



**War and the United States
Summer 2018
Distance Learning**

“War is God’s way of teaching Americans geography.” — Attributed to Ambrose Bierce

Professor:

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Office Hours:

Course Description:

(3 hours) An examination of the role that the United States plays in international disputes, including interstate war and civil wars.

Course Overview:

This course is designed to help students understand the role of the United States in international disputes from theoretical, historical, and empirical perspectives. The course will cover a wide range of topics including theories of violence, core concepts in international relations, methods of post conflict reconciliation and rebuilding and conflict prevention. The course will use a number of historical case studies that cover every region of the world.

Learning Objectives:

- The student will analyze best and worst practices of US policies in each part of the “war phase.”
- The student will be able to summarize and appraise relevant existing research.
- The student will analyze assumptions, evaluate connecting explanations and establish the relevance of the positions taken on key issues in each part of the “war phase.”
- The student will create an original social sciences thesis on the United States and a specific war using appropriate theoretical, historical, and empirical concepts.

Prerequisites:

There are no prerequisites

Textbooks:

1. *Managing Conflict in a World Adrift* by Crocker, Hampson, and Aall (editors), United States Institute of Peace (2015).
2. *For the Common Defense: A Military history of the United States of America*, by Miller and Maslowski (2014) Free Press.

University Policies

The University is an equal opportunity educational institution. Please read *The University's Policy Statement on Nondiscrimination on the Basis of the Americans with Disability Act Compliance*.

Academic Accommodations The University of Toledo is committed to providing equal access to education for all students. If you have a documented disability or you believe you have a disability and would like information regarding academic accommodations/adjustments in this course please contact the *Student Disability Services Office*.

Grade Policy:

Unexcused, late assignments will be assessed a penalty of 1/3 a letter grade per 24 hours late.

Grading Scale:

Numerical Grade	Letter Grade	Performance
93 - 100	A	Achievement of Exceptional or Outstanding quality.
90 - 92	A-	Achievement of slightly less than outstanding quality.
87 - 89	B+	Achievement of slightly more than high quality.
83 - 86	B	Achievement of high quality.
80 - 82	B-	Achievement of slightly less than high quality.
77 - 79	C+	Work of slightly more than acceptable quality.
73 - 76	C	Work of acceptable quality.
70 - 72	C-	Work of slightly less than acceptable quality.
67 - 69	D+	Work slightly below the quality expected.
63 - 66	D	Below the quality expected.
60 - 62	D-	Barely above failing.
59 or less	F	Failure

Grading:

- Memos 30%
 - Students are required to write three memos. The memos are directed to a relevant policymaker in the United States, for example, the President or Secretary of Defense. The policy memo will outline a clear policy objective related to a specific conflict. Memos should be two to three pages in length.
- Final Paper 30%
 - Students are required to complete a paper of original research on a specific topic related to the United States and war. The paper should include an introduction, literature review, brief methods section, findings, and a section on conclusions and implications. The paper should be 20 pages.
- Annotated Bibliography 10%
 - Students are required to complete an annotated bibliography for their paper. The annotated bibliography will explore previous research on their paper topic and should include a brief summary of each contribution (150-200 words) and include 7-10 sources.
- Rough Draft 10%
 - Students should produce a rough draft of their final paper. The rough draft should be nearly complete with citations. Prior to completing the rough draft, students should submit a research question, proposed methods section, and a brief outline of their paper.
- Participation 20%
 - Students are required to lead a weekly discussion on a specific reading and respond to the weekly discussion posts of their peers. Discussion posts should be roughly 250 words. Responses should be 150-250 words. Both should use core concepts and examples from class.

Academic Honesty:

“The free exchange of ideas depends on the participants’ trust that others’ work is their own and that it was done and is being reported honestly. Intellectual progress in all the disciplines demands the truthfulness of all participants. Plagiarism and cheating are attacks on the very foundation of academic life, and cannot be tolerated within universities.”

If you cheat, you will receive a zero on the assignment.

Extra Help and Office Hours:

Please feel free to come by my office hours if you need help understanding assignments or readings. It is best to come see me as soon as possible if you need any additional help.

Important Dates:

Course Topics: *All non-textbook readings are available on Blackboard*

Week 1 Explanations of War (and peace)

1. [Suggested topics due](#)

2. International relations theories and war (and peace)
3. Historical explanations for war (and peace)
4. Sociological explanations for war (and peace)
5. International law and war

Week 2 US war policy and interstate wars

1. [Preliminary outlines due](#)
2. Understanding interstate wars and the correlates of war data set
3. World War I and II
4. Korean War
5. Vietnam War
6. Iraq I and II
7. Covert military actions

Week 3 The US war policy and intrastate wars

1. [Annotated bibliographies due](#)
2. Understanding intrastate wars
3. Latin and Central American conflicts
4. Asian conflicts
5. European conflicts
6. African conflicts

Week 4 US policy and post-conflict reconciliation and reconstruction

1. [Rough drafts due](#)
2. Understanding theories of post-conflict reconciliation and resolution
3. Understanding best practices in post-conflict reconstruction
4. World War I and II
5. Cambodia
6. Rwanda
7. Former Yugoslavia
8. Ivory Coast
9. Iraq

Week 5 The future of US and war

1. [Final papers due](#)
2. New technologies, new problems including drones and cyberwar
3. Old problems including China and Russia
4. Conflict prevention in the 21st century
5. Unpredictable problems or “unknown unknowns.”