

Sam Houston State University
Pol 482W International Conflict and Terrorism; Fall 2007
AB1, Room 307; 12:30 – 2:00

Professor: Dr. Rhonda Callaway

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Office Hours: T/Th 11:00 – 12:00; 2:00 – 3:00 and by appointment

Course Description: Participants in this course will become acquainted, as well as, come to their own assessments of theories addressing the questions of why humans and nations become involved in violent conflicts and terrorist activity, and how these conflicts might be solved through more peaceful means. Participants will learn, evaluate, and apply the theories that are presented during the course of the semester. In addition, the student will express, through discussion, their ideas regarding the strengths and weaknesses of these theories in class for the benefit of others.

Course Objectives:

In general, the student will

- learn specific terminology and fundamental principles as they pertain to international conflict and terrorism
- learn how to locate and use resources for problem-solving
- develop and/or enhance analytical and critical thinking skills

Required Readings – the texts for the class are as follows:

Stoessinger, John. *Why Nations Go to War*

Walzer, Michael. *Just and Unjust Wars*

Trumbo, Dalton. *Johnny Got His Gun*

- additional readings will be posted to either Blackboard or will be placed on electronic reserve

Classroom Rules of Conduct: Students are expected to assist in maintaining a classroom environment that is conducive to learning. Students are to treat faculty and students with respect. **Students are to turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices while in the classroom. Under no circumstances are cell phones or any electronic devices to be used or seen during times of examination.** Students may tape record lectures provided they do not disturb other students in the process.

The university has set clear guidelines regarding academic dishonesty, religious holidays, students with disabilities and visitors in the classroom. These can be accessed at <https://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/> but will also be posted in Blackboard under course information

In order to get the most out of this class you should read assigned materials before the classroom discussion on that topic. This is also the material that will be covered on the quizzes. It is your job to keep up with the reading and come to class prepared to discuss the material. It may be helpful to take notes when reading the material and bring any questions to class.

Course Requirements

- a. **Midterm** and a **final**, each worth 25%
- b. **Reading quizzes** and **reading responses** will be given throughout the semester for a total of 25% of the overall grade. There will be no make-up quizzes unless you have a university excused absence.
- c. **Class Presentation 25%**. Students will choose either a terrorist organization (cannot be Al Qaeda) or a particular conflict (post WWII – cannot be the Berlin Airlift, Bay of Pigs Incident, or the Cuban Missile Crisis) to write a paper and prepare a presentation to the class. There will be a sign-up sheet therefore, only one student can write/present on one case or group. There will be 15 slots for terrorist groups and 15 slots for a particular conflict.
- d. Class attendance is expected. I do not give repeat performances, so if you are absent it is your responsibility to get the materials from a classmate. **I DO NOT POST POWERPOINT PRESENTATIONS.** In addition, do not be late to class, this is a pet peeve. Excessive absences and tardiness will result in a grade reduction.

Grading:

Course grades of 90 – 100 will be scored an A; a B is 80 to 89; 70 to 79 is a C; 60 to 69 is a D; below 60 is an F.

- If you think that an error has been made in calculating your grade, it is *your responsibility* to provide me with all of your work. To that end, it would be prudent to save anything that is handed back to you until you get your final grade report. **Any students caught cheating on an exam will receive a minimum punishment of a failing grade for the class.**
- Anyone having problems in this course is strongly encouraged to contact the instructor as early as possible. I will be happy to meet you and help you in anyway possible. I may be able to help you study more effectively or recommend other assistance. **Remember – I want you to do well in this course.**

Grades will be posted to Blackboard and it is the student's responsibility to calculate your own average during the semester. **Please note that there is no extra credit available for this course.**

Attendance Policy:

Anyone who misses a scheduled exam or assignment will receive a zero. Make up exams and other assignments will be given only if you have unavoidable circumstances (with documentation) and only if you **contact the instructor in advance.**

In order to do well in the course, it is required that you attend class regularly. Please note that I do not give repeat performances. Please be on time to class and plan to stay, as entering a class late or leaving early is always disruptive. Such a disruption is unfair to the rest of the class and will undoubtedly make you known to the instructor for all the wrong reasons. The following outlines the attendance policy for this class:

- **Perfect attendance will be rewarded. Those with perfect attendance will receive 3 additional points added to the final average.**
 - **NOTE: Perfect attendance means perfect...no absences for any reasons. Also note: being tardy is not perfect. If you are tardy, you will not receive any additional points. So...to receive full credit, you must be in class on time! No exceptions.**

Participation:

Participation in class discussions is strongly encouraged. As students, you will get the most out of this class if you engage in the discussions. Every student in this class has an opinion, and each

of those opinions is valued in this class. I ask that you respect the diverse backgrounds and views of your fellow students, and employ common courtesies during class.

Note: This syllabus should be seen as a rough guide of the coming semester. I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus throughout the semester. Readings should be completed prior to class.

INTRODUCTION

- 8/21 T **Scope of the Course/ Download syllabus from Blackboard**
- Read Levy Part I - Blackboard
- 8/23 TH **Movie**
- 8/28 T **Movie**
- 8/30 TH No Class – APSA Conference
- **Read all of Trumbo’s *Johnny Got his Gun***
 - **Be prepared to discuss in class on Tuesday**
 - **Start investigating paper/presentation topics**
- 9/4 T **Discuss Trumbo**
- **READING RESPONSE #1**; due on Monday, September 11 by 5:00pm.
- 9/5 **12th Class Day – Last day to drop without a Q and receive 100% refund**

WHY CONFLICT: Levels of Analysis and Explanations of War and Conflict

- 9/6 TH **The Nature and Origins of War: Why does conflict occur?**
- Clausewitz, “War as an Instrument of Policy” - Blackboard
 - Tzu, “Offensive Strategy” - Blackboard
- 9/11 T **Traditional Theories of War: Classical Realism**
- Thucydides, “Melian Dialogue” - Blackboard
 - Machiavelli, “The Art of War” - Blackboard
 - Levy Part II - Blackboard
- 9/13 TH **System Level of Analysis – Great Power Wars**
- Levy Part III - Blackboard
- 9/18 T **System Level of Analysis – Balance of Power and Power Transition**
- Levy Part IV – Blackboard
 - **READING RESPONSE #2 – Which is more peaceful, power parity or a preponderance of power? Due on Monday, September 24, by 5:00pm.**
- 9/20 TH **State (Societal) Level of Analysis**
- Levy Part V - Blackboard
- 9/25 T **Conflicts within States: Revolutions and Domestic Political Violence**
- TBA

9/27 TH EXAM 1

10/2 T **Individual Level of Analysis**

- Levy Part VI - Blackboard
- Bronfenbrenner, “The Mirror Images in Soviet-American Relations” – Blackboard
- Dower, “Apes and Others” - Blackboard

10/4 TH **Perception/Misperception and War**

- Stoessinger, CH 1-3

NOTE: 10/5 Last day to drop without an F

10/9 T **Perception/Misperception and War**

- Stoessinger, CH 4-6

10/11 TH **Perception/Misperception and War**

- Stoessinger, CH 7-10

JUSTIFYING WAR

10/16 T **When is war justified?**

- Wilson, “The World Must be Made Safe for Democracy” – Blackboard
- Walzer – Part I

10/18 TH **Just War Theory**

- Walzer – Part II

10/23 T **Just War Theory**

- Walzer – Part III (CH 8-10; 12)

10/25 TH **Just War Theory**

- Walzer – Part IV

10/30 T **Just War Theory**

- Walzer – Part V
- **READING RESPONSE #3 Is war ever just? Due on Monday, November 5, by 5:00pm.**

TERRORISM

11/1 TH **What and Who?**

- Hoffman, “Defining Terrorism” – Blackboard
- Hoffman, “The Logic of Suicide Terrorism” – “Blackboard”

11/6 T **The Old and the New**

- One Day in September

11/8 TH **Why: The Role of Religion**

- Crenshaw, “The Logic of Terrorism” – Blackboard
- Ranstorp, “Terrorism in the Name of Religion” - Blackboard

11/13 T **Why: The Role of Human Rights**
• Callaway and Harrelson-Stephens, “Toward a theory of Terrorism...” - Blackboard

11/15 TH **What to do?**
• Posen, “The Struggle Against Terrorism” – Blackboard
• Pillar, “Counterterrorism after Al Qaeda” – Blackboard
• Shultz, “Showstoppers: Nine Reasons why we never sent our Special Operations forces after al Qaeda before 9/11” – Blackboard

11/20 Class doesn't meet
• Work on class project

11/22 Thanksgiving

PRESENTATIONS

11/27 T Terrorist Group Presentations

11/29 TH Terrorist Group Presentations

12/4 T Conflict Presentations

12/6 TH Conflict Presentations

12/11 FINAL EXAM 11:00am – 1:00pm

General Guidelines for Writing a Paper

It is my experience that many papers are fraught with unacceptable grammar and style mistakes. Term papers should be written in **formal English**. Formal writing aspires to higher grammatical levels than those used by sports commentators. Thus, papers for political science courses are generally not creative writing exercises. As the number of grammatical mistakes, sentence fragments, and awkward sentences rises, the grade for your paper will drop. I have created a list of many of the common problems.

1. Don't use no double negatives.
2. Make each pronoun agree with their antecedent. When you have a singular noun (antecedent), such as "Mexico," do not use a plural pronoun, such as "they" or "their."
3. Join clauses good, like a conjunction should.
4. When dangling, watch your participles.
5. Verbs has to agree with their subjects.
6. Don't use commas, which aren't necessary.
7. Try not to ever split infinitives.
8. Its important to use your apostrophe's correctly. Use the apostrophe to signal the possessive, not for plural nouns.
9. Don't' write runon sentences they are hard to read.
10. It behooves the writer to avoid archaic expressions.
11. Don't use hyperbole, not one writer in a million can use it effectively.
12. Avoid clichés like the plague.
13. Mixed metaphors are a pain in the neck and should be thrown in the lake.
14. A truly good writer is always especially careful to practically eliminate the too-frequent use of adverbs. Avoid filler words like "essentially," "basically" and the egregious "totally." These words are rarely, if ever, found in well-written work.
15. Placing a comma between subject and predicate, is not correct.
16. Parenthetical words however should be enclosed in commas.
17. Corect spellin is essential. (USE YOUR SPELL CHECK).
18. Always proofread your copy to see if you any words out.
19. Don't use contractions in formal papers.
20. Don't use quotations marks for emphasis. In fact, quotations should be avoided. Use your own words and you must cite your sources. Overuse of quotes will be detrimental to your grade.
21. A writer should choose one set of pronouns and stick with it. He or she should not use both genders, or he or she will use his or her readers. Nor should s/he attempt to us a combined form of the pronouns. Nor should they substitute a plural form of the pronoun. The best solution is often to rewrite the sentence so you don't need to specify a gender.
22. Avoid the use of ampersands & abbreviations, etc.
23. Avoid unnecessary redundancy.
24. The passive voice is to be avoided.
25. Avoid random Capitalization of words. This is not German, we only Capitalize proper nouns.
26. Be careful in using the verb "to be". Generally only one form of this verb should be used in a sentence...so, do not use, "the reason being is...."
27. Edit, edit, edit. Take pride in your work. If you don't, I won't.
28. Above all, writing should be sincere, whether you mean it or not.

Even after you have long forgotten much of the course material, hopefully good writing skills will follow you wherever you go. The number one complaint from employers is the inability of workers to write effectively and efficiently.