PSCI 481/687: INTERSTATE WAR
Winter 2017
Location HH 124, Mondays 8:30-11:20am

Instructor: Dr. Aaron Ettinger
Email Address: aaron.ettinger@uwaterloo.ca
Office Location: Hagey Hall 348
Office Hours: Mondays 3-5pm, or by appointment

Contact Policy:
The best way to communicate with me is by email at the address listed above. I do my best to answer all queries within 24 hours. When you send an email please observe some common-sense rules of email etiquette. Always include “PSCI 481” or “PSCI 687” in the subject line; begin the message with a greeting and sign off with your own name. Use your uwaterloo email address to prevent your message from going to the junk folder. Regarding office hours, I have a general open door policy and you may drop in anytime, though forewarning would help. I also hold formal office hours.

Course Description
What happened to interstate war? War between two countries used to be a regular feature of world politics; today it is a rare sight. This is a remarkable development in our world because interstate war has been a crucial, some would say formative characteristic of western civilization. It has given shape to western political thought, cultural practices, even states themselves. But in recent decades, the frequency of war between states has declined to almost zero. So, what happened? Is this a new era in human history? What has changed and why? What might we be missing? What will the future look like? PSCI 481/687 seeks to answer these questions. It covers recent debates about transformations in the nature of war in the twenty-first century and its implications for world politics. As a seminar, this course will be driven by student conversations and presentations. Course work includes one research paper, short commentaries and student presentations.

Pre-Requisites:
4A strongly recommended; PSCI 281 World Politics is strongly recommended.

Since this is a fourth-year seminar course, I assume that you are familiar with the basics of International Relations theory and its major concepts. Though you will not be evaluated on your knowledge of IR theory, it is advisable to be conversant in this language.
Expectations:
(1) **Come to class**: A university education is a privilege and seminar discussions can be illuminating. More instrumentally, the world is run by those who show up. Wise students will attend all seminars and use the discussions to develop ideas for the final term paper. I expect everyone to attend each seminar. It’s as simple as that.

(2) **Keep up with your work**: I expect you to attend class having read the assigned material. Assignments must be submitted by the time and date indicated. As always, late penalties will apply. A list of key dates appears on the final page of this syllabus.

Course Objectives:
By the end of this twelve-week course, students will be able to:

(1) Identify how interstate war has changed over time;
(2) Explain how war fits in the broader patterns of world politics;
(3) Speak clearly about the theoretical and empirical aspects of interstate war;
(4) Write clearly about the complexities of war and IR theory

Texts
We will read the following books in their entirety. Both are required to complete the course. All other materials are available online or will be distributed in advance.


Texts are available for purchase at the University of Waterloo bookstore.
University Regulations

Cross-listed course:
Please note that a cross-listed course will count in all respective averages no matter under which rubric it has been taken. For example, a PHIL/PSCI cross-list will count in a Philosophy major average, even if the course was taken under the Political Science rubric.

Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline, Student Discipline http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-71.

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4, Student Petitions http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70. In addition, consult Student Grievances http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/student-grievances-faculty-arts-processes for the Faculty of Arts’ grievance processes.

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, Student Appeals http://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-72.

Academic Integrity website (Arts): Academic Integrity http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Academic Integrity Office (uWaterloo): Academic Integrity Office http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/

Turnitin in your course
Turnitin.com: Plagiarism detection software (Turnitin) will be used to screen assignments in this course. This is being done to verify that use of all material and sources in assignments is documented. In the first week of the term, details will be provided about the arrangements for the use of Turnitin in this course.

Note: students must be given a reasonable option if they do not want to have their assignment screened by Turnitin. See Turnitin http://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/integrity-waterloo-faculty/turnitin-waterloo for more information.

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities

Note for students with disabilities: The AccessAbility Services (AS) Office, located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS Office at the beginning of each academic term.

If you need to request special accommodation, please communicate with me as soon as possible. This way we can arrange for the proper arrangements with little disruption.

Course Requirements

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Due</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single Page Commentaries</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Six of eight weeks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>April 13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentations</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Weeks 10-12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peer Evaluation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Weeks 10-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
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30%   Single-Page Commentaries (6 x 1 page each)

You will write six (6) single-page commentaries in response to the required readings. Each commentary will be graded out of 10. The total score (/60) will be divided in half which will be your score on this portion of the coursework. Commentaries should be no longer than 1 page single-spaced. There is no need to provide citations or a bibliography. If you cannot resist the urge to cite, refer to the author of the article in parenthesis and I will assume that it corresponds to the syllabus.
Commentaries may address any component of the readings that piques your interest. Treat the commentaries as editorial reflections on the material at hand. This may include specific objections to the literature, broad commentaries, issues you would like to explore, et cetera. Though the direction is up to you, the compositions should avoid trivial concerns or summarizing the readings.

Commentaries will be graded on the basis of substance and style. I want to see interesting and substantive insights into the content, and clear writing.

Due dates: Six times throughout the first eight substantive weeks of class. Put differently, you have two weeks where you do not have to submit a paper. Only one commentary can be submitted per class. I prefer that you submit the paper during the relevant session in hard copy though I can accept emailed versions under extenuating circumstances. You cannot bundle them together and submit them as a package later in the term.

40% Research Paper (3000-3500 words; MA students 3500-4000)

You will write a research paper on a topic of your choice. The essay may cover any issue relating to interstate war, broadly interpreted. This is your opportunity to explore an issue that interests you. Topics may flow from classroom conversations or from weekly reflection papers. Students may also select a topic that is not covered on the syllabus, provided it relates to the course’s theme. I recommend consulting with me first.

Your research should be framed by a question. A good research question allows you to offer an answer – also known as your thesis or argument. Your paper must make an argument about its subject matter. This means that you must advance a normative, theoretical or an empirical claim in response to your research question. Papers that only describe a situation will not suffice.

Your essay must have a bibliography and use a proper citation style.

Due date: Thursday, April 13 at 5:00pm

10% Student Presentations

Weeks 10-12 will consist of student presentations. Students will present their preliminary research papers in a conference-style format. Four students will present their work, followed by discussion and constructive commentary from the class. Each student will have about 15 minutes to discuss the particulars of his or her research at that particular stage of its development. As a work-in-progress, your presentation should offer:
1. An interesting question and a reason why this topic matters
2. A working hypothesis / interesting answer(s)
3. Some evidence to support your claims
4. Potential avenues for further exploration

Ideally, your presentation will spark debate and help you develop your research paper in advance of the deadline.

Due dates: A schedule of presentations will be established in advance

10% Peer Evaluation

During student presentations (weeks 10-12), you will provide written anonymous feedback on each presentation. The purpose of this peer evaluation is to provide helpful commentary on each project during its development. Accordingly, you will be evaluated on the insight and usefulness of your feedback. You will provide typed comments on each presenter within 6 days of the presentation. Comments will be emailed directly to me, anonymized, and passed along to the presenter so that they may be considered during the final composition of the research paper. 100 words will be considered the baseline target for your comments.

10% Class Attendance and participation

This is a seminar course and you are expected to participate regularly and vigorously. Accordingly, a healthy percentage of the overall grade is apportioned to in-class performance. I will assess your participation on three general criteria.

Seminar Discussion and Office Hours: In-class performance as well as any office visits will count towards your overall participation grade.

Late Policy:

Single-page commentaries must be submitted in hard copy and are due in-class. Late papers will not be accepted.

Term paper is due Friday, April 13 at 5:00pm on LEARN or in my office or via email. Papers submitted after the deadline will be assessed 8% for the first day and 3% for every day thereafter

Extensions may be granted only with justifiable reason. Student travel plans are not an acceptable reason for granting extensions.
Grade Scale

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<tr>
<th>Letter</th>
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<th>Value</th>
<th>Letter</th>
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<th>Value</th>
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<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>63-66</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>60-62</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>57-59</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>53-56</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>73-76</td>
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<td>D-</td>
<td>50-52</td>
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<td>B-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>F+</td>
<td>42-49</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>35-41</td>
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<td>C</td>
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Style Guidelines

Please submit all of your written work with the following specifications.

Font – Times New Roman (anything else will drive me nuts)

Font size – 12-point font (thank you)

Margins – 2.54 cm / 1 inch margins

Page numbers – beginning on the first page of text, not the title page

Citation style – I prefer any style that involves embedded citations. This means citations in the text that look like this: (Author last name, year: page #). A bibliography at the end of the paper connects the in-text citation to the full source information. Footnotes are allowable for explanatory digressions or notes of clarification. If you have any concerns about how use this style, please refer to the reading list for examples of how to do it right.

Headings – Yes, you can use headings and subheadings in your submitted work.

The Writing Centre

The Writing Centre works across all faculties to help students clarify their ideas, develop their voices, and write in the style appropriate to their disciplines. Writing Centre staff offer one-on-
one support in planning assignments and presentations, using and documenting research, organizing and structuring papers, and revising for clarity and coherence. You can make multiple appointments throughout the term, or drop in at the Library for quick questions or feedback. To book a 50-minute appointment and to see drop-in hours, visit www.uwaterloo.ca/writing-centre. Group appointments for team-based projects, presentations, and papers are also available.

Please note that writing specialists guide you to see your work as readers would. They can teach you revising skills and strategies, but will not proof-read or edit for you. Please bring hard copies of your assignment instructions and any notes or drafts to your appointment.

Schedule of Topics:

Week 1: January 9 INTRODUCTIONS

Week 2: January 16 WAR, CULTURE, EVOLUTION (109 pages)


Week 3: January 23 THE BETTER ANGELS OF OUR NATURE (105 pages)


Week 4: January 30 WINNING THE WAR ON WAR I (109 pages)

Goldstein, Joshua. 2011. Winning the War on War: pp. 1-109 (chapters 1-4)

Week 5: February 6 WINNING THE WAR ON WAR II (104 pages)

Goldstein pp. 177-228, 275-328 (chapters 7-8, and 11-12)

Week 6: February 13 GENDER, WAR AND CONFLICT I (117/103 pages)


FEBRUARY 20-24: READING WEEK – NO CLASSES

Week 7: February 27  GENDER, WAR AND CONFLICT II  (112 pages)
Sjoberg, Gender, War, and Conflict, pp. 85-175 (chapters 4-6)


Week 8: March 6  MEDIA AND WAR  (83 pages)


Week 9: March 13  PRIVATE WARRIORS  (61+ pages)


**Week 10:** March 20  STUDENT PRESENTATIONS  
**Week 11:** March 27  STUDENT PRESENTATIONS  
**Week 12:** April 3  STUDENT PRESENTATIONS  

**Summary of Key Dates for this Course**

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<th>Topic</th>
<th>Pages</th>
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<td>1</td>
<td>January 9</td>
<td>Introductions</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>January 16</td>
<td>War and Evolution</td>
<td>(109)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>January 23</td>
<td>The Better Angels of our Nature</td>
<td>(105)</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>January 30</td>
<td>Winning the War on War I</td>
<td>(109)</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>February 6</td>
<td>Winning the War on War II</td>
<td>(104)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>February 13</td>
<td>Gender War and Conflict I</td>
<td>(117/103)</td>
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<td>February 20</td>
<td><strong>Reading Week - No Classes</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>February 27</td>
<td>Gender War and Conflict II</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>March 27</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>April 3</td>
<td>Student Presentations</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td><strong>April 13</strong></td>
<td><strong>Term Papers Due by 5:00pm</strong></td>
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