PSC486: Conflict and Security  
(Spring 2016)

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Office Hours: R 4:30-5:30pm 
W 10:30am-11:30pm 
or by appointment 

Northern Kentucky University  
Department of Political Science  
Class Time: TR 3:05-4:20pm 
Classroom: LA #411

The purpose of this course is to help students’ understanding on various theories and empirical cases in conflict and security in the international political system. Despite endless efforts to avoid it, war is a recurring phenomenon in our world. Humans historically have utilized war to achieve political, economic, and cultural gains. Considering two world wars killed over 60 million people and ruined our lives, avoiding war has been a high priority for our governments. It is very essential to examine different approaches to understanding the causes and prevention of war and conflict through history in our world. On the other hand, less-military related security issues, such as international economic interdependence, environmental and resources, and public health related issues have highly influenced international human security in a globalizing world. For instance, infectious diseases, global warming, oil depletion, global financial crises, and cyber hacking to public or private institutions being very serious problems to endanger and plague human life in recent. In order to fully understand two themes of international security – traditional military related and less-military related security, the course provides three major parts. First, we will learn important theories and empirical findings of international relations theories of conflict and security. These topics cover causes of war and disputes, balance of power, alliance, deterrence, escalation of disputes to war, military strategy, and democratic peace. Second, based on theoretical understanding, we will investigate the cause and consequences of past great-power rivalries from the two hegemonic wars of WWI and WWII. We will then investigate the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, nuclear weapons programs in North Korea and Iran, and terrorism including terrorist attacks by Al-Qaeda or Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS). Lastly, we will examine various new sources of insecurity – public health related epidemic diseases, Cyberspace attacks, environmental problems, and economic interdependence and financial crises.

By the end of the session, it is expected that students who have successfully completed this course will have a better understanding of international conflicts and war, but will also have obtained their own critical perspective and research tools for further study.
Format

This course consists of lectures by the instructor, student presentations, and class discussion. In each session, students will have various scholarly papers from major journals in international relations and required textbooks. Through the reading, student presentation, and brief discussion, the students will be encouraged to share their opinion and understanding, and help to formulate their own critical viewpoints in comparing other colleagues’ opinions about the various topics in conflict and security.

Requirement:

1) Attendance and class discussion (10 %).
On-time class attendance and energetic participation for class discussion is considered a significant part of receiving a positive grade, and are very essential for students to accomplish this course objective. Students are expected to attend all classes, so absences without pre-notification to the instructor will affect the course grade adversely. If someone misses more than six classes, their grade will drop to lower than a “B”. Students should read the assigned reading materials before class as a part of preparing class participation and discussion. Through the small group discussion, students share their ideas with other students and compare their own perspective with different others viewpoints attentively.

2) In-class examination (60 %).
Two in-class examinations will be administered during the semester to test students’ understanding of key concepts and contents covered in assigned materials. The questions on these exams will be a combination of short answers, essay questions, and correct answer selections.

3) Group Case Study Paper and Presentation (20 %)
Two or three students will set up a group for this project. The research paper should be typewritten, double-spaced with footnotes, and 20 pages in length. Students should use more than 12 academic sources (academic journal articles and books). The reference list and citations of references in the text should follow The Chicago Manual of Style, 14th ed. The topic should be taken from various illustrative court cases that established important precedents in international law that we have studied and discussed in the class. The paper proposal should be submitted by February 11, and approved by the professor. The paper proposal should follow this guideline: 1. Paper Topic, 2. Research questions, 3. Brief summary of your argument, and 4. References. The paper deadline is April 7.

4) Scholarly Article Presentation (10 %)
Each student will present an overview of an assigned article or book chapter based on their research concerns in each class. Each student should prepare a PowerPoint, which will be handed in on Feb 9. During your presentation, the instructor will intervene from time to time to give some comments and lead class discussion.
Required Texts:


Various Scholarly Articles **: Required Reading, * Further Recommend Reading.

* Guideline for discussion and presentation
  The following questions will help you to understand the theoretical and empirical arguments of the selections.

  - What is topic of the article?
  - What are the research questions?
  - What is the main argument of the work?
  - What important empirical evidence is discussed by the author(s)?
  - What are the main flaws in the argument?
  - How would you improve the argument or research?

* Late Assignments and Presentation
  Late paper and presentation lose 10% of the assigned grade level for each day past the deadline.

** Research Paper Format

I. Introduction
   - The purpose of your research
   - Brief summary of your argument
   - Introduce your research questions
   - Paper organization
II. Literature Review (2-3 pages)
III. Finding (Please find some interesting sub-titles by yourself.)
IV. Conclusion
Student Learning Outcomes:

Through this course, you will:
- Increase your knowledge and understanding of the interconnections between war and international political system
- Understand how and why nations involved in war and conflict in what specific condition of domestic and international contexts
- Use your knowledge to apply contemporary military events and conflicts
- Have a critical perspective and research tools for further study of international relations.

Credit-Hour Policies

Estimates of the time required for a typical student to complete course expectations are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Required Text Readings: 23 chapters x 3 hours</td>
<td>69.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class Notes Reading: 10 topics x 1 hour</td>
<td>10.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class Discussion Preparation: 20 topics x 1 hour</td>
<td>20.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scholarly Article Power Point: 1 topic x 4 hour</td>
<td>4.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Case Study Paper- outline: 1 case x 2 hours</td>
<td>2.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case Study Literature Review: 1 case x 15 hours</td>
<td>15.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cast Study Research and Writing: 1 x 34 hours</td>
<td>34.0</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Total = 154 Hours

Grading Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>66-60</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59-0</td>
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</tbody>
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** The instructor reserves the right to alter and/or amend the syllabus throughout the semester as necessary.

** Please do not redistribute and upload any of the class materials, including syllabus, Power Points, Lecturer Notes, video and audio material, research articles, class discussion, etc. to anywhere online. All materials are protected under copyright and are solely for academic purposes in this class.
Course Schedule

I. Rival Theories of War and Conflicts

Week 1-2 (Jan 12, 14, 19, 21): Logic of Conflict in World Politics
- Jan: 12 Course Overview & Group Research Discussion
International Actors, Power, and Authority
Paradigm and Theory
Levels of Analysis
Causes and Theories of the Peloponnesian War
Limits on Ethics in International relations


Week 3-4 (Jan 26, 28, Feb. 2, 4): Rival Theories of War and Conflicts
Types of War
Rival Theories of Cause of War and Conflicts
- International System Level Theories
- State level Theories
- Individual level

II. The Great Powers Conflicts and Military Security

Week 5-6 (Feb 9, 11, 16): Balance of Power and World War I
Balance of Power
Origins of WWI
- The Kaiser’s Fateful Pledge
- The Austrian Ultimatum to Serbia
- The Closing Trap
- The Iron Dice


** Scholarly Article Summary Power Point Due: Feb. 9
- Please upload your Power Point to Discussion Board of Course’s Blackboard

** Research Paper Proposal Due: Feb. 11
1. Paper Topic
2. Research Questions
3. Brief Summary of Your Argument
4. References (more than 12)

- Feb. 11: Online Class
Please understand that the professor cannot check your email or study assignment during the conference days.

Week 6-7 (Feb 18, 23, 25): The Failure of Collective Security and World War II
The rise and fall of collective security
The origins of WWII
- Hitler’s Strategy
- Hitler’s Attack on Russia
- The Pacific War

Week 8 (Mar 1, 3): Review and Midterm Exam
- Mar 3: Review
- Mar 5: Midterm exam

Week 8 (Mar 3): Mid-exam

Week 9: (Mar 7-12): Spring Break

Week 10 (Mar 15, 17): On-line Class
- International Studies Association Annual Convention, Atlanta, GA, March 16-20

<Pleased understand that the professor cannot check your email or study assignment during the conference days.>

Week 11 (Mar 22) Literature Review Presentation
- Introduce your Literature Review
  . Author(s), Paper (Book) Title, Vol., No., & Year
  . Main Argument of the Paper (Book)
  . Where would you like to use LR in your paper?

Week 11-12 (Mar 24, 29, 31): The Proliferation of WMD and Terrorism
Weapons proliferation and international Security
The Counter-proliferation Approach
Nuclear Deterrence
Nuclear Weapons Program in Iran and North Korea
International Terrorism
September 11th Terrorist Attack

III. New Sources of Insecurity (Less-military Related Security)

Week 13-14 (April 5, 7, 12): International Economic Security
National Wealth and Security
Economic Sanctions
Economic and Financial Crises
National Debt

* April 5: Online Class
- Program Assessment Visit: Cottey College, Department of International Relations, Nevada, MO, April 3-6. <Please understand that the professor cannot check your email or study assignment during the conference days.>

** Case Study Paper Due: April 7

Week 14 (April 12, 14): International Environmental and Resource Security
The Environment, Natural Resources, and Global Warming
Natural Resource Depletion
Climate Change


Week 15 (April 19): International Security in Cyberspace
Information and War
Cyber War and Terrorism
Information Revolution and Complex Interdependence


**Week 15 (April 21): International Public Health**
Infectious Disease and Health Insecurity
HIV/AIDS
Ebola Virus Disease
Bioterrorism

**Week 16 (April 26, 28): Review and Presentation**
- April 26: Student Case Study Paper Presentation
- April 26: Review for Final Exam

**Week 17 (May 3): Final Exam**
- May 3 at 3:10pm - Following University Schedule

- FINAL EXAM: May 3 at 3:10pm

Thank You!
APPENDIX I. Presentation Schedule for Scholarly Article

1. Please choose a chapter or a topic relating your research project.
2. PowerPoint Submission Due: **Feb. 9**
   (Upload your PowerPoint to the Discussion Board in Blackboard)
3. Summarize detailed argument of each paragraph and add your two discussion questions to your last slide of PowerPoint.
4. You will have a 30 minute presentation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Presentation Day</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Hensel, Territory</td>
<td></td>
<td>Week 6 Feb. 18</td>
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<tr>
<td>2. Kang, Alliances</td>
<td></td>
<td>W6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Benson, Alliances</td>
<td></td>
<td>W6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Valeriano, Becoming Rivals</td>
<td></td>
<td>W6</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Diehl and Goertz, The Rivalry Process</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Sample, Arms Races</td>
<td></td>
<td>W7</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Geller, Nuclear Weapons</td>
<td></td>
<td>W7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Mitchell, Democratic Peace</td>
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<td>W11</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. Mousseau, Market-Capitalist</td>
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<td>W11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Gibler, Territorial Peace</td>
<td></td>
<td>W11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Rasler and Thompson, War Making</td>
<td></td>
<td>W12</td>
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<tr>
<td>12. Wallensteen, Scientific Study of Peace</td>
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<td>W12</td>
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<td>13. Maoz, Peace and War</td>
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<td>W13</td>
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<td>14. Levy, Paths-to-War</td>
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<td>W14</td>
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<td>15. Flint, Role for Geography</td>
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<td>W14</td>
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<tr>
<td>16. Vasquez, What do we know?</td>
<td></td>
<td>W15</td>
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APPENDIX II:

COMMON COURSE POLICIES

Need for Assistance:
Students with disabilities who require accommodations (academic adjustments, auxiliary aids or services) for this course must register with the Office of Disability Services. Please contact the disability service office in University Center Suite 101 or by calling (859) 572-6373 for more information. Verification of your disability is required in the disability services office for you to receive reasonable academic accommodations. Visit the disability services website at http://disability.nku.edu

Academic Dishonesty:
The work that you submit in this course is subject to Northern Kentucky University’s Student Honor Code. The Honor Code is a commitment to the highest degree of ethical integrity in academic conduct, a commitment that, individually and collectively, the students of Northern Kentucky University will not lie, cheat, or plagiarize to gain an academic advantage over fellow students or avoid academic requirements.

Plagiarism is any instance of attempting to pass off the work of others as your own. This is not limited solely to directly quoting the work of others – it also includes paraphrasing the work of others without giving appropriate credit. Put another way, if you take someone else’s work and change, add, or delete some words here and there, you are still plagiarizing if the essential content of the material remains the same. Plagiarizing from other students, or even from your own previous work, is not acceptable. If you aren’t sure about when or how to credit the work of others, let me know and I will be happy to help you out.

The penalty for the first instance of plagiarizing is an automatic zero for the paper in question. The penalty for a second instance of plagiarizing is a grade of ‘F’ for the class and dismissal from class. All instances of plagiarizing will be brought to the attention of the Dean of Students.

Student Responsibilities to Meet Course Obligations
You are responsible for all course assignments including class preparation, online class discussion, class activities, tests, papers, projects, or other course assignments. By reviewing the syllabus at the beginning of a course, you are responsible for meeting all specific course obligations. Failure to post your online class discussion, or meet course obligations is a serious matter and it is your responsibility to communicate with the instructor should you have difficulty with meeting any course obligation. Professor may reduce grades or even fail you for not meeting specified course obligations, including but not limited to, class participation, taking tests at a specified time, turning in papers on time and in the format required and other assignments.

Diversity:
Diversity describes an inclusive community of people with varied human characteristics, ideas, and world views related, but not limited, to race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, religion, color, creed, national origin, age, disability, socio-economic status, geographical region, or
ancestry. Institutions that value diversity provide a supportive and safe environment that respects those human differences.

**Online Evaluation**
Northern Kentucky University takes Instructor and Course Evaluations very seriously as an important means of gathering information for the enhancement of learning opportunities for its students. It is an important responsibility of NKU students as citizens of the University to participate in the instructor and course evaluation process. During one week prior to the end of this semester classes, you will be asked to reflect upon what you have learned in this course, the extent to which you have invested the necessary effort to maximize your learning, and the role your instructor has played in the learning process. It is very important that you complete the online evaluations with thoughtfully written comments. Starting Spring semester 2011, students who complete an evaluation for a particular course (or opt out of doing so in the evaluation) will be rewarded for their participation by having access to their course grade as soon as that grade is submitted by the instructor. On the other hand, any student who does not complete the course evaluation (or opt out of doing so in the evaluation) should expect to incur a two week delay in access to his or her course grade beyond the university’s official date for grade availability.
To complete online evaluations go to [http://eval.nku.edu](http://eval.nku.edu). Click on "student login" and use the same USERNAME and PASSWORD as used on campus. Student evaluations of courses and instructors are regarded as strictly confidential. They are not available to the instructor until after final grades are submitted, and extensive precautions are taken to prevent your comments from being identified as coming from you.

**Non-Attendance Policy**
If the student does not log onto Blackboard and access course materials or contact the instructor during the first week of classes, the instructor is compelled to drop this student for non-participation (i.e., non-attendance).

**Credit-Hour Policy**
In accordance with federal policy, NKU defines a credit hour as the amount of work represented in the achievement of student learning outcomes (verified by evidence of student achievement) that reasonably approximates one hour (50 minutes) of classroom instruction and a minimum of two hours of out-of-class student work. For every course credit hour, a typical student should expect to spend at least three hours per week of concentrated attention on course-related work including, but not limited to, class meeting time, reading, reviewing, organizing notes, studying and completing assignments. At least an equivalent amount of time is expected for other academic activities such as online courses, laboratory work, internships, practica, studio work and other academic work leading to the award of credit hours.

**Class Professionalism**
1. Out of respect to your fellow learners, electronic devices should be turned off during class time unless you are required to be on-call by your employer. In that case, please set your beeper / phone to a non-audible signal. If you are required to leave a beeper or cell phone on during class, inform the professor of this prior to class.
2. Disruptive behavior or conduct (whether in-class or electronic) that demeans fellow class members or the instructor will not be tolerated. Please see the Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities Section 4.3 for “What the Professor May Expect of the Student.” Instructors reserve the right to dismiss or remove a disruptive student from a classroom in accordance with the appropriate College of Arts and Science Policy. 
http://www.nku.edu/~deanstudents/disruption_guidelines.html

3. It is important that work with your name attached is, in fact, solely your work unless properly referenced or cited. In these days of increased access to information, it is critical that you understand the meaning, seriousness and consequences of plagiarism. If you ever have a question about giving proper credit for academic work, please consult your instructor well in advance of an assignment due date. “It is expected that students will write their research papers to meet the learning objectives and educational requirements specific to this class. While a general topic area may be suitable for research that may potentially be utilized in more than one paper, submission of the same paper in two or more courses is not acceptable and will result in a failing grade. Students must notify the professor if their paper on this topic had been previously submitted in another course or will be submitted in another course.”

4. The work you will do in this course and your behavior in this course are subject to the Student Honor Code. The Honor Code is a commitment to the highest degree of ethical integrity in academic conduct. By being a student at NKU you make a commitment that individually and collectively, you will not lie, cheat, or plagiarize to gain an academic advantage over fellow students or avoid academic requirements. You also make a commitment to behavior in a professional manner, especially when involved in academic activities off campus such as travel courses or CCSA Study Abroad. For specifics concerning the honor code, see the Dean of Students website: http://www.nku.edu/~deanstudents/HonorCode.htm.

Right to Revise a Syllabus
A syllabus is required for every class and will be distributed at the beginning of each semester. Faculty reserve the right to revise the course syllabus as needed. Changes in the specific course schedule may happen frequently, so you need to keep abreast of these changes regularly. Should a major change or update occur in the syllabus (e.g. moving a specified test date, specifying the requirements of an assignment, etc.) the specific change will be announced at least a week in advance of any activity due date (e.g. assignment, paper, test). These changes should be communicated in the manner other course updates are (paper distribution, email, or posting to Blackboard).