

# War, Peace, and National Security

Spring 2019  
Room: Coates 214  
Time: T TH 12:00-1:20

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## Course Description

This is an upper division course on War and peace in the context of U.S. National Security. The subject of U.S. national security can span a wide array of topics from defense to global climate change and there is no course that could cover the full range of issues impacting U.S. National Security. Further, the list of problems which constitute national security differs from one administration to another and is often based more on domestic politics rather than objective levels of threat presented by specific issues. This course will largely focus on more traditional issues that impact national security.

The course is designed to give you a sampling of readings related war and peace between nation states. The objective is NOT to provide you with definitive answers, but instead, to raise philosophical questions and grapple with prominent scholarship that has attempted to create theoretical foundations focused on answering these questions.

The course does not, on its own, prepare you for any kind of career in the field of national security. However, if you do have an interest in such a career, the course can serve as a helpful gateway to start thinking about the issues in a structured way. We will take a discussion based approach in this course, and you, as students, will be expected to make frequent contributions, ask good questions and be helpful colleagues to your peers. We will also cover a healthy amount of reading and you are expected to manage your time in a way that allows you to be prepared for each class meeting.

**It is important that you carefully familiarize yourself with the syllabus. Throughout the semester you will be responsible for following all of the course regulations and policies. By continuing your enrollment in the course, you agree to all of the policies outlined in this syllabus.**

## Required Text

**Silence of the Rational Center** by Stefan Halper (Available at LSU Bookstore)  
**Arms and Influence** by Thomas Schelling (Available at LSU Bookstore)  
**The Evolution of Cooperation** by Robert Axelrod (Available at LSU Bookstore)

## Course Policies

**Academic Integrity:** Academic integrity is of paramount importance and evidence of plagiarism or cheating will result in a referral to the office of the dean.

**Late Submissions: I do not accept late work.** Please make arrangements to turn in your work on time.

**Electronic Devices:** All electronic devices, including laptops, are prohibited. If you have a disability that necessitates the use of an electronic device, please let me know.

**Attendance:** Attendance will be taken every class period. This is a discussion based course and requires regular attendance. I understand that things come up; you are allowed to miss 2 classes without a penalty. Any additional absences will result in 1 point reduction in your total course grade per absence. Missing 6 class meetings (beyond the allowable 2) will automatically result in a failing grade for the course. Think of this as a statutory requirement. Having a respectable excuse will not negate this policy.

**Free Passes on Weekly Assignments:** You get **2** free passes on your weekly reflection assignments (See below under: *Weekly Reflection Assignments*). I encourage you to use these "free passes" conservatively or not use them at all. Given this policy, no late work will be accepted under any circumstances. You cannot use up your free passes and later miss an assignment due to an emergency. It is your responsibility to save the passes for emergencies. If you do not use your free passes, I will simply drop your lowest two grades on weekly assignments.

**Grades:** Grades will be allocated according to the following schedule.

Score	Grade	Score	Grade	Score	Grade	Score	Grade
97-100	A+	87-89	B+	77-79	C+	67-69	D+
93-96	A	83-86	B	73-76	C	63-66	D
90-92	A-	80-82	B-	70-72	C-	60-62	D-
						< 60	F

**Special Needs:** Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments is requested to speak with the Disability Services and with me, as early in the semester as possible. All discussions will remain confidential. Please contact the Disability Services at 115 Johnston Hall, (225) 578-5919.

## Requirements and Evaluation

### *Weekly Reflection Assignments – 5 points each, 50 points total*

On Tuesday of each week (with few exceptions), students are required to submit a one page (minimum of 400 words) reflection paper discussing the readings that were assigned for that week. Weeks

that do not require a reflection assignment are clearly marked in the syllabus. Please note that this should not be merely a summary of the readings, but a reflection piece. This reflection paper is due at the start of class and must be submitted in hard copy. If you cannot make it to class in person, you can submit the paper to me by e.mail. The e.mail must arrive before the start of the class meeting. In cases when no class is held on a Tuesday, the reflection assignments are due on Thursday (See under *Reading and Assignment Schedule*). A sample completed assignment is posted on Moodle. We will discuss these assignments in more detail at the start of the semester.

### ***Participation - 25 points***

This is a discussion based course and as such requires active participation on your part. I will make a concerted effort to call on all students, but it is your responsibility to be engaged and participate in the discussion. Participation makes up (intentionally) a large portion of your total grade. Throughout the semester I will update your participation grade on Moodle to give you an idea where you stand.

### ***Final Exam - 25 points***

The final exam will cover all of the material studied throughout the semester. We will discuss the exam structure and expectations in detail. I have posted a sample final exam on Moodle (Please note that this sample final exam is from a different course. The questions in the sample final exam are not necessarily related to this course. It is there to show you the general structure of the exam and give you an idea of what to expect). You cannot opt out of the final exam. Failure to submit the final exam will result in a failing grade for the course even if your total grade is above 60 after accounting for the not-submitted exam.

## **Weekly Reading and Assignment Schedule**

Please see the course Moodle page for a detailed reading and assignment schedule.