

San José State University
Political Science Department
POLS 150, War and Peace, Section 02, Fall 2021

Course and Contact Information

Instructor:	Jeremy Abrams
Office Location:	Clark Hall 402F
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Office Hours:	In office: Tuesdays 1:00 – 2:00 PM in Clark 402F Online via Zoom: Thursdays 1:00 – 2:00 PM, link in Canvas And by appointment
Class Days/Time:	Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:00am – 10:15am
Classroom:	HGH 116
Prerequisites:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Passage of the Writing Skills Test (WST) or ENGL/LLD 100A with a C or better (C- not accepted)• Completion of, or co-registration in, 100W is strongly recommended
GE/SJSU Studies Category:	V

Course Format

This is an in-person class with regularly scheduled class meeting times. In addition, you will regularly take quizzes and turn in assignments via SJSU's Canvas Website, which you may find at <https://sjsu.instructure.com>. On Canvas you will find a copy of this syllabus, additional reading materials and the various methods of assessment. If you are not already familiar with Canvas, you should log on and familiarize yourself with it. You can find helpful information about Canvas at <http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/canvas/index.html> and at http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/teaching-tools/canvas/student_resources/index.html.

Course Description

From the SJSU catalog: 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 is an introduction to the study of the causes of war and the conditions of peace. We will begin by looking at how war is defined for the purpose of studying it, as well as recent developments on war. We will then look at a number of different approaches to thinking about war, drawn from various fields but relying heavily on international relations. You will be introduced to these approaches by reading substantial works that examine conflict in different milieus, rather than from textbooks. We will look at important subfields, such as ethnic conflict and terrorism, as well as the conditions necessary for peace.

Course Goals

The Political Science Department has the following objectives for its students:

- 1) Breadth: Students should possess a broad knowledge of the theory and methods of the various branches of the discipline.
- 2) Application and Disciplinary Methods: Students should be able to formulate research questions, engage in systematic literature searches using primary and secondary sources, evaluate research studies, and critically analyze and interpret influential political texts. Students should be able to apply these techniques to identify, understand, and analyze domestic and international political issues and organizations.
- 3) Communication Skills: Students should master basic competencies in oral and written communication skills and be able to apply these skills in the context of political science. This means communicating effectively about politics and/or public administration, public policy, and law.
- 4) Citizenship: Students should acquire an understanding of the role of the citizen in local, state, national, and global contexts and appreciate the importance of lifelong participation in political processes.

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.

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

GELO 1 (V): compare systematically the ideas, values, images, cultural artifacts, economic structures, technological developments, and/or attitudes of people from more than one culture outside the U.S.;

GELO 2 (V): identify the historical context of ideas and cultural traditions outside the U.S. and how they have influenced American culture; and,

GELO 3 (V): explain how a culture outside the U.S. has changed in response to internal and external pressures.

Assessment of these outcomes will be measured as follows:

GELO1: Exams, Quizzes, Final Exam

GELO 2: Exams, Quizzes, Final Exam

GELO 3: Discussion Boards, Paper

Course Learning Outcomes (CLO)

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

CLO1. Conduct original research

CLO2. Critique and summarize key texts

CLO3. Debate major social issues in a civil and collaborative manner

CLO4. Reflect on current events, apply theories of war and peace to them, and evaluate such theories

CLO5. Define key terms relating to war and peace that are used in popular and scholarly discussion.

Contacting me

I will be available through a number of different channels. The best method will be through Canvas Inbox or via email at jeremy.abrams@sjsu.edu. I will always do my best to respond promptly. During the week I will usually respond within 24 hours, though often much quicker than that. **When you send me an email, please put your class section information (eg. 'War and Peace Sec. #2 10:45am') in the Subject: field.** I teach several classes with many students and I need to know to which class you are referring. You may also leave me a voice mail at the number listed above, though I check it less frequently than email.

Required Texts/Readings

There is no textbook for this course. There will be readings, handouts and other materials provided by the instructor during the course of the semester which will be available on Canvas.

Wireless laptop/tablet/smart phone is required in class

You will need access to the internet outside classroom to complete readings from Canvas, complete online homework assignments, upload assignments, and access syllabus, announcements, and course updates on Canvas. Computer access is available in the campus library and in Clark Hall 102.

You will need access to a wireless device such as a phone or laptop for the class participation component of your grade. If you don't own a laptop or tablet, you can rent one at no cost from Student Computing Services (<https://library.sjsu.edu/scs>).

You will also need to create an iClicker account for use during the class as part of your participation. You may find instructions on how to do this at <http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/docs/iClicker%20Account%20-%20Setup%20Guide%20-%20Student.pdf> and at <http://www.sjsu.edu/ecampus/docs/iClicker%20-%20Add%20Your%20Course%20-%20Setup%20Guide%20-%20Student.pdf>.

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.

Please review the following policies and resources:

- [SJSU's Syllabus Policy S16-9](#)
- [SJSU's Syllabus Information web page](#)

Course Requirements: Your grade will be determined by (1) two midterm exams worth 20 points each; (2) a final exam worth 30 points; (3) a final paper worth 25 points; (4) two Discussion Boards worth 20 points each;

(5) class participation using iClicker worth 15 points; (6) three quizzes worth 10 points each; (7) a final presentation based on your paper worth 10 points; and (8) an annotated bibliography worth 10 points. See the section on 'Grading Information and Policy' below for more details on grading.

The quizzes, exams, Discussion Boards and final are designed to measure your understanding of basic concepts and Course Learning Outcomes related to the causes of war and peace and political science as listed above. As such, the exams will draw on materials from the books as well as class discussions and additional readings available on Canvas. The writing and annotated bibliography will delve deeper into key concepts that require more thoughtful treatment and reflection on the part of the student to understand some of the core problems and concepts related to war and peace. The deadlines for these assignments are listed in the course schedule below.

Course materials such as assignments and instructions, syllabus, handouts, notes, etc. can be found on the Canvas learning management system course website. You will need to be familiar with a computer, web navigation, e-mail and the Canvas system since your assignments and a number of readings are online. Your assignments will be submitted to me through Canvas. **Do not e-mail me your assignments as an attachment.** Due to the potential for computer viruses, I will not open nor accept any assignments sent via e-mail. They will be deleted. Please save your files in Word or PDF format and upload it to Canvas. You are responsible for knowing how to submit assignments through Canvas. You are responsible for regularly checking your email and with the messaging system through MySJSU on [Spartan App Portal](#) to learn of any updates.

NOTE that University policy F15-12 at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F15-12.pdf> states that "Students are expected to attend all meetings for the courses in which they are enrolled as they are responsible for material discussed therein, and active participation is frequently essential to ensure maximum benefit to all class members. In some cases, attendance is fundamental to course objectives; for example, students may be required to interact with others in the class. Attendance is the responsibility of the student." You may find form information at the [University's Syllabus Information](#) web page at <https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>

In a course that examines international politics discussions are very important. You will be better able to learn from these discussions by having a command of current events. Please keep up-to-date with national and world events by reading daily newspapers and listening to the news. I anticipate spending time in many classes discussing current political events and linking them to theories and ideas discussed in the course.

Final Examination

The final exam is scheduled for **Friday, December 10 from 7:15-9:30 AM**. **Final exams may not be taken early. Please plan your travels accordingly.** The final exam in this course will be cumulative and will cover course readings, lectures, activities, and discussions for the entire term. It will consist of short answer, and essay questions and will comprise 18% of your course grade.

Grading Information

There is a possible total of 200 points. Your final grade will be determined by your total accumulation of points as follows:

Total Points	Percentage	Grade
194-200	97-100	A plus
186-193	93-96.9	A
180-185	90-92.9	A minus
174-179	87-89.9	B plus
166-173	83-86.9	B
160-165	80-82.9	B minus
154-159	77-79.9	C plus
146-153	73-76.9	C
140-145	70-72.9	C minus
134-139	67-69.9	D plus
126-133	63-66.9	D
120-125	60-62.9	D minus

Below 120 points is a failing grade. There will be no extra credit available. Please note that you must take all exams and turn in all assignments to pass the course. In addition, I will not give make ups for any of the quizzes except in the most extreme of cases (e.g. verifiable medical emergencies, etc.). It is your responsibility to make sure you are available to take the quizzes. Late papers will be penalized one point per calendar day. **Please retain ALL of your exams, papers, and other assessments until after you have completed the course and received your grade.**

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.

Note that "All students have the right, within a reasonable time, to know their academic scores, to review their grade-dependent work, and to be provided with explanations for the determination of their course grades." See [University Policy F13-1](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf) at <http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/F13-1.pdf> for more details.

Classroom Protocol

E-mail: Each student must have an e-mail address which they check regularly. Please make sure you have updated your records in MySJSU. You must monitor your account on a regular basis. When I send out classwide messages it will be to this account. Failure to monitor this account may result in you missing important messages such as class cancellations, change of exam dates, and requests for timely information.

Attendance: Attendance itself will not be graded. iClicker will be used in class to determine participation. Further, the lectures will address some themes presented in the course readings, as well as additional information that you will not find in the readings but which you will be expected to know for exams. It is your

responsibility as a student to be in class on time. Further, it is common sense that by not attending regularly, you will miss important lectures, clarifications, handouts, scintillating discussions and brilliant insights from your instructor and fellow students.

Quizzes and Exams: You will take each quiz on the Canvas website. I urge you to take the quizzes and final from a computer that is wired into the internet. **Losing a wi-fi connection during a quiz or the final is no more an excuse than running out of ink or forgetting a scantron during a paper-based exam.** You are responsible for having a reliable internet connection while taking the quizzes. The final exam may not be dropped and will be open during the scheduled final exam period listed in the schedule. It will be a comprehensive exam. On Canvas you can find the quizzes by clicking the 'Modules' link on the left side of the page. The exams will be a take home essay where I will give you 24 hours to complete and submit one of two prompts.

Annotated Bibliography and Paper: I will post information on this on the Canvas Website and send e-mails during class giving the details of these assignments.

Academic Freedom: Each student is strongly encouraged to participate in class discussions. In any classroom situation that includes discussion and critical writing, particularly about political ideas, there are bound to be many differing viewpoints. Students may not only disagree with each other at times, but the students and the professor may also find that they have conflicting views on sensitive and volatile topics. It is my hope that these differences will enhance class discussion and create an atmosphere in which students and professor alike will be encouraged to think and learn. Therefore, be assured that students' grades will not be adversely affected by any beliefs or ideas expressed in class or in assignments. Rather, we will all respect the views of others when expressed in classroom discussions.

Electronics: I allow the use of computers for taking notes, though it is not the best way to take notes <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article/a-learning-secret-don-t-take-notes-with-a-laptop/> . Other electronic devices are not allowed and must be put away when not being used for class purposes. Serious students often complain of the distraction caused by their fellow students' web browsing, texting or who are otherwise preoccupied by electronics in class. We have a limited amount of time together during the semester and we should maximize the utility of that time. Please respect the class and your classmates and do not use these devices during class.

Students are not allowed to record without instructor permission Students are prohibited from recording class activities (including class lectures, office hours, advising sessions, etc.), distributing class recordings, or posting class recordings. Materials created by the instructor for the course (syllabi, lectures and lecture notes, presentations, etc.) are copyrighted by the instructor. This university policy (S12-7) is in place to protect the privacy of students in the course, as well as to maintain academic integrity through reducing the instances of cheating. Students who record, distribute, or post these materials will be referred to the Student Conduct and Ethical Development office. Unauthorized recording may violate university and state law. It is the responsibility of students that require special accommodations or assistive technology due to a disability to notify the instructor.

University Policies

Per [University Policy S16-9](http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf) (<http://www.sjsu.edu/senate/docs/S16-9.pdf>), relevant university policy concerning all courses, such as student responsibilities, academic integrity, accommodations, dropping and adding, consent for recording of class, etc. and available student services (e.g. learning assistance, counseling, and other resources) are listed on [Syllabus Information web page](#)

(<https://www.sjsu.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus-info.php>. Make sure to visit this page to review and be aware of these university policies and resources.

Other Useful Information

Voter Registration (From <http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/frequently-asked-questions/>)

Who can register to vote?

To register to vote in California, you must be:

- A United States citizen,
- A resident of California,
- 18 years of age or older on Election Day,
- Not currently imprisoned or on parole for the conviction of a felony, and
- Not currently found to be mentally incompetent by a court of law.

California Gubernatorial Recall Election - September 14, 2021

“The deadline to register to vote is 15 days prior to Election Day, often called E-15. You must submit the voter registration application by midnight on the registration deadline day. A timestamp will be attached to your online voter registration application. If you register to vote using a paper application, it must be postmarked or hand-delivered to your county elections office by E-15. After the registration deadline, in most elections any individual may conditionally register to vote and cast a provisional ballot by visiting their county elections official.”

You may find more information and register to vote at <https://registertovote.ca.gov/>

Political Science Scholarships – see <http://www.sjsu.edu/polisci/scholarships/> for info. From the website:

“The Political Science Department is fortunate to be able to award more than 10 scholarships to our students each year–this is an extraordinary level of support that surpasses what any other department on campus can offer. The scholarships were created by generous benefactors–often former faculty, students, and friends of the department–who desired to ease the financial burden on our students as they seek to earn their degrees in Political Science. The department encourages all of our students to apply for one or more of these awards.”

Library information:

liaison for Political Science: Paul Kauppila
University Librarian (Political Science Liaison)
(408) 808-2042
Paul.Kauppila@sjsu.edu

Political Science subject guide: <http://libguides.sjsu.edu/politicalscience>

This syllabus is subject to change at the instructor’s discretion. Any changes will be announced in class and on Canvas. It is your responsibility to sign into Canvas regularly and check for any important announcements and updates.

Course Schedule

Week	Topics, Readings	Assignments
2	<p>Levy, Jack S, and Thompson, William R. Causes of War. Hoboken: John Wiley & Sons, Incorporated, 2011.</p> <p>Joseph S. Nye, and Dean Robert J. Art. "To What Ends Military Power?" <i>International Security</i> 5.2 (1980): 187-90. <i>Skim the section on nuclear weapons</i></p> <p>"Introduction" in Gompert, David C., Hans Binnendijk, and Bonny Lin, <i>Blinders, Blunders, and Wars: What America and China Can Learn</i>. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2014. Read pages 9-19, skim the rest of the chapter; available at https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR768.html</p> <p>Chapter 1, "Diplomacy of Violence," in Thomas C. Schelling, <i>Arms and Influence</i> (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 1966)</p>	
3-4	<p>Thucydides "The Melian Dialogue" at https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/melian.htm</p> <p>Hobbes, <i>Leviathan</i>, Chapter XIII "Of the Natural Condition of Mankind" https://www.gutenberg.org/files/3207/3207-h/3207-h.htm#link2HCH0013</p> <p>Machiavelli, Niccolò <i>The Prince</i>, Chapters XV, XVII, XVIII https://www.gutenberg.org/files/1232/1232-h/1232-h.htm#chap15</p> <p>Waltz, Kenneth N. "The Origins of War in Neorealist Theory." <i>The Journal of Interdisciplinary History</i> 18.4 (1988): 615-28.</p> <p>Gilpin, R. (1981). <i>Hegemonic War and International Change</i>. In <i>War and Change in World Politics</i> (pp. 186-210). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. doi:10.1017/CBO9780511664267.007</p> <p>Tuchman, B. (1962). <i>The Guns of August</i>. New York: Macmillan. Chapters 2-4</p>	
4-6	<p>Doyle, M. (1986). Liberalism and World Politics. <i>The American Political Science Review</i>, 80(4), 1151-1169.</p> <p>"Paradise is a Bazaar" in Blainey, G. (1988). <i>The causes of war</i> (3rd ed., 1st American ed.). New York: Free Press.</p> <p>Keohane, Robert and Joseph Nye. 1989. <i>Power and Interdependence: World Politics in Transition</i>. Boston: Little, Brown and Co., 4th ed. Chapter 2.</p> <p>Keohane, Robert O. 1984. <i>After Hegemony: Cooperation and Discord in the World Political Economy</i>. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapter 4</p> <p>Levy, J. (1988). Domestic Politics and War. <i>The Journal of Interdisciplinary History</i>, 18(4), 653-673. doi:10.2307/204819</p>	Quiz 1: Sept 9 on weeks 2-4

Week	Topics, Readings	Assignments
	<p>“Germany and the Pattern of Late Development” in Snyder, Jack L, & Snyder, Jack L. (1991). Myths of empire: Domestic politics and international ambition (Cornell studies in security affairs). Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press.</p>	
6-7	<p>Why war? A letter from Albert Einstein to Sigmund Freud https://en.unesco.org/courier/may-1985/why-war-letter-albert-einstein-sigmund-freud</p> <p>Jervis, Robert. "War and Misperception." The Journal of Interdisciplinary History 18, no. 4 (1988): 675-700.</p> <p>Mintz, Alex. "How Do Leaders Make Decisions? A Poliheuristic Perspective." Journal of Conflict Resolution, vol. 48, no. 1, February 2004, p. 3-13.</p> <p>Stephen Benedict Dyson, Personality and Foreign Policy: Tony Blair's Iraq Decisions, Foreign Policy Analysis, Volume 2, Issue 3, July 2006, Pages 289–306, https://doi-org.libaccess.sjlibrary.org/10.1111/j.1743-8594.2006.00031.x</p> <p>Gompert, David C., Hans Binnendijk, and Bonny Lin, Blinders, Blunders, and Wars: What America and China Can Learn. Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2014. Read chapter 2; available at https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR768.html</p> <p>“Calculation, Miscalculation and Conventional Deterrence II: The View from Jerusalem” in Jervis, R., Lebow, R. N., & Stein, J. G. (1989). Psychology and deterrence. Baltimore, Md: Johns Hopkins University Press.</p>	<p>Discussion Board 1: Sept 16 - 22</p> <p>Exam 1: Sept 28</p>
8-9	<p>Collier, P., & Hoeffler, A. (2004). Greed and grievance in civil war. Oxford Economic Papers, 56(4), 563-595.</p> <p>FEARON, J., & LAITIN, D. (2003). Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War. American Political Science Review, 97(1), 75-90. doi:10.1017/S0003055403000534</p> <p>Michael Brown, “Ethnic and Internal Conflicts,” in Turbulent Peace, ch. 13, pp. 209-26</p> <p>“The Crime with a Name” and “Kosovo: A Dog and a Fight” in Power, Samantha. A Problem from Hell: America and the Age of Genocide. New York: Basic, 2002.</p> <p>Chapters 4 & 5 in Gourevitch, P. (1998). We wish to inform you that tomorrow we will be killed with our families: Stories from Rwanda. New York: Picador.</p>	<p>Annotated Bibliography due Oct. 7</p> <p>Quiz 2: Oct 14 on weeks 6-9</p>
9-11	<p>chapters 1&2 in Crenshaw, M. (2016). Countering terrorism: No simple solutions. Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Pr. See also the online Global Terrorism Database at https://www.start.umd.edu/gtd/</p>	

Week	Topics, Readings	Assignments
	<p>PAPE, R. (2003). The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism. <i>American Political Science Review</i>, 97(3), 343-361.</p> <p>“Why Is Civil War so Common?” Chapter 4 in Collier, Paul; Elliott, V. L.; Hegre, Håvard; Hoeffler, Anke; Reynal-Querol, Marta; Sambanis, Nicholas. 2003. <i>Breaking the Conflict Trap : Civil War and Development Policy</i>. A World Bank policy research report;. Washington, DC: World Bank and Oxford University Press. © World Bank. https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/13938 License: CC BY 3.0 IGO.</p> <p>“The Terror” in Ausaresses, Miller, and Miller, Robert L. <i>The Battle of the Casbah: Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism in Algeria, 1955-1957</i>. First English Language ed. New York: Enigma, 2002.</p> <p>Movie: The Battle of Algiers</p>	
12-13	<p>Kupchan, Charles, & Kupchan, Clifford A. (1995). The Promise of Collective Security. <i>International Security</i>, 20(1), 52-61.</p> <p>Walter, B. (2002). Introduction. In <i>Committing to Peace: The Successful Settlement of Civil Wars</i> (pp. 3-18). PRINCETON; OXFORD: Princeton University Press. doi:10.2307/j.ctv1j13z61.6</p> <p>Chapters 4-5 in Iklé, F. (1971). <i>Every war must end</i>. Revised ed. (Columbia paperback ; no. 116). New York: Columbia University Press.</p> <p>Chapter 1 in McGarry, J., & O'Leary, B. (1993). <i>The politics of ethnic conflict regulation: Case studies of protracted ethnic conflicts</i>. London ; New York: Routledge.</p>	<p>Exam 2 Nov. 2</p> <p>Discussion Board 2: Nov 5-12</p>
14-16	Presentations, Wrap up and review	<p>Quiz 3: Nov 18 on weeks 9 - 13</p> <p>Paper due Dec 2</p>
Final Exam	Friday, December 10 from 7:15-9:30 AM	