

## **International Security and Conflict POLS 364**

### **Course Information:**

Fall 2015  
Classroom: MO 208  
Meeting time: 1-2:15 p.m. MW  
Course Website: Moodle

### **Contact Information:**

Instructor: Elizabeth Nyman  
Email: enyman@louisiana.edu  
Office: Mouton Hall 229  
Office Hours: T 9-12 & and by appt.

### **Course Description and Objectives**

This course provides students with an overview of the basics of the study of conflict and security. In this class we will discuss the historical basis for the systematic study of war, as well as the new nontraditional conflicts we see commonly in our world today. Students will also be responsible for a research paper in which they provide their own theoretical analysis. By the end of the course, students will be familiar with the hypothesized causes and/or predictors of interstate war, as well as other types of conflicts that have become prevalent over the last half century.

### **Required Texts**

*The Origins of the First and Second World War*, Frank McDonough, Cambridge University Press.

*Every War Must End*, Fred Charles Ikle, Columbia University Press. (I use the Revised Edition, but you can purchase whichever edition you would like.)

*We Wish to Inform You That Tomorrow We Will be Killed With Our Families*, Philip Gourevitch, Picador Books.

*Winning the War on War*, Joshua S. Goldstein, Plume Book.

### **Course Requirements**

- (1) **Examinations:** There will be two examinations in this course. They will each be worth 25% of the course grade.
- (2) **Paper:** Each student will be responsible for writing an original 10-12 page research paper analyzing an aspect of conflict and security covered in this course. This paper will require students to do research beyond the materials covered in the course, and should show high level thinking about the chosen aspect of international conflict. This paper is worth 40% of the course grade.
- (3) **Participation:** Students will be graded on their participation in class discussion, and this will make up 10% of the course grade. Active participation is necessary to garner full credit, and this means that students are expected to have done the required reading in advance, to have considered the topic under discussion as they read, and to come to class with an active interest in the material. This is an upper division course, and participation grades will reflect that.

### **Course Letter Grades**

Final course letter grades will be assigned based on the following scale:

- A: 90-100
- B: 80-89
- C: 70-79
- D: 60-69
- F: 59 and below

I will not respond to end of semester emails requesting a grade change.

### **Course Policies**

**Absences from Exams and Late Work:** Makeup exams will be allowed when students are participating in formally sanctioned University events if proper documentation is provided to the instructor prior to the exam. Makeup exams will also be allowed in the case of an extraordinary circumstance if accompanied by sufficient documentation within two days after the exam. The instructor reserves the right to determine what constitutes an extraordinary circumstance.

**Academic Honor Policy:** Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students committing these violations will be punished according to University policy. Be familiar with what constitutes plagiarism; ignorance is not an excuse. Consult Section V in the UL Lafayette Undergraduate Bulletin for the university definitions of plagiarism for more information about what constitutes an offense.

**Courtesy in the Classroom:** Attention to classroom courtesy is necessary to ensure that all students have the opportunity to learn without distraction. As such, please silence and put away all cell phones and other electronic devices during class time. Please be on time to class and remain in class until you are dismissed. If you must arrive late or leave early, please take the seat nearest an exit, and enter or leave as quietly as possible. Please show respect for your fellow students by refraining from talking during lectures, as well as when other students are speaking. Similarly, please respect the opinions of your fellow students, even if you are in disagreement with them. Repeated disruption of class will lead to a reduction of your final grade.

**Nondiscrimination Policy:** UL Lafayette does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, religion, sex, sexual orientation or disability. This classroom is intended to be a positive learning environment based upon open communication and mutual respect. If you have any suggestions as to how I can improve the learning environment in this course, please let me know. I will give all such suggestions serious consideration.

**Health Issues and Disabilities:** Students are encouraged to address any special needs or accommodations with me at the beginning of the semester or as soon as you become aware of your needs. Those seeking accommodations based on disabilities should speak with the Office of Disability Services at 337-482-5252 or [ods@louisiana.edu](mailto:ods@louisiana.edu) and receive documentation. You can also visit the ODS website (<http://disability.louisiana.edu>) for information on ODS services and

on eligibility requirements. Furthermore, if you are concerned about your physical and/or mental well-being, I strongly encourage you to visit the UL Counseling and Testing Center, Saucier Wellness Center, OK Allen Hall, or call them at 337-482-6480. After hours help can be found by calling University Police at 337-482-6447 and asking to speak with the counselor on call.

**Emergency Evacuation Procedure:** Students with any sort of condition that may place them at risk during an emergency evacuation are responsible for preplanning their own evacuation strategies. You are also responsible for identifying yourself to your professor at the beginning of the semester and sharing information on your particular needs and your evacuation plan.

### **Course Outline\*\***

#### **Traditional Conflict**

Week 1 (August 24-28)	Introduction
Week 2 (August 31-Sept 4)	World War I (McDonough, Chapters 1&2)
Week 3 (Sept 7-11) <b>Labor Day: Sept. 7</b>	World War II and the Cold War (McDonough, Chapters 3-5)
Week 4 (Sept 14-18)	Balance of Power, Bandwagoning, and Power Transition (Stephen Walt, "Alliances: Balancing and Bandwagoning"; Douglas Lemke, "The Continuation of History: Power Transition Theory and the End of the Cold War.")
Week 5 (Sept 21-25)	Organizational Theory; Crisis Bargaining (Stephen Van Evera, "The Cult of the Offensive and the Origins of the First World War"; Russell J. Leng and Hugh G. Wheeler, "Influence Strategies, Success, and War.")
Week 6 (Sept 28-Oct 2) <b>Part 1 of Paper Due Sept. 30</b> <b>Fall Holiday: Oct. 1-2</b>	The Futility of War? (Ikle, all)
Week 7 (Oct. 5-9)	War as a Mistake? (Erik Gartzke, "War is in the Error Term"; James D. Fearon, "Rationalist Explanations for War.")
Week 8 (Oct 12-16) <b>Exam 1: Oct. 14</b>	Diversionsary Theory (T. Clifton Morgan and Kenneth N. Bickers, "Domestic Discontent and the External Use of Force.")

## Civil Wars & Conflict Resolution

Week 9 (Oct 19-23)	Civil Wars (Buhaug and Gates, “The Geography of Civil War”)
Week 10 (Oct 26-30) <b>Part 2 of Paper Due Oct. 28</b>	Civil Wars: A Recurring Problem (Barbara Walter, “ Does Conflict Beget Conflict? Explaining Recurring Civil War”)
Week 11 (Nov 2-6)	Movie
Week 12 (Nov 9-13)	Ethnic Civil Wars (Gourevitch, all)
Week 13 (Nov 16-20) <b>Part 3 of Paper Due Nov. 18</b>	Intervention and Peacekeeping
Week 14 (Nov 23-27) <b>Thanksgiving: Nov. 26-27</b>	Ending War? (Goldstein, all)
Week 15 (Nov 30-Dec 4)	Ending War continued; Course Wrapup

**Exam 2: December 8, 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**

**\*\* The syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change if necessary.**