

The University of Texas at Austin
Government 360N, International Security
REVEL COURSE CODE: 39k86cf

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DESCRIPTION

This course provides a broad introduction to the conditions and motivations behind the use of military force in the contemporary political world. Traditionally, this subfield in international relations has focused on how states use or threaten to use violence to preserve their sovereignty and resolve political conflicts with other states. The increasing salience of terrorism over the past two decades helped to reorient the subfield, increasing its attention to acts of political violence by non-state actors. We will explore such topics questions as: why do wars occur? How do interstate and intrastate wars differ? What conditions facilitate the termination of wars? How do alliance structures, international organizations, global economic integration, and the domestic institutions associated with democracy limit military conflict? How have nuclear weapons altered interstate relations? What are the political causes and consequences of terrorism? How is climate change creating new security challenges for states?

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There will be three sets of requirements for this course. First, you will be expected to attend class, keep up with the assigned readings, and participate in our discussions. We will track this participation through graded online discussions in the classroom and the completion of the activities assigned in your digital textbook. Second, you will complete one take home essay assignment on either World War I or the Syrian War. Third, you will complete two in-class examinations: a midterm and a final. These requirements contribute to your final grade as follows:

Participation in graded chat during class	15%
Textbook activities	10%
Essay	25%
Midterm	25%
Final	25%

READING MATERIALS

We have three required books for this course. The first is a digital textbook. The remaining two examine World War I and the Syrian War, respectively. We will also add a few digital article readings that will be made available to you through Canvas.

McDonald, Patrick J., Terrence L. Chapman, and Robert Moser. 2020. *An Introduction to International Relations: Opening the Global System*. Pearson. (**Hereafter: OGS**)

Rania Abouzeid. 2018. *No Turning Back: Life, Loss, and Hope in Wartime Syria*. Norton.

David Fromkin. 2004. *Europe's Last Summer: Who Started the Great War in 1914?* New York: Knopf.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Session 1: Introduction to International Security

Readings: OGS, Module 1

Session 2: The International System and the Iran Nuclear Accord

Readings: OGS, Module 2

Session 3: Thinking Theoretically About International Security

Readings: OGS, Module 3

Session 4: War in International Relations

Readings: OGS, Module 7 and Sections 16.3, 16.4

Session 5: The Origins of War, Part I

Readings: OGS, Module 8

Session 6: The Origins of War, Part II

Readings: OGS, Module 9

Session 7: The Origins of WWI, 1904-1913

Readings: Fromkin, *Europe's Last Summer*, pp. 1-112

Session 8: The Origins of WWI, Balkan Wars and the Blank Check

Readings: Fromkin, *Europe's Last Summer*, pp. 113-200

Session 9: The Origins of WWI, The July Crisis

Readings: Fromkin, *Europe's Last Summer*, pp. 201-305

Session 10: Alliances, the Security Dilemma, and the Origins of WWI

Readings: OGS, Sections 11.1-11.3

Session 11: Domestic Sources of War and WWI

Readings: OGS, Module 18, Sections 19.1-19.4

Session 12: War Termination

Readings: OGS, Module 10

Session 13: The Treaty of Versailles

Readings: OGS, Section 16.5 (and review Sections 16.3, 16.4)

Session 14: Midterm

Session 15: Civil War

Readings: OGS, Sections 12.1-12.4

Session 16: Identity Conflicts and Civil War in Syria

Readings: OGS, Module 24; Abouzeid, *No Turning Back*, pp. 1-94

Session 17: International Intervention in Civil War and Syria

Readings: OGS, Sections 12.5-12.6, Abouzeid, *No Turning Back*, pp. 95-240

Session 18: Terrorism and Counterterrorism

Readings: OGS, Module 15

Session 19: Wars in Iraq and Syria and the Rise of ISIS

Readings: OGS, Section 35.4, Abouzeid, *No Turning Back*, pp. 241-320

Session 20: Nuclear Weapons, Part 1

Readings: OGS, Module 13

Session 21: Nuclear Weapons, Part 2

Readings: OGS, Module 14; *Foreign Affairs* reading on North Korea or Iran

Session 22: Great Power Politics and US-China Relations

Readings: OGS, Module 20

Session 23: Great Power Politics: US-Russian Relations and Ukraine

Readings: OGS, Section 11.4, *Foreign Affairs* reading on US-Russian relations

Session 24: Economic Causes of War and Peace, Part 1

Readings: OGS, Module 26; McDonald, *The Invisible Hand of Peace*, ch. 3

Session 25: Economic Causes of War and Peace, Part 2

Readings: OGS, Sections 27.1-27.2, McDonald, *The Invisible Hand of Peace*, ch. 8

Session 26: Environmental Scarcity and Conflict, Part 1

Readings: OGS, Module 33

Session 27: Environmental Scarcity and Conflict, Part 2

Readings: Selected readings from *Foreign Affairs*

Session 28: Final Exam