

University of Georgia  
Department of International Affairs  
INTL 4220: International Conflict



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Time:	Tuesday and Thursday; 12:30 pm to 1:45 pm
Place:	Park Hall 113
Professor:	Dr. Brock F. Tessman
Email:	tessman@uga.edu
Website:	<a href="http://tessman.myweb.uga.edu">http://tessman.myweb.uga.edu</a>
Phone:	706.583.5557
Office:	328 Candler Hall
Office Hours:	Tuesday and Wednesday 2:00 pm to 3:00 pm Or by appointment

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*“The commerce and industry of a people no longer depends on the expansion of its political frontiers...military power is socially and economically futile, and can have no relation to the prosperity of the people exercising it...it is impossible for one nation to seize by force the wealth or trade of another – to enrich itself by subjugating, or imposing its will by force on another...in short, war, even when victorious, can no longer achieve those aims for which peoples strive.” – Norman Angell (1913, one year prior to the outbreak of the First World War)*

In this course, we will investigate the outbreak of interstate war. This phenomenon, though relatively rare, has proven remarkably resilient over the years. On a number of occasions, social, economic and technological evolutions have led leaders and scholars alike to underestimate the likelihood of interstate conflict. As recently as 2002, Robert Jervis argued that “War among the leading great powers – the most developed states of the United States, Western Europe and Japan – will not occur in the future, and indeed is no longer a source of concern for them.” Indeed, forms of “non-traditional” violence such as ethnic conflict, global terrorism, civil war and genocide have grown in frequency in recent years. But we need only consider ongoing tension between rivals like India and Pakistan, China and Japan, Israel and Iran or Russia and the United States to see potential flashpoints for interstate conflict. Should these – or other – states escalate to the point of outright war, the human and material costs would be staggering.

Substantively, this course will help you answer the broad question: What causes war? We will use a wide range of case studies as a way to examine various explanations of war, including those based on human nature, psychology, group interest, government-type, arms races and the distribution of power in the international system. Drawing from over 2,000 years of historical evidence, we will attempt to extract lessons that contribute toward a better understanding of war and peace in the modern world.

Course Requirements

Attendance and Participation (10%): You are expected to come to every class meeting, with the assigned reading completed and ready to contribute. Although the course will include lectures, we will spend much of our time engaging in classroom discussion and debates. Your grade in this area will be based on your overall contribution to the course. If you are hesitant to participate in class, the WebCT discussion board is an excellent way for you to communicate your ideas and comments. Obviously, you cannot participate if you don't attend class, so your grade also depends on your physical presence. I will take attendance regularly. You are allowed three absences over the course of the semester. For each additional absence, you will lose 10% of your participation grade.

Quizzes (5 Quizzes, 10% each): There will be periodic quizzes throughout the semester. The quizzes are designed to evaluate your grasp of the key theories and events we discuss as part of each case study. The quizzes will be short (30 minutes, in class) and to the point - sentence completions, short ID questions and geography questions.

Final Exam (40%): The final exam will take place during the time and date scheduled by the University. The exam will be cumulative, and will consist of an essay prompt. More than likely, you will be asked to apply one or more theories we have covered in class to one or more cases of international conflict. You will have the entire three-hour period to complete your answer.

Grading Scale:

92.00 to 100.00	= A	72.00 to 77.99	= C
90.00 to 91.99	= A-	70.00 to 71.99	= C-
88.00 to 89.99	= B+	68.00 to 69.99	= D+
82.00 to 87.99	= B	62.00 to 67.99	= D
80.00 to 81.99	= B-	60.00 to 61.99	= D-
78.00 to 79.99	= C+	Below 60.00	= F

Reading Material

There are two required books for this course, both of which can be purchased at the UGA bookstore.

Greg Cashman and Leonard C. Robinson, *An Introduction to the Causes of War*. Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield, 2007.

Kagan, Donald, *On the Origins of War and the Preservation of Peace*. New York: Doubleday, 1995.

Online booksellers like Amazon (amazon.com), Barnes and Noble (barnesandnoble.com) and Powell's Books (powells.com) may also have these titles in stock. Additional readings will be made available on the course WebCT page. The reading for this course is not overwhelming, so I do expect a high level of comprehension when it comes to what is assigned. I also encourage you to monitor current news relating to interstate conflict. Some good, free sites include the New York Times ([www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)), Christian Science Monitor ([www.csmonitor.com](http://www.csmonitor.com)), Al Jazeera (<http://english.aljazeera.net>) and the BBC ([www.bbc.co.uk](http://www.bbc.co.uk)).

The Fine Print:

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

Make-up examinations are only offered for university-excused absences. Please contact me during the first two weeks of the semester if you have a conflict that will prevent you from taking the exam in class on the scheduled date.

All academic work must meet the standards contained in a "Culture of Honesty." All students are responsible to inform themselves about those standards before performing any academic work. Don't cheat; if you get caught you could very well fail the course and be subjected to the harshest penalty offered by the university.

The University of Georgia seeks to provide students with disabilities the opportunity to fully participate in educational programs and services. In keeping with this philosophy, it is University policy that students with documented disabilities receive reasonable accommodations through access to classroom information. If you require special accommodations because of a university-documented condition, please contact me during the first two weeks of the semester and we can work with the Disability Resource Center in order to achieve a positive outcome.

### Course Schedule

This course is divided into 12 sections; each section will take approximately one week to cover, but in an effort to maintain flexibility we will occasionally spend more or less time on any given section. During the semester, the course WebCT page will always be the place to go for updates on our progress and the reading assignment for the next class meeting. Get in the habit of checking WebCT every day after class.

### Section 1: An Introduction to the Study of War

Robert Jervis, "Theories of War in an Era of Leading Power Peace"

John Mearsheimer, "Why We Will Soon Miss the Cold War"

Robert Kagan (Preface and Introduction, pp. xiii-14)

Greg Cashman (Introduction, pp. 1-27)

### Section 2: The Peloponnesian War

Thucydides, History of the Peloponnesian War, selected books

Robert Kagan (pp. 15-80)

### Section 3: The Second Punic War

Robert Kagan (pp. 232-280)

---QUIZ #1---

### Section 4: World War One

Robert Kagan (pp. 81-231)

Greg Cashman (pp.27-88)

---QUIZ #2---

### Section 5: World War Two (Europe Theatre)

Robert Kagan (pp. 281-436)

### Section 6: World War Two (Pacific Theatre)

Greg Cashman (pp. 89-154)

Movie: Tora! Tora! Tora!

---QUIZ #3---

### Section 7: The Cuban Missile Crisis

Robert Kagan (pp. 437-565)

Section 8: The Six Day War

Greg Cashman (pp. 155-204)

Section 9: The Indo-Pakistani War

Greg Cashman (pp. 205-266)

---QUIZ #4---

Section 10: The Iran-Iraq War

Greg Cashman (pp. 267-296)

Section 11: The 2003 Iraq War

Greg Cashman (pp. 297-364)

---QUIZ #5---

Section 12: Reflections on the Causes of War

Niccolo Machiavelli, "Doing Evil in Order to Do Good"

Sigmund Freud, "Why War"

Francisco Fornari, "The Psychoanalysis of War"

Margaret Mead, "Warfare Is Only an Invention – Not a Biological Necessity"

Robert Kagan (pp. 566-574)

Greg Cashman (pp. 365-384)

---FINAL EXAM---