

GVPT 409H
Fall, 2008

International Relations and World Politics:
THE PHENOMENON OF WAR

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The grade in the course will be based on TWO essays, the first of which is to be no more than six pages in length, and the second of which will be a normal semester research paper, no more than 25 pages in length, AND on the awareness of issues demonstrated by students in class discussion. Students are expected to read the assigned readings before each class session, with a view to developing an informed debate about the assigned topic.

Assigned Texts:

Michael E. Brown (editor) GRAVE NEW WORLD: SECURITY CHALLENGES IN THE 21ST CENTURY (Georgetown University Press paperback) (hereafter Brown)

Robert J. Art and Kenneth N. Waltz (editors), THE USE OF FORCE (Rowman and Littlefield, sixth edition paperback) (hereafter AW)

Michael E, Brown et, al, (editors) THEORIES OF WAR AND PEACE (MIT Press paperback) (hereafter MIT)

SOME CAUSES OF WAR:

I, "Prisoners' Dilemma", the temptations of taking the offense.

MIT 55-93
AW 2-3, 9, 10

II. The game of "Chicken", endurance contests of the stubborn against the stubborn.

AW 1,4,11,14,16

III, "Zero-Sum Games", intense hatreds based on ethnicity, etc.

MIT 257-328
AW 26, 27, 28

IV. "Love of war", theories of psychology, economics, etc. by which men (and women?) enjoy war.

AW 20

THE COSTS OF WAR:

V. The economic burdens of warfare, and of preparations for war.

MIT 464-466
Brown 4-10

VI. The impact on democracy and on normal domestic life: problems of militarism and civil-military relations.

MIT 137-256
Brown, 11

SYSTEMS ACHIEVING PEACE:

VII. Domination by a world "hegemon", Pax Romana and other forms of empire.

AW 18, 19
Brown 305-327

VIII. Balance-of-Power systems.

MIT 3-54, 427-440

IX. Collective security, making international relations more like domestic politics.

MIT 397-427

X. World Government, the possible evolution of "peace-keeping" and international military forces

MIT 329-396

THE PRESENT STATE OF AFFAIRS:

XI. Nuclear War and Nuclear deterrence: peace based on MAD ("Mutual Assured Destruction").

AW 6, 7, 8, 12, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25

XII. Limited war: wars fought with some weapons and not with others.

AW 13, 15

Brown 3

XIII. Violence by non-state actors: Pre-9/11 terrorism.

AW 5, 29, 30

Brown 1, 4, 5, 12, 13

XIV. Terrorism involving mass destruction.

AW 17, 31

Brown 2

XV. Preemption and preventive war.

AW 1, 32