IR 222: PREVENTIVE WARS

Semester: Fall 2009
Instructor: Thomas Chadeauf
Lectures: Thu: 02:00 PM—4:40 PM
Location: Hylan 206
Office Hours: Tue./Thur. 11 AM-12 PM

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Prevention is perhaps the most common justification for war. Both world wars, and more recently the invasion of Iraq and concerns over China’s economic and military rise, illustrate its historical and present relevance. In this seminar, we analyze the theory, history, and practice of preventive wars – wars fought to avoid negotiating in a position of weakness in the future. When and why do states fight them, and what lessons can we draw from history to avoid them in the future?

GRADING

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examination</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>Participation to discussions / questions.</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Presentations</td>
<td>Present a point of view on one of the subjects proposed and lead the debate against members of the other team.</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>Summaries (4)</td>
<td>Summarize one paper (additional reading) and present it to the class.</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>Essay on a subject of your choice, to be discussed with me (about 10 pages), due before thanksgiving break</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>Written, in class. 6 short questions+ 1 short essay.</td>
<td>20%</td>
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**Short questions** aim to test your knowledge. Any fact or concept covered in the class or the readings can be asked. Answers need only be a few sentences long, half a page at most.

*Examples of short questions:*
- What is appeasement?
- What is the difference between a preventive and a preemptive war?
- What are the main accomplishments of the Washington naval agreement?

**The short essay** will test your understanding of concepts and their relationships. Your answer should be around three hand-written pages.

*Examples of short essay:*
- Is the 2003 Iraq war a preventive war? Discuss
- Can preventive wars be just?

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**TEXTBOOKS / READING MATERIAL**


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**COURSE OUTLINE**

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**PART I: THEORY**

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**SEMINAR 1 – 09/03 – PRESENTATION & OVERVIEW**

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**SEMINAR 2 – 09/10 – WHY STUDY WAR AND HOW TO STUDY IT?**

**Trends**


**How to study it?**


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**SEMESTER 3 – 09/17 – CLASSICAL THEORIES OF WAR**

**Required Readings**

• *Hobbes, Thomas. Leviathan. Ch. 13* ("Of the natural condition of mankind").

**Additional Readings**

• Jervis, Robert. 1976. Perception and Misperception in International Politics. pp. 58-84

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**SEMESTER 4 – 09/24 – BARGAINING AND WAR**

**Required Reading**

• Powell, Robert. 1999. *In the Shadow of Power*. Princeton University Press. Ch. 3, 4 (make your best effort at understanding the models, but focus more on the text).
Additional Readings


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**SEMINAR 5 – 10/01 – PREVENTIVE AND PREEMPTIVE WAR THEORIES**

**Required Reading**


**Additional Readings**


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**SEMINAR 6 – 10/08 – ARMS RACES / OFFENSE-DEFENSE**

**Required Reading**

*Arms Races:*

- Powell, Robert. 1999. *In the Shadow of Power*. Princeton Univ. Press. Ch. 2

*Offense/Defense:*


**Additional Readings**

*Arms Races:*


**Offense/Defense:**


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**SEMINAR 7 – 10/15 – AVOIDING PREVENTIVE WARS AND ENDING THE WAR**

**Required Reading**


• Luttwak. 1999. Give War a Chance. *Foreign Affairs*


• Parge Fortna, Virginia. *Peace Time*. Intro + Chs 1 and 6


**Additional Readings**


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**SEMINAR 8 – 10/22 – DOMESTIC POLITICS AND PREVENTIVE WAR**

**Required Reading**

SEMINAR 10 – 11/05 – CIVIL WARS

**Required Reading**


**Additional Reading**

• Collier and Hoefler. 2001. “Greed, Grievance and Civil War”.

SEMINAR 9 – 10/29 –

1. ETHICS: CAN PREVENTIVE WARS BE JUST
2. PREVENTIVE WAR IN AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY

Required Readings

Ethics


Preventive War in American Foreign Policy


Additional Readings


PART II: CASE STUDIES

SEMINAR 11 – 11/12 – WARS UP TO WWI

- The Preventive War that Never Happened: Britain, France, and the Rise of Germany in the 1930s
Required Reading

- Van Evera, ch. 7

Additional Reading

11/26 – THANKSGIVING BREAK

SEMINAR 13 – 12/03 – 1945 - PRESENT

Required Readings:

Six-Day War

Lebanese Civil War (1975-1990)

Iraq 2003

Additional Readings:

SEMINAR 14 – 12/10 – REVIEW AND CONCLUSION
Recommended Readings:


LECTURE POLICIES

LATE WORK POLICY

The following penalties may be applied for late work:

- Work submitted 1-2 calendar days AFTER its due date may be graded down a maximum of 10%.
- Works submitted 3-6 calendar days AFTER its due date may be graded down a maximum of 20%.
- Work submitted 7-21 days AFTER its due date may be graded down a maximum of 30%.
- Work submitted more than 21 days AFTER its due date will receive an automatic zero.

PAPER SUBMISSIONS

Your paper should include:

- **A title page** with an abstract. This page should contain: the paper’s title and your name; the date, course number and the name of the assignment (e.g., “Final paper”).

- **The paper itself** should be double-spaced, 1” margins on all sides, 12 pt font size, and right-justified. There should be no spaces between paragraphs within the paper.

- **A references page (APA style)**. Sources should be alphabetized by the author’s last name (or, for sources without authors, by the first letter in the title).