

**THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO**  
**Department of Political Science**

Political Science 27600/37600  
War and the Nation-State  
Winter 2008

Instructor: John Mearsheimer  
Teaching Assistants: Sherry Forbes,  
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Negeen Pegahi, John Stevenson

Course Description: The aim of this course is to examine the phenomenon of war in its broader socio-economic context during the years between the emergence of the modern nation-state and the end of World War II.

Course Requirements: This course is oriented around the readings and the lectures. It is expected that every student will do all the reading and attend every lecture. Moreover, each student will be expected to attend a discussion section once a week. The grade will be based on a comprehensive final examination (75%) and classroom participation in the discussion section (25%).

Readings and Books: The following books, all in paper, have been ordered through the Seminary Co-op Bookstore:

- Roger Chickering, *Imperial Germany and the Great War*
- Clausewitz, *On War* (Princeton University Press version)
- Michael Howard, *War in European History*
- John Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*
- Richard J. Overy, *Russia's War*
- Spencer C. Tucker, *The Great War, 1914-1918*
- L.C.F. Turner, *Origins of the First World War*

All the books used in this course are on 24-hour reserve at Regenstein Library.

All articles and book chapters with \*\* next to them are on Chalk.

## **COURSE OUTLINE**

1. January 7, 2008 (Monday): Organizational Meeting and Overview

### **PART I: GENERAL THEMES**

2. January 9 (Wednesday): The Napoleonic Wars and the Beginning of the Great Transformation

- Howard, *War in European History*, chapters 4-5.
- Strachan, *European Armies*, chapters 2-4.\*\*

3. January 14 (Monday): Nationalism and War - I

- Clausewitz, *On War*, Books 1, 2 and 8.

4. January 16 (Wednesday): Nationalism and War - II

- Stephen Van Evera, "Hypotheses on Nationalism and War," *International Security*, Vol. 18, No. 4 (Spring 1994), pp. 5-39.\*\*
- Barry Posen, "Nationalism, the Mass Army, and Military Power," *International Security*, Vol. 18, No. 2 (Fall 1993), pp. 80-124.\*\*

5. January 21 (Monday): No Class (Martin Luther King Day)
6. January 23 (Wednesday): Democratization and War
  - Michael Doyle, "Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs, Part 1," *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, Vol. 12, No. 3 (Summer 1983), pp 205-235.\*\*
  - Dan Reiter and Allan C. Stam, "Democracy, War Initiation, and Victory," *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 92, No. 2 (June 1998), pp. 377-389.\*\*
7. January 28 (Monday): Industrialization and War - I
  - Howard, *War in European History*, chapter 6.
  - Karl Lautenschlager, "Technology and the Evolution of Naval Warfare", *International Security*, Vol. 8, No. 2, (Fall 1983), pp. 3-51.\*\*
8. January 30 (Wednesday): Industrialization and War - II
  - Mearsheimer, *Tragedy*, chapters 3-4.
9. February 4 (Monday): The Military Profession and Militarism
  - Samuel P. Huntington, *The Soldier and the State*, chapters 1-3.\*\*

## **PART II: CAUSES OF WORLD WAR I**

10. February 6 (Wednesday): The War Was an Accident
  - Turner, *Origins of the First World War*, entire book.
11. February 11 (Monday): Wacky Domestic Politics Caused It
  - Immanuel Geiss, "The Outbreak of the First World War and German War Aims," *Journal of Contemporary History*, Vol. 1, No. 3 (July 1966), pp. 75-91.\*\*
  - Eckart Kehr, "Anglophobia and Weltpolitik," in his *Economic Interest, Militarism and Foreign Policy*, pp. 22-49.\*\*
  - Jack Snyder, "Civil-Military Relations and the Cult of the Offensive, 1914 and 1984," *International Security*, Vol. 9, No. 1 (Summer 1984), pp. 108-146.\*\*
12. February 13 (Wednesday): The System Caused It
  - Dale Copeland, *The Origins of Major War*, chapters 3-4.\*\*
  - Lowes Dickinson, *The European Anarchy*, entire book.\*\*
  - Scott D. Sagan, "1914 Revisited: Allies, Offense, and Instability," *International Security*, Vol. 11, No. 2 (Fall 1986), pp. 151-175.\*\*

## **PART III: CONDUCT OF WORLD WAR I**

13. February 18 (Monday): The Battlefield - I
  - Tucker, *The Great War*, chapters 1-6.
14. February 20 (Wednesday): The Battlefield - II

- Chickering, *Imperial Germany*, chapters 1-3.
- Tucker, *The Great War*, chapter 7.

15. February 25 (Monday): The Homefront

- Chickering, *Imperial Germany*, chapters 4-6.
- Tucker, *The Great War*, chapters 8-9.

**PART IV: CAUSES OF WORLD WAR II**

16. February 27 (Wednesday): Causes of the War in Europe

- Mearsheimer, *Tragedy*, pp. 155-165, 181-190, 267-272, 305-322, and 209-219.
- Mearsheimer, *Conventional Deterrence*, Chapters 3-4.\*\*

17. March 3 (Monday): Causes of the War in Asia

- Mearsheimer, *Tragedy*, pp.172-181, 219-224.
- Scott D. Sagan, "The Origins of the Pacific War," *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, Vol. 18, No. 4 (Spring 1988), pp. 893-922.\*\*
- Bruce M. Russett, *No Clear and Present Danger*, chapters 2-3.\*\*

**PART IV: CONDUCT OF WORLD WAR II**

18. March 5 (Wednesday): The Ground War on the Eastern Front

- Overy, *Russia's War*, entire book.

19. March 10 (Monday): The German Killing Machine

- Omer Bartov, "Soldiers, Nazis, and the War in the Third Reich," *Journal of Modern History*, Vol. 63, No. 1 (March 1991), pp. 44-60.\*\*
- Christopher Browning, "The Decision Concerning the Final Solution," in Francois Furet, ed, *Unanswered Questions*, pp. 96-118.\*\*

20. March 12 (Wednesday): Conduct of World War II - The Bombing of Japan

- Robert A. Pape, "Why Japan Surrendered," *International Security*, Vol. 18, No. 2 (Fall 1993), pp. 154-201.\*\*