

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
Department of Political Science

Political Science 27600/37600
War and the Nation-State
Winter 2010

Instructor: John Mearsheimer
TAs: Ahsan Butt, Adam Levine-Weinberg,
Chad Levinson, Lindsey O'Rourke,
Kevin Ruby (head)

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

Course Outline:

1. January 5, 2010 (Tuesday): Organizational Meeting and Overview

PART I: GENERAL THEMES

2. January 7 (Thursday): 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 12 (Tuesday): Nationalism and War - I

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

4. January 14 (Thursday): 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 19 (Tuesday): Democratization and War

- Michael Doyle, "Kant, Liberal Legacies, and Foreign Affairs, Part 1," *Philosophy and Public Affairs*, Vol. 12, No. 3 (Summer 1983), pp 205-35.**
- Dan Reiter and Allan C. Stam, "Democracy, War Initiation, and Victory," *American Political Science Review*, Vol. 92, No. 2 (June 1998), pp. 377-89.**

6. January 21 (Thursday): 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.**

7. January 26 (Tuesday): Industrialization and War - II

- Mearsheimer, *Tragedy*, chapters 3-4.

8. January 28 (Thursday): The Military Profession and Militarism

- Samuel P. Huntington, *The Soldier and the State*, chapters 1-3.**

PART II: CAUSES OF WORLD WAR I

9. February 2 (Tuesday): The War Was an Accident

- Turner, *Origins of the First World War*, entire book.

10. February 4 (Thursday): 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 *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. 108-46.**

11. February 9 (Tuesday): 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. 151-75.**

PART III: CONDUCT OF WORLD WAR I

12. February 11 (Thursday): The Battlefield - I

- Tucker, *The Great War*, chapters 1-6.

13. February 16 (Tuesday): The Battlefield - II

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

14. February 18 (Thursday): The Homefront

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

PART IV: CAUSES OF WORLD WAR II

15. February 23 (Tuesday): Causes of the War in Europe

- Mearsheimer, *Tragedy*, pp. 155-65, 181-90, 267-72, 305-22, 209-19.
- Mearsheimer, *Conventional Deterrence*, chapters 3-4.**

16. February 25 (Thursday): Causes of the War in Asia

- Mearsheimer, *Tragedy*, pp.172-81, 219-24.
- 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

17. March 2 (Tuesday): The Ground War on the Eastern Front

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

18. March 4 (Thursday): 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.**

19. March 9 (Tuesday): 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.**

Reading Period: March 11-12

Exam Week: March 15-19