THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
Political Science Department

Political Science 27600/37600             Instructor: John Mearsheimer  
War and the Nation-State                TAs: Chad Levinson (head), Barnard  
Winter 2013                             Choi, Youn Ki, Davi Strauss Bernstein

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 at the end of the eighteenth century and the conclusion of World War II in 1945.

Course Requirements: This course is oriented around the readings and the lectures. Every student is expected to do all the reading and attend every lecture. Each student will also 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 of which are in paper, have been ordered through the Seminary Co-op Bookstore:

- Michael Howard, *War in European History*
- John Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*
- Richard J. Overy, *Russia’s War*

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

Course Outline:

1. January 8, 2013 (Tuesday): Organizational Meeting and Overview

   PART I: GENERAL THEMES

2. January 10 (Thursday): The Napoleonic Wars and the Beginning of the Great Transformation

   -- Howard, *War in European History*, chapters 4-5.

   -- David A. Bell, *The First Total War*, chapters 6-7. **

3. January 15 (Tuesday): Nationalism and War - I

   -- Clausewitz, *On War*, Books 1, 2 and 8.
4. January 17 (Thursday): Nationalism and War - II


5. January 22 (Tuesday): Democratization and War


6. January 24 (Thursday): Industrialization and War - I


7. January 29 (Tuesday): Industrialization and War - II


8. January 31 (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 5 (Tuesday): The War Was an Accident


10. February 7 (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. **


11.  February 12 (Tuesday): The System Caused It

-- Dale Copeland, The Origins of Major War, chapters 3-4. **

-- Lowes Dickinson, The European Anarchy, entire book. **


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

12.  February 14 (Thursday): The Battlefield - I

-- Keith Robbins, The First World War, chapter 2. **

-- Spencer T. Tucker, The Great War, chapter 5. **

13.  February 19 (Tuesday): The Battlefield - II

-- Alexander Downes, Targeting Civilians in War, chapter 3. **

-- David Stevenson, Cataclysm: The First World War as Tragedy, chapter 10. **

-- Tucker, The Great War, chapter 7. **

14.  February 21 (Thursday): The Home front

-- Roger Chickering, Imperial Germany, chapters 4-5. **

-- David M. Kennedy, Over Here, chapter 1. **

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

15.  February 26 (Tuesday): Causes of the War in Europe


-- Mearsheimer, Conventional Deterrence, chapters 3-4. **
16. February 28 (Thursday): Causes of the War in Asia


-- Marc Trachtenberg, *The Craft of International History*, chapter 4. **

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

17. March 5 (Tuesday): The Ground War on the Eastern Front


18. March 7 (Thursday): The German Killing Machine


-- Christopher Browning, “The Decision Concerning the Final Solution,” in Francois Furet, ed., *Unanswered Questions*, pp. 96-118. **


-- Adam Tooze, *Wages of Destruction*, chapter 14. **

19. March 12 (Tuesday): Conduct of World War II - The Bombing of Japan

-- Kent Roberts Greenfield, *American Strategy in World War II*, chapter IV. **


20. March 14-15: Reading Period