**Political Science 4315:**
**International Security and the Causes of War**

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**Description:** This course examines various issues regarding international conflict and cooperation. It is divided into two parts: theories of strategic interaction and the causes of war. Much of what is interesting in the study of international relations does not involve strategies of pure conflict (zero-sum games). Accordingly, the course begins with a focus on theories of interdependent decision-making in mixed-motive games, which model conflict as a bargaining situation. The second half of the course investigates a wide range of theories on the causes of war, including power shifts, domestic politics, prospect theory and misperception, institutions, and regime type.

**Requirements:** A midterm (50%) and final examination (50%). Both the midterm and final are in-class exams, in which you will be required to answer two out of four essay questions.

**Required Books and Readings:**
3. Readings marked with an (*) are available on Carmon.

**Part I: Theories of Strategic Interaction**

1. **Introduction: What is War?**
   Lecture only. No readings.

2. **Level of Analysis**
   *Kenneth Waltz, *Man, the State, and War*, pp. 16-41, 80-85, 159-65.

3. **Coercion, Brute Force, and the Diplomacy of Violence**

4. **Deterrence**
5. The Security Dilemma and War: Offense-Defense Theory
Charles Glaser, “Realists as Optimists: Cooperation as Self-Help,” in POA.

6. Rationalist Explanations for War

7. Accommodation: Promises of Rewards, Not Threats of Violence

8. Appeasement and Assurance


10. War Termination

11. Review Session and Midterm Examination

Part II: Causes of War

12. Hegemonic War, Power Transitions, and Preventive War
Robert Gilpin, War and Change in World Politics, whole book.
*Jack Levy, "Declining Power and the Preventive Motivation for War,” World Politics 40
(October 1987), pp. 82-107.
William Wohlforth, “Realism and the End of the Cold War,” in POA.

13. Institutions and Peace?
John Mearsheimer, “The False Promise of International Institutions,” in *POA*.

14. Alliances and War
Stephen Walt, “Alliance Formation and the Balance of World Power,” in *POA*.
Randall Schweller, “Bandwagoning For Profit: Bringing the Revisionist State Back In,” in *POA*.

15. Domestic Politics and War
*Jack Snyder, *Myths of Empire*, chaps. 1, 2.
Fareed Zakaria, “Realism and Domestic Politics: A Review Essay,” in *POA*

16. The Democratic Peace
Christopher Layne, “Kant or Cant: The Myth of the Democratic Peace,” in *POA*.

17. Psychological Approaches to War

18. Ethnic Conflict

19. Review Session

20. Final Examination
Important Considerations

*Academic Honesty.* All of the work you do in this course is expected to be your own. Absolutely no cheating or plagiarism (using someone else’s words or ideas without proper citation) will be tolerated. Any cases of cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the university committee on academic misconduct and handled according to university policy.

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; [http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/](http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/).