

THE PURSUIT OF PEACE

Government 1030
Fall 2017
TR 1:00-2:25
Massachusetts Hall Faculty Room 302

Allen L. Springer
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INTRODUCTION

This seminar focuses on the prevention and control of armed conflict, a concern that has long been central to students of international relations. To examine the complex issues armed conflict presents, we begin by analyzing closely two books written from quite different personal and methodological perspectives. Donald Kagan's *On the Origins of War and the Preservation of Peace* offers an historian's comparative study of conflicts ranging from the Second Peloponnesian War to the Cuban missile crisis. Kagan's analysis is strikingly different in both approach and substance from Michael Walzer's *Just and Unjust Wars*, a classic work of moral philosophy, which explores crucial ethical questions relating to when and how armed force is used.

We then turn to contemporary efforts to prevent and control armed conflict. The first case study focuses on the Middle East, using Marc Lynch's recent book, *The New Arab Wars: Uprisings and Anarchy in the Middle East*, to analyze the forces shaping the complex political relationships in this important and volatile region. Rather than simply focus on a single conflict like the Syrian civil war, our goal will be to understand better the connected patterns of violence evident throughout the Middle East to help assess the opportunities and challenges facing members of the international community hoping to end or at least limit the level of conflict taking place there. The second case study involves North Korea and what have thus far been unsuccessful global and regional efforts to prevent the North Korean government from develop a nuclear program with the capacity to threaten states well beyond the East Asian region. The course concludes with a simulated meeting of the UN Security Council as it attempts to reach agreement on a common strategy to respond a hypothetical crisis most likely involving North Korea.

Among the important questions explored in this course are the role of legal norms in helping frame the international debate over armed conflict and the ability of the international community, working collectively or through the actions of individual states, to respond to the challenges posed by contemporary armed conflict.

In addition to serving as a first-year seminar, Gov. 1030 also counts towards the major or minor in Government and Legal Studies as a Level A international relations course.

READINGS

The following books are required for the course and are available through Chegg and other online sources:

- Donald Kagan, *On the Origins of War and the Preservation of Peace* (New York: Doubleday, 1995)
- Michael Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars* (5th ed., New York: Basic Books, 2015)
- Marc Lynch, *The New Arab Wars: Uprisings and Anarchy in the Middle East* (New York: PublicAffairs, 2016)

Other required readings will be added. They will be found on Electronic Reserve (ER) on the course's Blackboard webpage.

We will be relating central course themes to contemporary political issues, both in class discussion and on papers. Therefore, students are expected to keep up with current world events on a daily basis using the wide range of print and online sources available at Bowdoin.

REQUIREMENTS

Everyone is required to complete 4 papers on topics to be assigned by me. Paper topics will be handed out far enough ahead to allow you to submit outlines and/or drafts of the first three for me to review. This review process is optional but, if you do want me to read over an outline and/or a draft, I will assign a "draft" due date, as well as a

due date for the final paper. Papers should be kept within assigned limits, with normal margins and font sizes. Footnotes and bibliographies should be included in consistent and acceptable form.

Class participation is crucial! Reading assignments must be completed before the class in which they will be discussed. Students are expected to attend all classes and to contribute regularly to class discussion in all the various forms this may take, including the UN simulation and class debates. To help you prepare for class discussion and focus on key issues raised by the readings, each of you will be expected to submit one short (1-2 pages) “response paper” each week on a topic assigned by me. These short papers will be graded individually on a Credit-Fail basis, but they will also be considered as part of the “class participation” portion of your grade.

All assignments must be handed in on time!! (Assigned papers can be left in my box in the Government Department office.) For every day the paper is late, I will lower your grade by one step (e.g. B to B-). All response papers must be handed in to me, in class, on the day they are due.

UN SIMULATION EXERCISE

The UN simulation exercise is also an important course requirement; all students are expected to participate in it fully. You will each be assigned to represent a specific member of the United Nations before the Security Council, prepare a draft resolution to present to the Council, and participate in an afternoon-long meeting to debate and hopefully respond constructively to a hypothetical crisis I will create. The simulation is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, December 10, from 12:30-5:00 p.m. in the Shannon Room in Hubbard Hall. Please note the date and time and let me know very soon if you anticipate any other Bowdoin commitments with which it might conflict!!!

LIBRARY EXERCISE

One of the seminar’s goals is to introduce you to all the library has to offer, particularly for those of you planning to do further work in international relations, and to help you think critically about the many sources of information and opinion open to you. On Thursday, October 12, during our normal class time, we will be meeting with Ms. Barbara Levergood, Research and Instruction Librarian, in the Electronic Classroom in the basement of Hawthorne-Longfellow Hall. Part of the session will be devoted to making you familiar with sources that will be helpful when you prepare for the UN simulation.

GRADES

Grades will be based on your performance in all aspects of the course. Each of the four assigned topic papers will count equally (20% each) toward your final grade. The remaining 20% of your grade will be based on class participation, including the quality of your journals and your contributions to class discussion and the simulation exercise.

ELECTRONIC LINKS

I plan to communicate with the class (e.g. update you on class assignments, answer questions) via e-mail. Please read your e-mail on a daily basis; you are responsible for being aware of any messages I send out! You will also find a copy of the syllabus, reserve readings, paper topics, handouts and other course materials on Blackboard.

WRITING PROJECT WORKSHOP

Beginning in mid-September, the Writing Project Workshop offers 45-minute conferences to students writing papers in any course on campus. In Workshop conferences, trained peer Writing Assistants read and respond to drafts of papers or help writers generate, focus, and organize their ideas prior to drafting. The Workshop is open Sunday through Wednesday evenings and Thursday afternoons in the Center for Learning and Teaching on the first floor of Kanbar Hall. Writers can get more detailed information and reserve a conference at <http://www.bowdoin.edu/writing-project>.

SYLLABUS

I. Course Introduction--- 8/31

II. A History of Armed Conflict

A. The Peloponnesian War (431-404 B.C.)--- 9/5

- Kagan, *On the Origins of War*, ix-79

B. The First World War (1914-1918)--- 9/7, 9/12

- Kagan, *On the Origins of War*, 80-231

C. Hannibal's War, The Second Punic War (218-202 B.C.)--- 9/14

- Kagan, *On the Origins of War*, 232-280

D. The Second World War (1939-1945)--- 9/19, 9/21

- Kagan, *On the Origins of War*, 281-436

E. The Cuban Missile Crisis and Analysis---9/26, 9/28

- Kagan, *On the Origins of War*, 437-575

Paper #1- due 5:00 p.m., Friday, September 29

III. Morality and Conflict

A. Introduction--- 10/3

- Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars*, Prefaces and 1-20

B. The Moral Reality of War--- 10/5

- Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars*, 21-47

Library Exercise- 10/12- meet with Ms. Barbara Levergood in the Electronic Classroom, Hawthorne-Longfellow Library, 1:00-2:25 p.m

C. The Theory of Aggression--- 10/17

- Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars*, 51-124

D. The War Convention--- 10/19

- Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars*, 127--222 (esp. 160-206)

E. Dilemmas of War--- 10/24

- Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars*, 225-283 (esp. 233-268)

F. The Question of Responsibility---10/26

- Walzer, *Just and Unjust Wars*, 287-346, including Afterword and Post-Script

Paper #2- due 5:00 p.m., Friday, October 27

Lecture- Susan Thornton '85, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs
(time and location to be announced)

IV. The Pursuit of Peace

A. Conflict in the Middle East

1. Geopolitical Perspectives--- 10/31
 - Lynch, *The New Arab Wars*, ix-46, 255-257, 285
2. Historical Context--- 11/2
 - Lynch, *The New Arab Wars*, 47-164
3. The Arab Spring--- 11/7, 11/9
 - Lynch, *The New Arab Wars*, 165-244
4. Regime Responses- 11/14, 11/16
 - Lynch, *The New Arab Wars*, 225-254

Paper #3- due 5:00 p.m. Tuesday, November 21

No Class- 11/21

B. Evolving Institutions--- 11/28, 11/30

- UN Charter (<https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/CTC/uncharter.pdf>), Preamble and Chapters I-VIII
- Jon Western and Joshua S. Goldstein, "Humanitarian Intervention Comes of Age," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 90, No. 6 (November/December 2011): 48-59. (ER)
- Benjamin A. Valentino, "The True Costs of Humanitarian Intervention," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 90, No. 6 (November/December 2011): 60-73. (ER)
- Morton Abramowitz and Thomas Pickering, "Making Intervention Work," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 87, No. 5 (September/October 2008): 100-108 (ER)

C. The Challenge of North Korea--- 12/5, 12/7

- John Delury, "Trump and North Korea: Reviving the Art of the Deal," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 96, No. 2 (March/April 2017): 46-51 (ER)
- Peter Chayes and Chung-In Moon, "The North Korean Nuclear Multilemma: Options to Break the Nuclear Deadlock in Northeast Asia," *Korea Observer*, Vol. 47, No. 4 (Winter 2016): 699-719 (ER)
- Joshua Stanton, Sung-Yoon Lee, and Bruce Klinger, "Getting Tough on North Korea: How to Hit Pyongyang Where It Hurts," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 96, No. 3 (May/June 2017): 65-75 (ER)

V. United Nations Security Council Simulation Exercise- Sunday, December 10, 12:30-5:00 p.m.-
Shannon Room, Hubbard Hall

Final Project- due 5:00 p.m., Monday, December 18