



**ALS3040:921 War and the United States  
Summer 2018  
Distance Learning**

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

**Professor:**

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**Office Hours:**

By Email and Blackboard, especially the “daily questions to the professor” forum.

**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:**

Midterm Exam .....	20%
- A short answer and essay exam consisting of material from Week 1 to Week 3	
Final Exam .....	20%
- A short answer and essay exam consisting of material from Week 4 to Week 6	
Participation .....	20%

- Each student is required to find one news article or video that illustrates the material covered for their respective class day. A signup sheet will be sent around before the start of the semester. Students will be able to choose the primary topic. The topic must be related to one of the general topics covered in that particular week.
- Each student is also required to respond to six postings provided by their peers. Three of these responses should occur from June 25th to July 15th and three should occur from July 16th - August 3rd. Students can only submit a maximum of two responses per week. Each response should be between 150-250 words. This is roughly .5 - 1 double-spaced page. Student responses should show how the original article relates to the assigned readings.

Research Paper .....	20%
- 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 15 pages.	

Outline .....	5%
- Students should provide a detailed (2-3 page) outline of their research topics including research question, significance, methods, and evidence. Annotated Bibliography .....	
	5%

- 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 .....	5%
- 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.	

Peer review .....	5%
- Students are required to do one blind peer review of another student's rough draft. A detailed sheet will be given prior to review.	

**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:**

Suggested topics due .....	July 1
Outlines due .....	July 8
Annotated bibliographies due .....	July 15
Rough draft due .....	July 22
Peer review due .....	July 25
Final papers due .....	July 29
Midterm Exam .....	July 13 - July 15
Final Exam .....	August 1 - August 3

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

**This course is reading-heavy. You are not required to read every page. You should read for big ideas.**

**Week 1: (June 25 - July 1)** Theoretical explanations for war (and peace)

1. [Suggested topics due](#)
2. Freiden, Lake, and Schultz, “Why War?” (available on Blackboard)
3. Managing Conflict, chapters 4, 11, 12, and 15

**Week 2: (July 2 - July 8)** 17th and 18th Century Conflicts

1. [Preliminary outlines due](#)
2. For the Common Defense, chapters 1-4

**Week 3: (July 9 - July 15)** 19th Century Wars

**Midterm exams due**

1. [Annotated bibliographies due](#)
2. For the Common Defense, chapters 5-9

**Week 4: (July 16 - July 22)** Early 20th Century

1. [Rough drafts due](#)

2. For the Common Defense, chapters 10-14

**Week 5: (July 23 - July 29)** Post-Cold War

1. [Final papers due](#)
2. For the Common Defense, chapters 15-21

**Week 6: (July 30 - August 3)** Newer theoretical and empirical issues

[Final exams due](#)

1. Managing Conflict, chapters 7, 14, 27, 30-34