

# POL 240: Politics, Decisions, and War

(Spring/2023 (01/12/2023 – 04/28/2023))

(3) Credit Hours

*When: Tuesday and Thursday 0800 hrs to 0915 hrs*

*Where: B10M Bertrand H. Snell Hall*



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## Instructor Contact Information

Name: Prashant Hosur Suhas, Ph.D.

Email Address: [phosursu@clarkson.edu](mailto:phosursu@clarkson.edu)

Student Hours:

- Office Hours:
  - Tuesday: 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
  - Wednesday: 10:00 am to 12:00 pm; 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm
- Or by appointment via zoom
- Office: B.H. Snell 276
- Phone number: 315 268 3973

## Instructor Participation

During this course, as your instructor, (you can expect me to

- Respond to emails and voicemails within 24 to 36 hours.

## Delivery Method

**This class will be taught in-person.**

### COVID-19

**Remember to keep your Clarkson Commitment and to reference the latest regarding return to classes at [www.clarkson.edu/future-ready](http://www.clarkson.edu/future-ready).**

## Course Description

The main objective of this course is to inquire into the causes of war. Following critical engagement with traditional theoretical approaches to the question of conflict and cooperation in international politics, students will be introduced to systemic, group, and individual-level explanations of war, as well as to case study discussions regarding the influence of these factors. The course provides students with a set of tools for the analysis of classic and contemporary civil

and international conflicts and strives to show how evidence and theory can be effectively used in understanding peace and conflict. The course draws on a wide range of disciplines, including international relations, political theory, social psychology and economics. By the end of the term, students should be able to understand the main factors that drive war, as well as to outline solutions for preventing them.

## Instructional Materials

### Textbook(s)

Levy, Jack S., William R. Thompson. *Causes of War*. Wiley-Blackwell Publishing, 2010. [Link](#)

Midlarsky, Manus I eds. *Handbook of War Studies II*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2003. [Link](#)

### Other Reading Materials

Other readings can be found on Moodle.

## Technology

- [laptop with internet connection, webcam, and microphone](#)
- [Software Accessibility Policies](#) in General
- [Software Privacy Policies](#) in General
- Laptop should have Zoom installed

### Minimum Technology Skills

- Ability to use Zoom
- Use e-mail with attachments
- Ability to access resources on Moodle
- Ability to write using Microsoft Word

## Course Outcomes (CO)

CO1: Analyze the conflict processes that operate at the systemic or global level.

CO2: Analyze the conflict processes that operate at the interstate or dyadic level.

CO3: Analyze the conflict processes that operate at the state level or domestic level.

CO4: Analyze the conflict processes that operate at the organizational and individual level.

CO5: Analyze how global and domestic drivers of conflict affect inter-state and intra-state conflicts.

## Course Schedule & Graded Activities

Week and Module	Assigned Readings	Graded assignments and dates
Introduction	<p><b>January 12 Thursday</b></p> <p>Jack Snyder (2004). One World Many Theories, <i>Foreign Policy</i>, No. 145, pp. 52-62</p>	
<b>Module 1: System Level Explanations</b>		
Week 1/Module 1	<p><b>January 17 Tuesday</b></p> <p>Levy, Jack S and William R. Thompson. <i>Causes of War</i>. Wiley-Blackwell Publishing, 2010, chapter 1</p> <p><b>January 19 Thursday</b></p> <p>Levy, Jack S and William R. Thompson. <i>Causes of War</i>. Wiley-Blackwell Publishing, 2010, chapter 2</p> <p>Wilkenfeld, Jonathan and Michael Brecher. <i>Interstate Crises and Violence: Twentieth-Century Findings</i>. In Manus Midlarsky eds. <u>Handbook of War Studies II</u>. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press 2003</p>	
Week 2/Module1	<p><b>January 24 Tuesday</b></p> <p>Karen Rasler and William Thompson. <i>Global War and the Political Economy of Structural Change</i>. In Manus Midlarsky eds. <u>Handbook of War Studies II</u>. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press 2003</p> <p>Charles F. Doran. <i>Confronting the Principles of the Power Cycle: Changing Systems Structures, Expectation, and War</i>. In Manus Midlarsky eds. <u>Handbook of War Studies II</u>. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press 2003</p> <p><b>January 26 Thursday:</b></p>	

	<p>Deudney, Daniel. <i>Hegemony, nuclear weapons, and liberal hegemony</i>. In John Ikenberry eds. <u>Power, Order, and Change in World Politics</u>. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2014.</p> <p>Lake, David A. <i>Dominance and subordination in world politics: authority, liberalism, and stability in the modern international order</i>. In John Ikenberry eds. <u>Power, Order, and Change in World Politics</u>. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2014.</p>	
Week 3/Module 1/2	<p><b>January 31 Tuesday:</b></p> <p>Wohlforth, William C. <i>Hegemonic decline and hegemonic war revisited</i>. In John Ikenberry eds. <u>Power, Order, and Change in World Politics</u>. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2014.</p> <p>Kirshner, Jonathan. <i>Gilpin approaches War and Change: a classical realist in structural drag</i>. In John Ikenberry eds. <u>Power, Order, and Change in World Politics</u>. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2014.</p>	
<b>Module 2: The Dyadic Interactions of State</b>		
	<p><b>February 2 Thursday</b></p> <p><b>Exam 1: Covers assigned readings from January 12<sup>th</sup> to January 31<sup>st</sup>.</b></p> <p>Levy, Jack S and William R. Thompson. <i>Causes of War</i>. Wiley-Blackwell Publishing, 2010, chapter 3</p>	<b>February 2<sup>nd</sup>: Exam 1</b>
Week 4/Module 2	<p><b>February 7 Tuesday</b></p> <p>Russett, Bruce M and Harvey Starr. <i>From Democratic Peace to Kantian Peace: Democracy and Conflict in the International System</i>. In Manus Midlarsky eds. <u>Handbook of War Studies II</u>. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press 2003</p>	

	<p><b>February 9 Thursday:</b></p> <p>Morrow, James D. <i>The Ongoing Game-Theoretic Revolution</i>. In Manus Midlarsky eds. <u>Handbook of War Studies II</u>. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press 2003</p> <p>Levy, Jack S. <i>Loss Aversion, Framing Effects, and International Conflicts: Perspectives from Prospect Theory</i>. In Manus Midlarsky eds. <u>Handbook of War Studies II</u>. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press 2003</p>	
<p>Week 5/Module 2</p>	<p><b>February 14 Tuesday:</b></p> <p>Jervis, Robert. Deterrence, the Spiral Model, and Intentions of the Adversary. In <i>Perceptions and Misperceptions in International Politics</i>. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1976, pp. 58-76</p> <p><b>February 16 Thursday:</b></p> <p>Goertz, Gary and Paul Diehl. Enduring Rivalries, In Manus Midlarsky eds. <u>Handbook of War Studies II</u>. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press 2003</p> <p>Rasler, Karen and William Thompson (2004). Rivalries and the Democratic Peace in the Major Power Subsystem. <i>Journal of Peace Research</i>, Volume: 38 issue: 6, page(s): 659-683</p>	
<p>Week 6/Module 2</p>	<p><b>February 21 Tuesday:</b></p> <p>Charles L. Glaser, "The Security Dilemma Revisited." <i>World Politics</i>, 50, 1 (October 1997): 171-201.</p> <p><b>February 23 Thursday:</b></p> <p><b>Break</b></p>	

Week 7/Module 2/3	<p><b>February 28 Tuesday:</b></p> <p>James Fearon, "Rationalist Explanations for War." <i>International Organization</i> 49, 3 (Summer 1995): 379-414</p>	
	<p><b>Module 3: Domestic Level</b></p>	
	<p><b>March 2 Thursday:</b></p> <p><b>Exam 2: covers assigned readings from February 2<sup>nd</sup> to February 28<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p>Levy, Jack S and William R. Thompson. <i>Causes of War</i>. Wiley-Blackwell Publishing, 2010, chapter 4</p>	<p><b>March 2<sup>nd</sup>: Exam 2</b></p>
Week 8/Module 3	<p><b>March 7 Tuesday:</b></p> <p>Stephen van Evera. Hypotheses on Nationalism and War <i>International Security</i> Vol. 18, No. 4 (Spring, 1994), pp. 5-39</p> <p><b>March 9 Thursday:</b></p> <p>Miller, Benjamin (2012) "Does Democratization Pacify the State? The Cases of Germany and Iraq." <i>International Studies Quarterly</i> 56</p>	
	<p><b>Spring Break: March 11-19</b></p>	
Week 9/Module 3	<p><b>March 21 Tuesday:</b></p> <p>Levy, Jack S and William R. Thompson. <i>Causes of War</i>. Wiley-Blackwell Publishing, 2010, chapter 6</p> <p>Levy, Jack S and William R. Thompson. <i>Causes of War</i>. Wiley-Blackwell Publishing, 2010, chapter 5</p>	

<b>Module 4: Intra-State Conflicts</b>		
Week 10/Module 4	<p><b>March 23 Thursday:</b></p> <p>Ann. Hironaka. <i>Neverending Wars: The International Community, Weak States, and the Perpetuation of Civil War</i>. Harvard University Press 2005, pp. 1-28</p> <p>Taylor, Brian D and Roxana Botea. 2008. Tilly Tally: War-Making and State-Making in the Contemporary Third World. <i>International Studies Review</i>, Vol. 10, Issue. 1, pp. 27-56</p>	
Week 11/Module 4	<p><b>March 28 Tuesday:</b></p> <p>Crenshaw, Martha. <i>Terrorism, and International Violence</i>. In Manus Midlarsky eds. <u>Handbook of War Studies II. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press 2003</u></p> <p><b>Discussion on Research questions for Issue Briefs and Annotated Bibliography.</b></p> <p><b>March 30 Thursday:</b></p> <p>Paul Staniland (2012). Organizing Insurgency: Networks, Resources, and Rebellion in South Asia, <i>International Security</i> Vol. 37, No. 1, pp. 142-177</p>	
Week 12/ Module 4	<p><b>April 4 Tuesday:</b></p> <p><b>Exam 3: Covers assigned readings from March 2<sup>nd</sup> to March 30<sup>th</sup></b></p> <p>Edward D. Mansfield and Jack Snyder. Chapter 1: “The Perilous Path to the Democratic Peace” in <i>Electing to Fight</i>. (MIT Press, 2007), pp. 1-20</p>	<b>April 4<sup>th</sup>: Exam 3</b>

	<p>Jack Snyder. Chapter 2: “Nationalist Elite Persuasion in Democratizing States” In <i>From Voting to Violence</i> (W. W. Norton &amp; Company, 2000), pp. 45- 91</p> <p><b>April 6 Thursday:</b></p> <p>Jack Snyder. Chapter 2 continued...</p> <p>David Horowitz. Chapter 7: “<i>Ethnic Parties and Party Systems</i>”, in <i>Ethnic Groups in Conflict</i>. (University of California Press, 2000), pp. 291-332</p>	
<b>Module 5: Organizations and Individuals</b>		
Week 13/Module 5	<p><b>April 11:</b></p> <p>David Horowitz. Chapter 8: “Competition and Change in Ethnic Party System”, in <i>Ethnic Groups in Conflict</i>. (University of California Press, 2000), pp. 333-364</p> <p>Neil DeVotta (2002). Illiberalism and Ethnic Conflict in Sri Lanka, <i>Journal of Democracy</i>, Vol. 13, No. 1, pp. 84-98</p> <p><b>April 13: No class. Prof. at Conference. Issue Briefs Due.</b></p>	<p><b>Issue Brief due</b> - <b>Due April 13<sup>th</sup></b></p>
Week 14/Module 5	<p><b>April 18 Tuesday:</b></p> <p>Paul Brass. Chapter 8: “Riots and Elections.” In <i>The Production of Hindu-Muslim Violence in Contemporary India</i>. (University of Washington Press, 2005), pp. 219 – 239</p> <p><b>April 20 Thursday</b></p> <p>Levy, Jack S and William R. Thompson. <i>Causes of War</i>. Wiley-Blackwell Publishing, 2010, chapter 7</p>	-
Week 15/ Module 5	<p><b>April 25 Tuesday:</b></p> <p><b>Exam 4: Covers assigned readings from April 4<sup>th</sup> to April 20<sup>th</sup>.</b></p> <p>Issue Briefs – Revise and Resubmit Discussions</p> <p><b>April 27 Thursday:</b></p>	<b>April 25<sup>th</sup>: Exam 4</b>



	<b>Review Day for annotated Bibliography</b>	
<b>FINALS WEEK</b>		<b>Annotated Bibliography</b> - <b>Due May 2<sup>nd</sup></b>

<b>Important Dates</b>	<b>Activity</b>
February 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Exam 1
March 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Exam 2
April 4 <sup>th</sup>	Exam 3
April 13 <sup>th</sup>	Issue Briefs at 11:59 pm
April 25 <sup>th</sup>	Exam 4
May 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Annotated Bibliography at 11:59 pm

## Grading

### Grade Ranges

#### Undergraduate Letter Grades

<b>Course Average</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Quality Points Per Credit Hour</b>
97+	A+	4.0
93-96	A	4.0
90-92	A-	3.667
87-89	B+	3.334
84-86	B	3.0
80-83	B-	2.667
77-79	C+	2.334
74-76	C	2.0
70-73	C-	1.667
<70	D	1.0
<60	F	0

## Breakdown

Activity	Percent of Final Grade
4 exams (15% each)	60 percent
Issue Brief	15 percent
Annotated Bibliography	15 percent
Attendance	5 percent
Participation	5 percent
<b>Total</b>	<b>100 percent</b>

## Assignment Details

1. **Exams** will be based on the assigned readings. Questions can take the form of multiple choice and matching. Usually there will be 15 questions that is to be done in 30 minutes.
2. **Issue brief** is a written assignments of 2000 words. You will be expected to pick an ongoing global issue such as “Why did Russia invade Ukraine?” and analyze this topic by paying attention to multiple perspectives on the issue. Do not let your pre-existing biases and preferences affect your research. You will be expected to use scholarly resources other than what is listed in the syllabus.
3. **The annotated bibliography** expects you to pick a research question such as “Does democratization increase or decrease the probability of civil wars?” Once you pick a research question, you will have to find ten scholarly, journal articles and/or books that analyze this topic. You will be expected to give a summary of each of those resources.
4. **Attendance:** expects you to attend regularly and participate in class discussions.
5. **Participation:** Merely attending class is insufficient to get points for participation. Be sure to engage with the readings and participate in class discussions.

## Course Success

The best way to be successful in this class is to stick to the given deadlines for quizzes and assignments. Procrastinating quizzes and assignments can affect your scores because you will have to cover more material in a smaller amount of time and may be for partial credit. Students should also plan on engaging in class discussions to demonstrate their understanding of the readings.

*Please see tips for being a successful student and other helpful information from the [Student Success Center](#).*

## Course Policies

### Etiquette Expectations & Learner Interaction

Educational institutions promote the advance of knowledge through positive and constructive debate--both inside and outside the classroom. Please visit and follow: [Netiquette and Electronic Learner Interaction Guidelines](#).

### Late Work

Under exceptional circumstances, the student may be allowed to submit late work.

### Attendance

Attendance is required. Exceptions may include personal or family emergencies. I expect students to keep their webcams on so that I know students are actually in attendance.

### Instructional Continuity Plan

In case I am incapacitated due to illness, one of the faculty members of the political science caucus will be teaching

## Institutional Policies

### Institutional Policies & Regulations

#### Academic Integrity

Academic Integrity, based on the values of honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility, is a fundamental principle of scholarship in higher education. Clarkson's Academic Integrity Policy prohibits: plagiarism (using another person's writing or copying any work without proper citation), falsification, unauthorized collaboration during a test or on an assignment, or substitution for another student to take an exam, course or test, and other forms of academic dishonesty.

If you are to benefit from this class and be properly evaluated for your contributions, it is important for you to be familiar with and follow Clarkson University's Academic Integrity policy. Please review this policy online ([Undergraduate section IV – Academic Integrity, Graduate section IV – Academic Integrity](#)). ***Work that violates this policy will not be tolerated.*** Students who are found responsible for a violation of the Academic Integrity Policy will have both a university process sanction and an academic outcome, that could include a failing grade on the assignment or exam, or a failing grade for the course.

Please refer to Clarkson Library's [Guide to Plagiarism](#) and the [guide to Citing Sources](#) for assistance on avoiding plagiarism and properly citing sources.

## **Students with Disabilities Requesting Accommodation(s)**

The University strives to make all facilities and programs accessible to students with permanent, ongoing, and temporary disabilities by providing appropriate and reasonable academic accommodations, as necessary. Disabilities that may benefit from reasonable accommodations include, but are not limited to, broken wrist, ADHD, surgery recovery, Learning Disability, concussion, visual impairment, etc. For more information and/or to request accommodations, contact the Office of Accessibility Services at [oas@clarkson.edu](mailto:oas@clarkson.edu) or 315-268-7643.

[Students with Disabilities Policy](#)  
[Office of Accessibility Services Website](#)

### **Other Policies of Note:**

#### **Student Regulation Requirements for Excused and Extended Absence**

[Undergraduate: III-F. Attendance](#)  
[Graduate – II-F. Attendance](#)

#### **Grading System**

#### **Discrimination & Harassment**

#### **Religious Accommodations**