

## THE PURSUIT OF PEACE

Government 1030  
Fall 2019  
TR 1:15-2:40  
Hubbard Hall 22

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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 control armed conflict in the Middle East, using Marc Lynch's book, *The New Arab Wars: Uprisings and Anarchy in the Middle East* to get a clearer sense of 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 or the conflict war in Yemen, 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 course concludes with a simulated meeting of the UN Security Council designed to highlight the difficulties faced in reaching agreement on a common international strategy to respond a partially hypothetical Middle East crisis.

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 course in the international relations subfield.

### READINGS

The following books are required for the course and are available through the online Bowdoin Bookstore:

- 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 are either on the syllabus now or will be added later. 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 word 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, normally every week, a short (300-600 words) “response paper” on a topic assigned by me. These short papers will be graded individually on a Credit-Fail basis, but will also be considered as part of the “class participation” portion of your grade.

All writing assignments must be submitted on time!! Please send them via email as Word attachments to [aspringe@bowdoin.edu](mailto:aspringe@bowdoin.edu). Response papers should be emailed before the class on the day they are due, and all other papers by the assigned date. In the case of papers for which a regular grade is given, I will lower your grade by one step (e.g. B to B-) for every day the paper is late. I will return all of your writing assignments with my comments via email.

There is no final exam in the course. Your final project (Paper #4) will be due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 20.

## **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 scheduled for Sunday, December 8, 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!!!

## **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, comment on papers) 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 from 6:00 to 10:00 p.m. Sunday through Thursday evenings and Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. in the Center for Learning and Teaching on the first floor of Kanbar Hall. Please check the Center’s website to schedule a conference.

## SYLLABUS

### I. Course Introduction--- 9/5

### II. A History of Armed Conflict

#### A. The Peloponnesian War (431-404 B.C.)--- 9/10

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

#### B. The First World War (1914-1918)--- 9/12, 9/17

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

#### C. Hannibal's War, The Second Punic War (218-202 B.C.)--- 9/19

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

#### D. The Second World War (1939-1945)--- 9/24, 9/26

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

#### E. The Cuban Missile Crisis and Analysis--- 10/1, 10/3

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

**Paper #1-** due at 12:00 noon on Monday, October 7

### III. Morality and Conflict

#### A. Introduction--- 10/8

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

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

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

#### C. The Theory of Aggression--- 10/17, 10/22

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

#### D. The War Convention--- 10/24

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

#### E. Dilemmas of War--- 10/29

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

#### F. The Question of Responsibility---10/31

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

**Paper #2-** due at 12:00 noon on Monday, November 4

#### **IV. The Pursuit of Peace**

##### **A. The Institutional Environment--- 11/5**

- UN Charter: Preamble and Chapters I-VIII- to be handed out and discussed in class

##### **B. Conflict in the Middle East- Syria--- Yemen**

###### **1. Historical and Geopolitical Perspectives--- 11/7**

- Lynch, *The New Arab Wars*, ix-46, 255-257, 285

###### **2. The Arab Uprising--- 11/12**

- Lynch, *The New Arab Wars*, 47-138

###### **3. The Egyptian Revolution--- 11/14**

- Lynch, *The New Arab Wars*, 139-164

###### **4. Regime Responses--- 11/19**

- Lynch, *The New Arab Wars*, 165-240

###### **5. The Current Situation--- 11/21**

- Lynch, *The New Arab Wars*, 241-257

**No Class- 11/26**

**Paper #3-** due at 12:00 noon on Tuesday, November 26

##### **C. Institutional Responses--- 12/3, 12/5**

- 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)

#### **V. United Nations Security Council Simulation Exercise- Sunday, December 8, 12:30-5:00 p.m.- Shannon Room, Hubbard Hall**

**No Class- 12/10**

**Final Project-** due at 5 p.m. on Friday, December 20