.edu/speccoll/dswenttowar/](http://libraries.ucsd.edu/speccoll/dswenttowar/) You’ll be surprised by the author.

Thursday November 28

Thanksgiving Recess

Thursday December 5

12. **Conduct of World War II**

   **War with Japan**


The Termination and Consequences of War

Thursday December 12

13. **The Termination of War**


   **Optional:**

Questions to consider in formulating and evaluating social science research

1. **What is the central question?**
   - Why is it important (theoretically, substantively)?
   - What is being explained (what is the dependent variable and how does it vary)?
   - How does this phenomenon present a puzzle?

2. **What is the central answer?**
   - What is doing the explaining (what are the independent variables and how do they vary)?
   - What are the hypotheses, i.e., what is the relationship between independent and dependent variables, what kind of change in the independent variable causes what kind of change in the dependent variable?
   - What are the causal mechanisms, i.e., why are the independent and dependent variables so related?
   - How do the independent variables relate to each other?
   - What assumptions does your theory make?
   - Is the theory falsifiable in concept?
   - What does this explanation add to our understanding of the question?

3. **What are the possible alternative explanations?**
   - What assumptions are you making about the direction of causality?
   - What other explanations might there be for the phenomenon of study, and to what degree do they conflict with the central answer?
   - Could the hypothesized relationships have occurred by chance?

4. **Why are the possible alternative explanations wrong?**
   - What is the logical structure of the alternative explanations (compare 2)?
   - What is the empirical evidence?

5. **What is the relationship between the theory and the evidence?**
   - What does the research design allow to vary, i.e., in this design are the explanations variables or constants?
   - What does your research design hold constant, i.e., does it help to rule out the alternative competing explanations?
   - How are the theoretical constructs represented empirically, i.e., how do you know it when you see it (measurement)?

6. **How do the empirical conclusions relate to the theory?**
   - How confident are you about the theory in light of the evidence?
   - How widely do the conclusions generalize, i.e., what might be the limitations of the study?
   - What does the provisionally accepted or revised theory say about questions of broader importance?