

**EXPLORING GLOBAL CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE**  
**POLITICAL SCIENCE 3596**  
**Fall 2013**

**Professor:** Dr. Ann Griffiths  
**Office:** Room 344, Hicks Building  
**Office Hours:** Wednesdays, 10:00-12:00; 1:00-3:00, and by appointment  
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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

As the Cold War ended and more and more of the world adopted liberalism/capitalism, many people speculated that we would see an unprecedented era of peace. And yet conflict and violence continue, both between states and within states. What leads to conflict and political violence? Who are the actors and what are their motives? How has warfare changed over the years in terms of actors, weapons/equipment and strategy? What institutions exist to address violence/conflict, and are they effective?

These are a few of the issues and debates that this course will examine. This is not simply a course on current affairs, but it will use current events and conflicts to illustrate different concepts and attempt to understand the trends, actors, motives and possible future scenarios.

The objective of the course is to introduce students to the theories of conflict and violence and to examine global actors, institutions, issues and debates through the framework of these theories.

The course is designed as part lecture and part seminar. Students will do some work in groups and are expected to participate in discussions.

**REQUIRED READINGS**

There is no required textbook – readings are available online. Required readings are listed in the section “Class Schedule and Readings” below. Readings are available at the website location indicated. Students are expected to read the readings for each class. **If you have a problem accessing a reading, please talk to the professor.**

### **PLAGIARISM**

Dalhousie University defines plagiarism as “the submission or presentation of the work of another as if it were one’s own.” Penalties for plagiarism can be severe. Prior to submitting any paper in a course, all students should read the Policy on Academic Integrity contained in the Dalhousie University Calendar or on the Dalhousie website. Ignorance of such policies is no excuse for violations.

Dalhousie University subscribes to SafeAssign a computer-based service which checks for originality in submitted papers. Any paper submitted by a student at Dalhousie University may be checked for originality to confirm that the student has not plagiarized from other sources. The Dalhousie Senate has affirmed the right of any professor to require that student papers be submitted in both written and electronic format, and to submit any paper to a check such as that performed by SafeAssign. **Plagiarism is considered a serious academic offence which may lead to loss of credit, suspension or expulsion from the university, or even to the revocation of a degree.** It is essential that there be correct attribution of authorities/sources from which facts, statistics and exact words and opinions have been derived.

As a student, you are required to keep an electronic copy of any paper you submit, and the course professor may require you to submit that electronic copy on demand. Copies of student papers checked by this process will be retained by SafeAssign.

### **STUDENT ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES**

Students with disabilities are encouraged to register as quickly as possible at the Student Accessibility Services (SAS) office if they wish to receive academic accommodations. To do so, students can phone (494-2836), email ([access@dal.ca](mailto:access@dal.ca)), drop in at the Mark A. Hill Accessibility Centre or visit the website ([www.studentaccessibility.dal.ca](http://www.studentaccessibility.dal.ca)). All forms are now available on the website. Please note that the onus is on the student, not on the professor, to make the arrangements to write exams at the SAS office.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

### **CRITICAL ARTICLE REVIEW (20%) (due 8 October 2013)**

Students will write a 1,000-1,200 word **critical** article review of one of the following articles. Note that a critical review does not mean that you have to *be critical* of the article, it simply means that you read it with a questioning mind and examine the merits/shortcomings of its argument and assumptions, rather than simply summarizing it.

#### **Article 1**

Benjamin Barber, “Beyond Jihad vs. McWorld,” *The Nation*, 2002, available at <http://www.thenation.com/article/beyond-jihad-vs-mcworld?page=0,2>

**OR**

#### **Article 2**

William Reno, “Explaining Patterns of Violence in Collapsed States,” *Contemporary Security Policy*, Vol. 30, No. 2 (2009), pp. 356-374, available at [www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13523260903060250](http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13523260903060250) or through Dalhousie University libraries, online journal subscriptions

**OR**

#### **Article 3**

Ralph Peters, “Wishful Thinking and Indecisive Wars,” *Journal of International Security Affairs*, Number 16 (Spring 2009), available at [www.securityaffairs.org/issues/2009/16/peters.php](http://www.securityaffairs.org/issues/2009/16/peters.php)

### **ESSAY (40%) (Due 12 November 2013)**

Students will write an essay on a topic provided by the professor. The essay will be 2,500 to 3,000 words or 8-10 pages double-spaced. Students are expected to submit a hard copy, but to keep an electronic version just in case. Late essays will be penalized at 2% per day.

A selection of topics will be provided on the first day of classes. Students are expected to make an argument – that is, the essay should not just describe or summarize but make an argument about the topic or issue. This essay is designed to a research paper so students should consult a number of academic sources and include a bibliography. Full citations are expected – preferably footnotes or endnotes.

FINAL EXAM (40%) (As scheduled by the Registrar)

The final exam will be scheduled by the Registrar during the exam period of **5-16 December 2013**. **Do not make plans to leave Halifax until the exam schedule has been posted.** Students are expected to be at the exam in the time scheduled – unless students can provide an acceptable written doctor's note.

The exam will include material from lectures, readings and discussion in class. The format will be explained by the professor in class.

Assignment	Due Date	Worth
Critical Article Review	8 October 2013	20%
Essay	12 November 2013	40%
Final Examination	as scheduled by the Registrar (Exam period is 5-16 December)	40%

**MARKING SCHEME**

A+ = 87+

A = 81 - 86%

A- = 78 - 80%

B+ = 76 - 77%

B = 72 - 75%

B- = 69 - 71%

C+ = 66 - 68%

C = 62 - 65%

C- = 59 - 61%

D = 50-58%

F = 0 - 49%

## **CLASS SCHEDULE AND READINGS**

### **CLASS 1: INTRODUCTION**

(10 September 2013)

Overview of the class and review of syllabus.

### **CLASS 2: CONTEXT**

(17 September 2013 )

Meredith Reid Sarkees, “The COW Typology of War: Defining and Categorizing Wars (Version 4 of the Data),” no date, available at [www.correlatesofwar.org/COW2%20Data/WarData\\_NEW/COW%20Website%20-%20Typology%20of%20war.pdf](http://www.correlatesofwar.org/COW2%20Data/WarData_NEW/COW%20Website%20-%20Typology%20of%20war.pdf)

Institute for Economics and Peace, “**Executive Summary**” and “**Chapter 1: Results, Findings and Methodology**,” *Global Peace Index Report 2013*, pp. 3-54, available at [www.visionofhumanity.org/pdf/gpi/2013\\_Global\\_Peace\\_Index\\_Report.pdf](http://www.visionofhumanity.org/pdf/gpi/2013_Global_Peace_Index_Report.pdf)

### **CLASS 3: THEORIES ABOUT WHY HUMANS FIGHT #1: SYSTEM LEVEL**

(24 September 2013 )

Jack S. Levy and William R. Thompson, “**Chapter 2: System-Level Theories**,” pp. 28-54, and “**Chapter 4: The State and Societal Level**,” pp. and 83-129, in *Causes of War*, John Wiley & Sons, 2010, available at [http://acme.highpoint.edu/~msetzler/IntroPSC/IntroReads2add/War\\_JSLevy\\_Causes2010cp1.pdf](http://acme.highpoint.edu/~msetzler/IntroPSC/IntroReads2add/War_JSLevy_Causes2010cp1.pdf)

Niall Ferguson, “World Without Power,” *Foreign Policy*, 1 July 2004, available online at <https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/afp/vac.htm>

### **CLASS 4: THEORIES ABOUT WHY HUMANS FIGHT #2: STATE, ORGANIZATIONAL AND INDIVIDUAL LEVELS**

(1 October 2013)

Jack S. Levy and William R. Thompson, “**Chapter 5: Decision-Making: The Individual Level**,” pp. 128-161, and “**Chapter 6: Decision Making: The Organizational Level**,” pp. 162-185, in *Causes of War*, John Wiley & Sons, 2010, available at [http://acme.highpoint.edu/~msetzler/IntroPSC/IntroReads2add/War\\_JSLevy\\_Causes2010cp1.pdf](http://acme.highpoint.edu/~msetzler/IntroPSC/IntroReads2add/War_JSLevy_Causes2010cp1.pdf)

**CLASS 5: OTHER FACTORS IN CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE**

(8 October 2013)

Thomas F. Homer-Dixon, "Environmental Scarcities and Violent Conflict: Evidence from Cases," *International Security*, Vol. 19, No. 1 (Summer 1994), pp. 5-40, available at [www.homerdixon.com/projects/evidence/evid1.htm](http://www.homerdixon.com/projects/evidence/evid1.htm)

G. John Ikenberry, "Internationalism after America: The Future of the Liberal World Order," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 90, No. 3 (June 2011), p. 56, available through Dalhousie libraries, online journal subscriptions

**CLASS 6: 'TRADITIONAL'/INTER-STATE WARFARE**

(15 October 2013)

Human Security Report Project, Simon Fraser University, "**Chapter 5: State-Based Armed Conflict**," pp. 151-163, in *Human Security Report 2012*, available at <http://www.hsrgroup.org/human-security-reports/2012/text.aspx> or at <http://hsrgroup.org/docs/Publications/HSR2012/2012HumanSecurityReport-FullText.pdf>

Stuart A. Bremer, "Dangerous Dyads: Conditions Affecting the Likelihood of Interstate War, 1816-1965," *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Vol. 36, No. 2 (1992), pp. 309-341, available at <http://jcr.sagepub.com/content/36/2/309>

**CLASS 7: NEW WEAPONS, NEW STRATEGIES**

(22 October 2013)

Daniel Brunstetter and Megan Braun, "The Implications of Drones on the Just War Tradition," *Ethics and International Affairs*, Vol. 25, No. 3 (2011), pp. 337-358. Available through Dalhousie libraries, online journal subscriptions (or through the professor)

Mark Bowden, "The Killing Machines: How to Think about Drones," *The Atlantic*, August 2013, available at [www.theatlantic.com/magazine/print/2013/09/the-killing-machines-how-to-think-about-drones](http://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/print/2013/09/the-killing-machines-how-to-think-about-drones)

**CLASS 8: CONFLICT WITHIN STATES**

(29 October 2013)

Jack S. Levy and William R. Thompson, "**Chapter 7: Civil War**," pp. 186-223, in *Causes of War*, John Wiley & Sons, 2010, available at [http://acme.highpoint.edu/~msetzler/IntroPSC/IntroReads2add/War\\_JSLevy\\_Causes2010cp1.pdf](http://acme.highpoint.edu/~msetzler/IntroPSC/IntroReads2add/War_JSLevy_Causes2010cp1.pdf)

Max Boot, “The Evolution of Irregular War,” *Foreign Affairs*, 5 February 2013, available at [www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/138824/max-boot/the-evolution-of-irregular-war](http://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/138824/max-boot/the-evolution-of-irregular-war).

Human Security Report Project, Simon Fraser University, “**Chapter 6: Persistent Armed Conflict: An Increasing Threat?**” pp. 164-185 and “**Chapter 7: Non-State Armed Conflict,**” pp. 186-197, in *Human Security Report 2012*, available at <http://www.hsrgroup.org/human-security-reports/2012/text.aspx> or at <http://hsrgroup.org/docs/Publications/HSR2012/2012HumanSecurityReport-FullText.pdf>

William Reno, “Explaining Patterns of Violence in Collapsed States,” *Contemporary Security Policy*, Vol. 30, No. 2 (2009), pp. 356-374, available at [www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13523260903060250](http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13523260903060250) or through Dalhousie libraries, online journal subscriptions.

### CLASS 9: NEW ACTORS

(5 November)

Keith Krause and Jennifer Milliken, “Introduction: The Challenge of Non-State Armed Groups,” *Contemporary Security Policy*, Vol. 30, No. 2 (2009), pp. 202-220, available at <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/13523260903077296>

### CLASS 10: REVOLUTION AND VIOLENCE/CONFLICT

(12 November 2013)

Benjamin Barber, “A Stormy Summer for Democracy: The Arab Spring at Risk,” originally published by The Huffington Post, 10 July 2013, but available on author’s website <http://benjaminbarber.org>

### CLASS 11: COSTS OF WAR AND VIOLENCE

(19 November 2013)

Institute for Economics and Peace, “**Chapter 2: The Global Cost of Containing Violence,**” pp. 55-76, in *Global Peace Index Report 2013*, available at [www.visionofhumanity.org/pdf/gpi/2013\\_Global\\_Peace\\_Index\\_Report.pdf](http://www.visionofhumanity.org/pdf/gpi/2013_Global_Peace_Index_Report.pdf)

Human Security Report Project, Simon Fraser University, “**Overview: Sexual Violence, Education and War: Beyond the Mainstream Narrative,**” pp. 1-13, and “**Chapter 8: Deadly Assaults on Civilians,**” pp. 198-210, in *Human Security Report 2012*, available at <http://www.hsrgroup.org/human-security-reports/2012/text.aspx> or at <http://hsrgroup.org/docs/Publications/HSR2012/2012HumanSecurityReport-FullText.pdf>

**CLASS 12: INSTITUTIONS AND INTERVENTIONS**

(26 November 2013)

Charter of the United Nations, “**Chapter V: The Security Council**,” “**Chapter VI: Pacific Settlement of Disputes**,” and “**Chapter VII: Action with Respect to Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace, and Acts of Aggression**,” available at <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/chapter5.shtml>

Paul F. Diehl and Young-Im D. Cho, “Passing the Buck in Conflict Management: The Role of Regional Organizations in the Post-Cold War Era,” *Brown Journal of World Affairs*, Vol. XII, Issue 2 (Winter/Spring 2006), available at <http://connection.ebscohost.com/c/articles/21199441/passing-buck-conflict-management-role-regional-organizations-post-cold-war-era>

Report of the Secretary-General, United Nations, General Assembly/Security Council, “Responsibility to Protect: Timely and Decisive Response,” 25 July 2012, at [http://responsibilitytoprotect.org/UNSG%20Report\\_timely%20and%20decisive%20response\(1\).pdf](http://responsibilitytoprotect.org/UNSG%20Report_timely%20and%20decisive%20response(1).pdf)

Olivier Roy, “The Intervention Trap,” *New Statesman*, 7 February 2013, available at [www.newstatesman.com/politics/politics/2013/02/intervention-trap](http://www.newstatesman.com/politics/politics/2013/02/intervention-trap)

**CLASS 13: LAST THOUGHTS/REVIEW**

(3 December 2013)

**Last day of classes**