The problem in defense is how far you can go without destroying from within what you are trying to defend from without.  ~Dwight D. Eisenhower

Sometimes I think it should be a rule of war that you have to see somebody up close and get to know him before you can shoot him.  ~M*A*S*H, Colonel Potter

World Peace, like community peace, does not require that each man love his neighbor - it requires only that they live together with mutual tolerance, submitting their disputes to a just and peaceful settlement.  --John F. Kennedy

Purpose:
War has been a pervasive force throughout history. Wars are used to overthrow kingdoms, redefine territorial boundaries and fundamentally reshape the international landscape. This course will focus on the causes and consequences of war. We will examine the causes of wars at various levels of analysis. We will examine particular wars, paying attention to how conflict has changed over time, and what makes wars more or less likely. We will pay particular attention to proliferation and terrorism, as these two trends are fundamentally at the heart of major and minor conflicts today. Students will learn major theoretical explanations for war and will assess the extent to which those theories are useful in explaining why nations go to war. The last part of the course will examine the question of peace. We will explore both philosophical and practical questions of peace. Students will learn different approaches to getting and keeping peace and how those approaches have evolved.

Your job
By the time you enroll in this or another upper level course, you are at the point in your life that you are preparing to enter ‘the real world’. By that time, you should be putting in the effort that represents junior or senior level work. More to the point, you should be putting in effort that represents your adult life. You should be past the point of asking for understanding because you did not come to class, do the reading, or otherwise adequately prepare. In another year you will be going off to graduate school, law school, or starting a job. You are exhibiting, now, the habits you will take with you.
Course Requirements

Exam 1  20%
Exam 2  20%
Final   20%
Literature Review  30%
Conflict Group Presentation  10%

There will be three written exams that will be worth 60% of your total grade. In addition, you will complete a literature review on a topic that has been approved by the professor, worth 30% of your grade. The literature review paper is a way for a student to delve into a research question and summarize the major findings in the field. The literature review is intended to be a semester long project that you work on during the semester. It is not intended to be a project that you cram into your schedule at the end. You will have the complete instructions for the literature review by the first week of class, and I will be happy to help you with questions along the way. Keep in mind that, like you, I tend to be very busy at the end of the semester. If you have questions or want guidance on the literature review, the earlier you ask, the better. A final 10% of your grade will be on a group presentation of a conflict. The presentations will take place at the end of the semester. Complete requirements for the presentation are available on D2L.

Grading:

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

For grades that are just below the next grade, I will round up for students with outstanding attendance and participation.

All assignments are due at the beginning of class. That means that if you are late to class, your assignment is counted late. If you know you are going to be absent due to a university excused event, notify your instructor in advance and you will be allowed to schedule a substitute assignment EARLY. Exceptions MAY be made with medical documentation, provided that you contact the instructor in advance.

You are responsible for backing up your work as the semester proceeds. No extensions will be given for late work due to a computer, hard drive, or printer failure. 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, you are required to save anything that is handed back to you until you get your final grade report. You should also always make a copy of a paper/assignment prior to handing it in to me.

Textbook: There is no textbook, per se, in this course. Most of the readings are available for download directly from the library. There are also some readings available on D2L.
Reading:
Success in this class depends on attending all of the class sessions and critically reading the assigned material before the class. In order to support an argument (in class or in a paper), students must be familiar with the course material and able to cite appropriately. For every reading you should be able to identify the thesis and identify at 2-3 arguments/evidence the author uses to support the thesis. It is your job to keep up with the reading and come to class prepared to discuss the material. The reading is listed on the date you must be prepared to discuss it. For example, you have to read Mearsheimer chapter 2 and the Peloponnesian War \textbf{before} class on 8/30.

\textbf{Reading critically} requires you to plan to spend time reading as well as thinking analytically about what you are reading and how it fits in with the rest of the class. Critical reading goes beyond simple comprehension. It involves placing the arguments in their contexts and evaluating their strengths and weaknesses. Critical reading often requires \textbf{students to read material more than once}. It may be helpful to take notes when reading the material and bring any questions to class. You are expected to come to class having read the material critically and prepared to discuss it. For your convenience I have added hyperlinks to the readings available through SFA’s library. If, for some reason, the hyperlink does not work, you have the complete citation to find the reading through the library yourself. it is \textbf{your responsibility to find the article} and be prepared to discuss it prior to class. \textbf{You will not do well in this class if you do not come to class and do the assigned readings}.

Attendance:
As this is an upper level class and we will cover a good deal of material every class period, missing even one class will reflect in your overall grade. It has been my experience that poor attendance will result in a poor grade in the class. You cannot participate if you are not in class. Poor attendance will be reflected directly in your participation grade and indirectly in your exam grade. 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 result in you being counted absent. Attendance during the student presentations is \textbf{mandatory}. Missing a class for a scheduled student presentation will result in a grade penalty in your presentation grade.

Participation:
A large part of this course is discussion oriented. As such, participation in class discussions is strongly encouraged. As students, you will get the most out of this class if you engage in the discussions. Participation specifically refers to offering your view or opinion and actively talking about the assigned reading in class. I ask that you respect the diverse backgrounds and views of your fellow students, and employ common courtesies during class. Common courtesies include arriving on time, turning off cell phones, and generally minimizing side conversations or other behavior that disrupts the course.
Course Description (per SFA Bulletin):
This course examines the causes and scope of international conflict including the theories and mechanisms for its cessation and management. We also explore a wide range of approaches to peace and their likelihood of success.

Program Learning Outcomes:
Students will demonstrate oral communication skills.

Student Learning Outcomes:
By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Critically distinguish between the main theoretical perspectives in international conflict and peace and critically analyze the effectiveness of those approaches.
- Critically examine terrorism, nuclear proliferation, and drone warfare including causes, actors, effectiveness and possible solutions

Other Important Policies: Assignments are always due at the beginning of class and are considered late if you are late to 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 any way 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.

Academic Integrity (4.1)
Academic integrity is a responsibility of all university faculty and students. Faculty members promote academic integrity in multiple ways including instruction on the components of academic honesty, as well as abiding by university policy on penalties for cheating and plagiarism.

Definition of Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes both cheating and plagiarism. Cheating includes but is not limited to using or attempting to use unauthorized materials on any class assignment or exam; falsifying or inventing of any information, including citations, on an assignment; helping or attempting to help other student(s) in an act of cheating or plagiarism. Plagiarism is presenting the words or ideas of another person as if they were one’s own. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to: submitting an assignment as one's own work when it is at least partly the work of another person; submitting a work that has been purchased or otherwise obtained from the Internet or another source; incorporating the words or ideas of an author into one's paper or presentation without giving the author credit. Please read the complete policy at http://www.sfasu.edu/policies/4.1-student-academic-dishonesty.pdf.

All cases of academic dishonesty will be handled according to University policies and procedures in the SFASU Policy Manual and other sources of policy. The consequences for academic dishonesty will result in a minimum penalty of a zero for the assignment and may result in an “F” for the course and reporting to the Dean of Students for further action.
Withheld Grades *Semester Grades Policy*
Ordinarily, at the discretion of the instructor of record and with the approval of the academic chair/director, a grade of WH will be assigned only if the student cannot complete the course work because of unavoidable circumstances. Students must complete the work within one calendar year from the end of the semester in which they receive a WH, or the grade automatically becomes an F. If students register for the same course in future terms the WH will automatically become an F and will be counted as a repeated course for the purpose of computing the grade point average.

**Students with Disabilities**
To obtain disability related accommodations, alternate formats and/or auxiliary aids, students with disabilities must contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS), Human Services Building, and Room 325, 468-3004 / 468-1004 (TDD) as early as possible in the semester. Once verified, ODS will notify the course instructor and outline the accommodation and/or auxiliary aids to be provided. Failure to request services in a timely manner may delay your accommodations. For additional information, go to [http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/](http://www.sfasu.edu/disabilityservices/)

**Mental Health and Wellness**
SFA values students’ mental health and the role it plays in academic and overall student success. SFA provides a variety of resources to support students' mental health and wellness. Many of these resources are free, and all of them are confidential.

On-campus Resources:
**SFA Counseling Services**
www.sfasu.edu/counselingservices
Rusk Building, 3rd Floor
936.468.2401

**SFA Human Services Counseling Clinic**
www.sfasu.edu/humanservices/139.asp
Human Services, Room 202
936.468.1041

**Crisis Resources**
Burke 24-hour crisis line: 1.800.392.8343
Suicide Prevention Lifeline: 1.800.273.TALK (8255)
Crisis Text Line: Text HELLO to 741-741

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.

Class information, including changes of dates, study aides, changes in assignments due to weather days or other information will be posted on the class D2L page.
**Course Schedule:**

8/23  Syllabus and Introduction

8/25  What is Conflict? How do political scientists study conflict?

8/30  Realism

9/1   Polarity

9/6   International Structure and Balance of Power

9/8   WWI

9/13  Other Systemic Theories of Conflict

9/15  WWII

9/20  The Cold War

9/22  Exam #1

9/27  Terrorism

9/29  Asymmetric Wars

10/4  New Technologies

10/6  Nuclear Proliferation

10/11  Alliances

10/13  The US and NATO

10/18  China’s Rise

10/20  Exam #2

10/25  Liberalism

10/27  Democratic Peace

11/1   Autocracies

11/3   The Economics of War

11/8   Trade
11/10 Peacekeeping, Peacemaking

11/15 Civil Resistance

11/17, 11/29, and 12/1 Student Presentations

12/8 Final Exam Wednesday 1:00 – 3:00 in the regular classroom