



UNIVERSITY  
*of* HAWAII®  
MĀNOA

Political Science 201  
Problems of War and Peace  
*Spring 2015*

Instructor: Reza Mohajerinejad  
Email: Mohajeri@hawaii.edu  
Meeting Times: MWF 12:30p to 1:20p in Saunders 541  
Office Hours: MW 11:00a to 12:00p in Saunders 638

**Course Description:**

This course presents information regarding the different components within the field of Political Science as they apply to the study of war and peace. There will be an emphasis on the contemporary history of conflicts in the Middle East and the peace making processes for the future. On the first day of lecture a list of five guest speakers will be distributed, the top two with the highest votes by the students will present during the semester. This course will be divided into three main sections: introduction to theory and historical overview, case studies, and synthesis to explore in detail the study of war and peace in addition to analyzing the recent influences of social media. Activities will include the showing of films, discussions with guest speakers, group presentations, a classroom debate, take-home midterm, and a take-home final exam.

\*Each week will follow a specific theme relating to war and peace. Lectures will not be based directly from the required readings but I will presume that everyone read the material.

**Learning Expectations:**

Students will develop the necessary skill set to analyze the dynamics of war and peace that affect modern politics. At the beginning of each lecture students will be expected to discuss current news and events related to this course (5min to 10min).

**Teaching Philosophy:**

I believe that the classroom is where an exchange of ideas takes place and everyone contributes to teaching and learning. My goal is that lessons, theories and methods covered in this course will have real-life applications.

## Extra credit:

For extra credit students can respond up to two times with a one-page analysis of the information from any course readings, guest speakers, or films shown in class.

## Group Presentation:

Topics include analyzing contemporary issues of war and peace such as the works of individuals or material related to the readings.

## Grading Rubric:

Weekly Participation:	20%
Group Presentation:	20%
Take-home Midterm:	25%
Take-home Final Exam:	35%

## Required Textbooks:

Scahill, J. (2013). *Dirty wars: The world is a battlefield*. Nation Books.

Stoessinger, J. (2010). *Why nations go to war*. Cengage Learning.

Brooks, E., & Fox, L. (Eds.). (1998). *Making peace: a reading/writing/thinking text on global community*. Cambridge University Press.

## Additional required readings:

### ***(Can be accessed from the library web page or Laulima)***

Abrahamian, E. (2001). The 1953 coup in Iran. *Science & Society*, 182-215.

Agathangelou, A. M., & Soguk, N. (2011). Rocking the Kasbah: Insurrectional Politics, the “Arab Streets”, and Global Revolution in the 21st Century. *Globalizations*, 8(5), 551-558.

Benford, R. D., & Snow, D. A. (2000). Framing processes and social movements: An overview and assessment. *Annual review of sociology*, 611-639.

Byman, D. (2001). Iraq after Saddam. *Washington Quarterly*, 24(4), 149-162.

Ferguson, K. E. (2014). Anarchist Printers and Presses Material Circuits of Politics. *Sage Publications*, 42(4), 391-414.

Gordon, J. (2002). When intent makes all the difference in the world: economic sanctions on Iraq and the accusation of genocide. *Yale Hum. Rts. & Dev. LJ*, 5, 57.

Göle, N. (2013). Gezi-Anatomy of a Public Square Movement. *Insight Turkey*, 15(3), 7-14.

Howard, P. N., & Hussain, M. M. (2011). The role of digital media. *Journal of Democracy*, 22(3), 35-48.

Leenders, R., & Heydemann, S. (2012). Popular mobilization in Syria: opportunity and threat, and the social networks of the early risers. *Mediterranean Politics*, 17(2), 139-159.

Lim, M. (2012). Clicks, cabs, and coffee houses: Social media and oppositional movements in Egypt, 2004–2011. *Journal of Communication*, 62(2), 231-248.

Mohajerinejad, R., & Malon, L. (2010). Live Generation: Iran's 1999 Student Uprising that Opened the Door for Secular Democracy. *iUniverse*.

Monshipouri, M., & Keynoush, B. (2008). Dealing with Iran: confrontation or negotiation?. *Insight Turkey*, 10(4 s 148).

Reychler, L. (2006). Challenges of peace research. *International Journal of Peace Studies*, 11(1), 1-16.

Romano, D. (2005). Whose house is this anyway? IDP and refugee return in post-Saddam Iraq. *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 18(4), 430-453.

Torbat, A. E. (2005). Impacts of the US trade and financial sanctions on Iran. *The World Economy*, 28(3), 407-434.

\*Any additional readings or changes will be made available on Laulima

## Course Outline:

### ***I. Introduction to Theory and Historical Overview (Weeks 1-5)*** **Week 1– Classroom Introductions**

Discussion of the syllabus.

Vote on guest speakers.

Overview of different theories relating to the problems of war and peace.

Take a look at the present situations of war and peace.

### Readings:

Reychler, L., *Challenges of peace research*, pp. 1-16.

Brooks, E., & Fox, *Ways of Meeting Oppression* by Martin Luther King, chapter 16 164-172

Brooks, E., & Fox, *Freedom from Fear* by Aung San Suu Kyi, chapter 18, pp.187-197

## **Week 2 –WWI and WWII**

No lecture on Monday January 19<sup>th</sup> Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Film TBA

### Readings:

Stoessinger, *Why Nations Go to War*, chapter 1, pp. 3-28

Stoessinger, *Why Nations Go to War*, chapter 2, pp. 31-54

## **Week 3– Arab-Israeli conflicts and the Camp David Accord**

Film TBA

### Readings:

Stoessinger, *Why Nations go to War*, chapter 7, pp. 216-254

## **Week 4– 1953 coup in Iran and the Impact of 9/11**

Film TBA

### Readings:

Scahill, *Dirty Wars: The World Is a Battlefield*, chapter 1, pp. 1-31

Abrahamian, *1953 Coup in Iran*, pp. 182-215

## **Week 5– Reflecting on the Consequences of Wars in the Middle East**

Guest speaker TBA

### Readings:

Stoessinger, *Why Nations go to War*, chapter 9, pp. 323-391

## ***II. Case Studies (Weeks 6-12)***

### **Week 6– Economic Sanctions on Iran and the Nuclear Program Negotiation Processes (P5+1)**

No lecture on Monday February 16<sup>th</sup> President's Day

### Readings:

Torbat, *Impacts of the US Trade and Financial Sanctions on Iran*, pp. 407-434

Monshipouri, M., & Keynoush, B., *Dealing with Iran: confrontation or negotiation?*, pp. 135-157

### **Week 7– The Iran-Iraq War and The Persian Gulf War**

### Readings:

Stoessinger, *Why Nations go to War*, Chapter 8, pp. 293-318

Gordon, *When Intent Makes All the Difference in the World: Economic Sanctions on Iraq and the Accusation of Genocide*, pp.57-84

Brooks, E., & Fox, *Children and War* by Neil Boothby, chapter 12, pp.117-126

### **Week 8– The 2001 Invasion of Afghanistan and the 2003 Invasion of Iraq**

**\*\*Take-home midterm due\*\***

**Readings:**

Scahill, *Dirty Wars: The World Is a Battlefield*, chapter 14, pp. 147-162

Scahill, *Dirty Wars: The World Is a Battlefield*, chapter 35, pp. 328-350

Scahill, *Dirty Wars: The World Is a Battlefield*, chapter 49, pp. 444-451

**Week 9– Contemporary Social Movements in the Middle East**

Iran- The 18 Tir Student Uprising and 2009 Green Movement

Egypt- April 6 Youth Movement

Turkey- Taksim Square (Taksim Gezi Park) Movement

**Readings:**

Mohajerinejad R., *Live Generation*, chapters 1,2,7, 11 pp.1-27, 85-96, 137-141

Göle, N., *Gezi-Anatomy of a Public Square Movement*, pp. 7-14.

Lim, M., *Clicks, cabs, and coffee houses: Social media and oppositional movements in Egypt*, *Journal of Communication*, pp. 231-248.

**Week 10–Influence of the Arab Spring and the Conflicts in Syria**

Film TBA

**Readings:**

Agathangelou, A. M., & Soguk, N. *Rocking the Kasbah: Insurrectional Politics, the “Arab Streets”, and Global Revolution in the 21st Century*, pp. 551-558.

Leenders, R., & Heydemann, S. *Popular mobilization in Syria: opportunity and threat, and the social networks of the early risers*. pp. 139-159.

**Week 11– Spring Recess (March 23<sup>rd</sup> – March 27<sup>th</sup>)**

**Week 12– The Rise of the Islamic State and its Implications about the Middle East's Future**

Classroom debate.

**Readings:**

Byman, *Iraq after Saddam*, pp. 149-162.

Romano, *Whose house is this anyway? IDP and refugee return in post-Saddam Iraq*, pp. 430-453.

**III. Synthesis (Weeks 12-17)**

**Week 13– How is the Waging of War Changing?**

No lecture on Monday April 3<sup>rd</sup> Good Friday

Film TBA

Guest speaker TBA

**Readings:**

Scahill, *Dirty Wars: The World Is a Battlefield*, chapter 16, pp. 167-180

Scahill, *Dirty Wars: The World Is a Battlefield*, chapter 36, pp. 350-356

**Week 14– Is Social Media the new Face of Peaceful Resistance or.....?**

Film TBA

**Readings:**

Benford, R. D., & Snow, D. A. *Framing processes and social movements: An overview and assessment*, pp. 611-639.

Howard, P. N., & Hussain, M. M. *The role of digital media*. *Journal of Democracy*, pp. 35-48.

Ferguson, K. E. *Anarchist Printers and Presses Material Circuits of Politics*, pp. 391-414.

## **Week 15– Solidarity and Political Activity**

*Group Presentations*

### Readings:

*Brooks, E., & Fox, Making Peace: A Reading/Writing/Thinking Text on Global Community, Chapters 21-24, pp. 219-257*

## **Week 16- Discuss The Reasoning Behind Nations Going to War**

*Group Presentations*

### Readings:

*Stoessinger, Why Nations go to War, chapter 10, pp. 293-318.*

## **Week 17- Classroom Potluck**

*\*\*Take-home final is to be turned in during finals week\*\**

*Group Presentations*

No readings