

# **PS391-229: Contemporary Global Conflicts**

**Department of Political Science**

**College of Arts and Sciences**

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**Office hours:** The fastest way to contact us is generally via email. We both check our email regularly during the day (M-F). Emails received before 5pm on a weekday will be responded to on that day. Emails received after 5pm will be responded to by 9am the following morning. Emails received after 5pm on Friday and during the weekend will be responded to within 24 hours. For face-to-face or telephone meetings, email either of us to set up a meeting time.

## **Class Time and Location:**

ONLINE: go to: MyUK. To do this, start at [www.uky.edu](http://www.uky.edu). Click on “Link Blue” (top/right). Click on “myUK” (middle/left). Log into Blackboard using your LINK BLUE username and password.

## **Course Description**

This course will expose students to the burgeoning academic and historical literature on interstate conflicts, concentrating on the causes of wars. The bulk of the course will focus on the factors that make interstate conflicts more or less likely to occur, such as power relations and domestic determinants. The course begins with an examination of historical patterns and trends in warfare. Subsequent modules will focus on specific conflicts. Each module is split into two parts. In the first part, the student will learn about the specifics of a conflict, including the historical background, how the war progressed, how they ended, and lessons we can learn from each conflict. In the second part, students will develop a theoretical understanding of each conflict by considering how major theories for conflict developed within the international relations literature help explain the conflict.

Upon completion of this course, students should be familiar with many of the factors that seem to mitigate or exacerbate military conflict between states. Students should be able to apply these factors in examining real-world scenarios, such as studying historical cases of war or assessing the prospects for future conflict around the world.

## **Technology**

### **Minimum Technology Requirements:**

In order to participate in this course, you will need access to a computer with the minimum hardware, software and internet configuration described at this site :

<http://wiki.uky.edu/blackboard/Wiki%20Pages/Bb9%20Hardware%20and%20Software%20Requirements.aspx>

Note: the use of Internet Explorer is NOT recommended for use with Blackboard. Firefox is the recommended Internet browser for the course. You can download Mozilla Firefox (free) at this site: <http://www.mozilla.com/en-US/firefox/upgrade.html>

You will need to install a number of plugins on your computer. The links to the specific plugins required for this course can be also be found your course. If using a UK computer these plugins should be already installed.

To check if your browser has Flash, Adobe Acrobat Reader and QuickTime movie player, click this link: <http://wiki.uky.edu/blackboard/Wiki%20Pages/Browser%20Check.aspx>. If you do not have these, you can download them from this site.

To download Windows Media Player, click this link:  
<http://www.microsoft.com/windows/windowsmedia/player/10/default.aspx>

Students and faculty can download Microsoft Office Suite (including Word and PowerPoint) from this site: <https://download.uky.edu/>.

If you experience technical difficulties with accessing course materials, the Customer Service Center may be able to assist you. You may reach them at 859-218-HELP (4357) or by e-mail at [helpdesk@uky.edu](mailto:helpdesk@uky.edu). Please also inform the course instructor when you are having technical difficulties.

The **Teaching and Academic Support Center** (TASC) website (<http://www.uky.edu/TASC/>) offers additional information and resources that can promote a successful “online course” learning experience. They may also be reached at 859-257-8272.

**PLEASE NOTE:** Your instructors are trained in international relations – not computer science. Please use the resources above if you are having any technological problems.

## Course Materials

You will need to purchase nothing for this course. All reading materials are available on Blackboard.

### **Reading Assignments:**

Reading assignments are listed in each Learning Module. All assigned readings are potential exam material whether covered in online lectures or not.

### **Distance Learning Library Services:**

As a Distance Learning student you have access to the Distance Learning Library services at <http://www.uky.edu/Libraries/DLLS>. This service can provide you access to UK’s circulating collections and can deliver to you manuscripts or books from UKs library or other libraries. The DL Librarian may be reached at 859-257-0500, ext 2171, or 800-828-0439 (option #6) or by mail at [dlservice@email.uky.edu](mailto:dlservice@email.uky.edu). For an interlibrary loan visit: [http://www.uky.edu/Libraries/linpage.php?lweb\\_id=253&llib\\_id=16](http://www.uky.edu/Libraries/linpage.php?lweb_id=253&llib_id=16)

## Disabilities/ Medical Conditions

If you have a documented disability that requires academic accommodations, please see me as soon as possible. In order to receive accommodations in this course, you must provide me with a Letter of Accommodation from the Disability Resource Center (Room 2, Alumni Gym, 257-2754, email address [jkarnes@email.uky.edu](mailto:jkarnes@email.uky.edu)) for coordination of campus disability services available to students with disabilities.

## Effort Expected

All course materials are on-line and it is YOUR responsibility to access material in a timely manner. To help keep you on track I have provided a LECTURE SCHEDULE that you should follow. The lecture schedule is posted on BlackBoard in the COURSE INFORMATION section of Blackboard. You are expected to spend a MINIMUM of 5-10 hours on-line interacting with the course material.

### Getting Started: Log into your Blackboard (Bb) account

- 1) Access the course syllabus: The course syllabus can be viewed by clicking on the red COURSE INFORMATION button and then clicking on SYLLABUS. I would recommend you print out a copy of the syllabus for future reference. **Make a note of all deadlines.**
- 2) You should check that the e-mail address listed for you is your current e-mail address (it does not have to be a UK address just the e-mail that you regularly use). If it is not your regular e-mail address, then change it to your current address (except for HOTMAIL accounts which sometimes aren't compatible with Bb) and click submit. This is the address that I will use to communicate with you. (go to TOOLS to change your e-mail address)
- 3) This is a 3 credit hour course taught exclusively through the web. All course materials are on-line and it is YOUR responsibility to access material in a timely manner. This is a difficult course and it is imperative that you stay up-to-date with the lecture material. Do not procrastinate and leave material to the last minute. You are expected to spend a MINIMUM of 5-10 hours per **WEEK** on-line interacting with the course material. Take some time to familiarize yourself with navigating through the course material. The course is divided into 8 modules (found by clicking on the "Learning Modules" button). Each module consists of multiple files. These files are in a variety of forms: PowerPoint, word documents, web links, Authorware files, etc. As you work through the course materials you should take notes the same way you would for a "regular" lecture course.
- 4) Please be aware that some files that you will be downloading are fairly large and may take a while (several minutes) to download especially if you are accessing the course material using a modem or a slow broadband connection.

- 5) Given that all course material is delivered through the Internet, occasional problems may arise with accessing course material. If you have problems accessing course material, or if web links appear to be not functioning, please contact me and I will get the problem rectified as quickly as possible.
- 6) Recommended first actions:
  - (1) Print out a copy of the syllabus
  - (2) Begin work on module 1 - (if working on your home /dorm computer - download all of the plug-ins listed in module 1).

## Grading

You will be working through 8 modules in this class. You will take a quiz following each module. Quiz questions are presented in random order by Blackboard.

The quiz for Module 1 will consist of the following:

20 questions (each question worth 2 points) pertaining to the empirical definition of war, the theoretical definition of war, and global and regional trends in war overtime. Questions will be multiple choice and/or true/false.

1 essay question (worth 20 points) asking you about if and how war has changed over time.

The quizzes for Modules 2-8 will consist of the following:

10 questions (each question worth 2 points) pertaining to the background information on each conflict. Questions will be multiple choice and/or true/false.

10 questions (each question worth 2 points) pertaining to the first theory used to explain each conflict. Questions will be multiple choice and/or true/false.

10 questions (each question worth 2 points) pertaining to the second theory used to explain each conflict. Questions will be multiple choice and/or true/false.

1 essay question (worth 20 points) asking you to apply the theory to explain the conflict.

Quizzes will follow the module sequence according to the following schedule:

Quiz #	Topic	Points
1	Historical Patterns and Trends in Warfare (1945+)	60
2	India-Pakistan Rivalry (1947+)	80
3	Korean War (1950-1953)	80
4	Cod Wars (1958-1976)	80
5	Six-Day War (1967)	80
6	Uganda-Tanzania (1978-1979)	80
7	Iran-Iraq war (1980-1988)	80
8	Falklands War (1982)	80
Total		620

Final grades will be based on total points earned and will be assigned as follows:

A = 620—558 points

B = 557—496 points

C = 495—434 points

D = 433—372 points

E = less than 372 points

All examination scores will be posted in the BlackBoard grade book: You can review your scores by going to MY GRADES in BlackBoard.

In order to receive a passing grade in this course, ALL COURSE WORK MUST BE COMPLETED.

A student wishing to appeal any grade given in this class must make their request in writing prior to meeting with the instructors. The written appeal must be typed and clearly state the reason(s) the student feels the grade they received is incorrect. Appeals that just ask for more points will not be considered by the instructors. The instructor reserves the right to re-grade the entire exam or assignment once an appeal is made, this may result in an increase or decrease in the score a student receives.

**Note:** All undergraduate students will receive a mid-term grade evaluation for this course around July 8<sup>th</sup>. This evaluation will be based upon your work on the first four modules.

### **Unresolved Academic Issues**

Consult the University of Kentucky *Student Rights and Responsibilities* regarding the steps for addressing unresolved academic issues.

**Last day to withdraw from the course:** Check the UK registrar page to find the last day to withdraw from the University or reduce course load. Students can withdraw or reduce course load after this date only for “urgent non- academic reasons.”

### **MISSED QUIZZES**

Make-up exams (for missed examinations) will only be given for **DOCUMENTED** excused absences **as defined by the University (Senate Rule V.2.4.2)** and are scheduled as needed. A missed exam will result in a score of zero for that exam, unless an acceptable written excuse is presented within 48 hours of the missed examination. Since you have a week to complete the material and take the quiz for each module, the threshold for receiving a make-up is very high.

**Check the Information on Examinations in the ASSIGNMENTS AND EXAMS section of Blackboard to confirm the topics covered on each examination.**

### **ONLINE EXAMINATION INFORMATION**

The **online examinations** will be submitted electronically through Blackboard and must be submitted by the stated deadline. Once you access an examination you have 60 minutes in which to complete and submit it. If you go over the time you will not be able to submit it and will

receive an automatic score of zero for that examination. **It is your responsibility to watch the time and submit the examination in time.**

Online quizzes are **OPEN BOOK** examinations. You may use your readings or any other notes when taking a quiz.

Your grade for the online exams will be available the following Monday after a module is scheduled to be completed by 5pm (EST) (or earlier).

**If you encounter problems when taking an exam:** Contact us immediately. If you cannot reach us by phone send an e-mail and include your phone number. If you wait until the last minute to take the quizzes we may not be able to help you in time, so plan accordingly.

### **Plagiarism and Cheating**

Students are advised to retain all notes and drafts for all work until after they receive their final grade. Students should also be aware that the instructor takes matters of plagiarism and cheating very seriously and is prone to imposing the most severe penalty allowed by university rules, which includes, but is not limited to, issuing an automatic grade of 0.0 for the entire course. All assignments, projects, and exercises completed by students for this class should be the product of the personal efforts of the individual(s) whose name(s) appear on the corresponding assignment. Misrepresenting others' work as one's own in the form of cheating or plagiarism is unethical and will lead to those penalties outlined in the [University Senate Rules](#) (6.3.1 & 6.3.2). The [Ombud](#) site also has information on plagiarism.

### **Student Conduct:**

Students are expected to maintain decorum that includes respect for other students and the professor, to regularly log in to the course, and to display an attitude that seeks to take full advantage of the educational opportunity. All students are expected to be prepared to work and actively participate in class activities.

### **Readings**

Unless otherwise noted, the reading can be accessed from the course Blackboard page. Readings not on Blackboard have links that you can access within the individual models on Blackboard.

## Course Schedule

Below is the schedule of topics and readings for this course. The schedule will only change if we encounter some massive surprise. All students will be notified if anything changes.

### June 10-11

#### Module 1: Historical Patterns and Trends in Warfare

Quiz 1 due by Monday June 14<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM (EST)

### June 14-18

#### Module 2: India-Pakistan Rivalry

Quiz 2 due by Monday June 21<sup>st</sup> at 5 PM (EST)

### June 21-25 Module 3:

#### The Korean War (1950-1953)

Quiz 3 due by Monday June 28<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM (EST)

Note: June 21 – Last day to drop without course appearing on transcript

### June 28-July 2

#### Module 4: Cod Wars (1958-1976)

Quiz 4 due by Tuesday July 6<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM (EST)

Note: July 5 – Independence Day - Academic Holiday

### July 6-9

#### Module 5: Six-Day War (1967)

Quiz 5 due by Monday July 12<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM (EST)

### July 12-16

#### Module 6: Uganda-Tanzania (1978-1979)

Quiz 6 due by Monday July 19<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM (EST)

Note: July 14 – Last day to withdraw from the University or reduce course load

### July 19-23

#### Module 7: Iran-Iraq war (1980-1988)

Quiz 7 due by Monday July 26<sup>th</sup> at 5 PM (EST)

### July 26-30

#### Module 8: Falklands War (1982)

Quiz 8 due by Monday August 2<sup>nd</sup> at 5 PM (EST)

### Aug 2-4

Catch-up period