

San José State University
College of Social Sciences/ Department of Political Science
POLS 150, War and Peace, Section 1, Spring 2019

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Karthika Sasikumar
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Office Hours:	Mondays 9.30 to 11.30 AM; Wednesdays 3.30 to 5.30 PM; Thursdays 9.30 AM to 12.30 PM
Class Days/Time:	Monday and Wednesday from 12 to 1.15 PM
Classroom:	Dudley Moorhead 149A
Units:	3
Prerequisites:	100W
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	V

Course Format

This course meets in person. You will also need access to a computer with a sound card to hear audio and video recordings, an Internet connection, and word processing software. Course materials such as syllabus, handouts, notes, assignment instructions, etc. can be found on [Canvas Learning Management System course login website](http://sjsu.instructure.com) at <http://sjsu.instructure.com>. You are responsible for regularly checking with the Canvas messaging system to learn of any updates.

Course Description

Fundamental human questions about causes of war, definitions of peace and approaches toward achieving peace from perspectives of historical and contemporary thinkers, including philosophers, political leaders, military strategists and diplomats. GE Area: V Prerequisite: Passage of the Writing Skills Test (WST) or ENGL/LLD 100A with a C or better (C- not accepted), completion of Core General Education and upper division standing are prerequisites to all SJSU studies courses. Completion of, or co-registration in, 100W is strongly recommended. Not counted as a core course in the international relations subfield.

This course examines the causes of war and efforts to secure peace. We begin by asking how war is defined, and examine trends in warfare. We consider four approaches to the causes of war. The second half of the course addresses how human beings have attempted to control conflict through the use of institutions and norms. Two special topics will be offered at the end of the course: nuclear weapons and United States foreign policy

GE Learning Outcomes (GELO)

This is an upper-division (SJSU Studies) General Education course in Area V (Culture, Civilization and Global Understanding). Students are strongly encouraged to take courses to satisfy GE Areas R, S, and V from departments other than their major department.

The minimum writing requirement is 3000 words in a language and style appropriate to the discipline. The writing requirement will be satisfied by the take home exams.

Upon successful completion of this GE Course, students will be able to:

GELO 1: Compare systematically the ideas, values, images, cultural artifacts, economic structures, technological developments, or attitudes of people from different societies

GELO 2: Identify the historical context of ideas and cultural practices and their dynamic relations to other historical contexts

GELO 3: Explain how a culture changes in response to internal and external pressures

GELO 4: Students will be able to apply multidisciplinary material to a topic relevant to policy and social action at the local, national, and/or international levels. **This will be satisfied by the term paper.**

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:

CLO1: Debate major social issues in a civil and collaborative manner

CLO2: Reflect on current events, apply theories of war and peace to them, and evaluate such theories

CLO3: Correctly define key terms relating to war and peace that are used in popular and scholarly discussion

Required Texts/Readings

Textbook

There is no textbook for the course. All readings, and other required resources such as videos, will be available on Canvas under Modules. If you are unable to access them, it is your responsibility to inform me at the earliest. The full citations for the readings are provided in a document on Canvas.

Course Requirements and Assignments

Success in this course is based on the expectation that students will spend, for each unit of credit, a minimum of 45 hours over the length of the course (normally three hours per unit per week) for instruction, preparation/studying, or course related activities, including but not limited to internships, labs, and clinical practica. Other course structures will have equivalent workload expectations as described in the syllabus.

Evaluation

CLO	Assignment	Points	Due dates
1	Online Discussions	5 times 3	Feb 4, Feb 18, Mar 4
1	Class participation	10	various
3	Prelim 1	15	Mar 18

3	Prelim 2	15	May 1
3	Final Exam	15	May 17
2	Take Home Exam 1	5	Mar 25
2 & 3	Take Home Exam 2	5	Apr 24
2 & 3	Final Paper (2000 words)	10	May 17
2 & 3	Media report	10	Apr 8

Grading Information

Determination of Grades

- Grades will be determined as per the table below
- Extra credit points will be a maximum of 5 points. You will earn them by taking surveys about the class (giving feedback). These will be announced on Canvas.
- I do accept late work, however, the student will document the emergency to the best of his/her ability, and I reserve the right to deduct 10 percent of the total score for the assignment per six hours of lateness.

Grade	Points
A plus	Over 100
A	95 to 100
A minus	90 to 94
B plus	85 to 89
B	80 to 84
B minus	75 to 79
C plus	70 to 74
C	65 to 69
C minus	60 to 64
D plus	55 to 59
F	Less than 55

Final examination or evaluation

The main assignment in this course is a final paper of 2000 words. You will choose a conflict from the Correlates of War database and analyze it, using perspectives from IR theory, international law, anthropology, and sociology. There will be two take home exams, both require you to respond to one to two essay questions. Your responses will add up to 1000 words.

There will be two prelims during the course of the semester. Prelims 1 and 2 will have 20 multiple choice and 10 one-sentence answer questions, and one short essay. A list of potential essay questions will be given out a week before the exam. The final exam will follow a similar pattern.

You will participate in five online discussions that require you to relate the course concepts to specific policy questions. You will also write a media report, elaborating on these connections between the course and current events. A list of potential media report items will be given out, but you can also choose your own topic.

Grading Information for GE

Passage of the Writing Skills Test (WST) or ENGL/LLD 100A with a C or better (C- not accepted), and completion of Core General Education are prerequisite to all SJSU Studies courses. Completion of, or co-registration in, 100W is strongly recommended. A minimum aggregate GPA of 2.0 in GE Areas R, S, & V shall be required of all students.”

University Policies

Per University Policy S16-9 (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant information to all courses, such as academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. is available on Office of Graduate and Undergraduate Programs’ [Syllabus Information web page](http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/gup/syllabusinfo/>” Make sure to review these university policies and resources with students.

Citations for POLS 150 Spr 2019

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POLS 150 / War and Peace, Spring 2019, Course Schedule

*This is the schedule for the course. All hyperlinks and uploaded files are on Canvas under Modules. The schedule is subject to change with fair notice on Canvas. Videos will be shown in class, although the links to the videos will be available for you to watch, at any time after they are shown in class. **You are responsible for doing all the readings before class on the dates specified.***

Date	Topic	Readings	Assignment
Jan 28		Introduction	
Jan 30	Definitions	Dinstein Michaels read pages 19-24 & 67-68	
Feb 4	Definitions	Shields	Online discussion 1
Feb 6	Trends	RAND Report (read extract only on Modules) Pinker and Goldstein	
Feb 11	Trends	TED Talk by Pinker Snyder	
Feb 13	Cyberwar	Singer and Friedman read pages Video of Singer	
Feb 18	Cyberwar	Rid Video of Rid	Online Discussion 2
Feb 20	Causes of war: power differentials	Thucydides Video of Melian Dialogue	
Feb 25	Causes of war: power	Mearsheimer Kirshner	

Date	Topic	Readings	Assignment
	differentials		
Feb 27	Causes of war: economic forces	Lenin McDonald read pages 1-20	
Mar 4	Causes of war: economic forces	Video <i>Why We Fight</i> Seligman	Online Discussion 3
Mar 6	Causes of war: Political forces	Mansfield and Snyder Video of Snyder Chua Video extract from <i>The Great Dictator</i>	
Mar 11	Causes of war: Ideas and identity	Flibbert 73-90 Houghton 169-87	
Mar 13	Causes of war: Ideas and identity	Video Bush's War (08:32-13, 24:11 to 26:05, 1:06: 34 to 1: 10: 41, 1:42: 48 to 1: 59: 50)	
Mar 18		Prelim 1	
Mar 20	Controlling war: intervention	Video <i>Give War a Chance</i>	
Mar 25	Controlling war: intervention	Luttwak TBA	Take Home Exam 1 due
Mar 27		No class due to Instructor's professional travel	
Apr 1-5		No class due to Spring Break	
Apr 8	Controlling war: laws	Just War theory extracts from Stanford Encyclopedia	Media Report due
Apr 10	Controlling war: laws	Video Geneva Conventions ICC versus ICJ Crawford Video The Reckoning (3-12, 23-32 and 59-end)	
Apr 15	Controlling war: International organizations	Kennedy Video of the UN Security Council Video on UNSC reform	
Apr 17	Controlling war: justice and	Herbert Blog Post by Letha Victor	

Date	Topic	Readings	Assignment
	reconciliation		
Apr 22	Controlling war: justice and reconciliation	Video <i>Dilemma of the White Ant</i> Selected documents from the ICC prosecution of D. Ongwen	Online Discussion 4
Apr 24	Special topics: Nuclear weapons	Video <i>Countdown to Zero</i>	Take Home Exam 2 due
Apr 29	Special topics: Nuclear weapons	Walton	
May 1		Prelim 2	
May 6	Special topics: US role in the world	Sullivan Walt	
May 8	Special topics: US role in the world	TBA	Online Discussion 5
May 13		Reserve Day/ Consultations on Final Paper/ Final Exam Prep	
May 17	Final exam	In class 9.45 to 11.15 AM	Final Paper due online