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Spring 2012

## **DIPL 6131 AA Causes of War**

Yinan He

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The John C. Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations  
Seton Hall University

**DIPL 6131AA**

**CAUSES OF WAR**

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Spring 2012	Time: Monday 4:00-6:10pm
Professor Yinan He	Location: Seminary Building 122
Office: 107 McQuaid Hall	Phone: ext. 2265
Office hours: Wednesday 2:30-3:50pm	E-mail: yinan.he@shu.edu

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**Course Description:**

What causes war? What do we need to know to prevent war if possible, and prepare for it when necessary? The mission of this course is to use historical and contemporary cases to formulate/test theories on causes of war, as well as to make policy prescriptions.

This course first systematically examines major schools of thoughts on the origins and prevention of war, including system-level theories of war and peace, domestic and societal sources of conflict, military policy, and ideational and psychological causes of war. The second part of this course applies these theoretical approaches to a series of classic cases of war and conflict in world politics.

**Readings:**

One textbook is required for this course:

Stephen Van Evera, *Causes of War: Power and the Roots of Conflict* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1999).

The rest of the readings are downloadable from Blackboard.

**Requirements and Grading:**

One team project (proposal due 2/20, final paper due 5/11)	40%
One 4 double-spaced page take-home exam (distributed 3/26, due 3/30)	30%
Attendance and class participation	30%

*Note on readings*

Students are required to keep up with reading assignments. Reading should be done before the class for which they are assigned. Lectures will not substitute for the readings, nor vice versa. Moreover, meaningful and lively discussions and debates depend on completion of the readings before the class period in which they will be discussed. Fulfilling the reading requirements will ensure your success in class participation and assignment.

*Note on attendance & class participation*

Your attendance at all classes is mandatory. The attendance rule for this class is that each student is allowed to be absent only ONCE during the semester. Each additional absence beyond that one will cost 2% of your total grade.

Politeness and consideration are expected of everyone in the classroom. If you walk in late you may disrupt the class, and it also means you have failed to participate in part of the class. BEING LATE 3 TIMES WILL BE COUNTED AS ONE ABSENCE. If you arrive after the professor has called the roster, it is your responsibility to inform the professor, immediately after the class, that you were late but present in class.

The use of computers and other electronic devices (ipods, beepers, cell phones, you name it) is prohibited in this class. It is rude and disruptive to be checking your email, surfing the web, or instant messaging when you are supposed to be participating in the classroom activities. You're required to turn off/mute these devices before the class begins.

Active, high-quality student discussion is required. Class participation performance will SIGNIFICANTLY affect your grade.

*Note on student conduct*

Do not cheat. Your work must be your own. In writing for political science courses, cheating is most likely to take the form of plagiarism. Plagiarism is when writers use other people's words or ideas and do not give them credit. Do not quote or paraphrase without giving credit in footnotes or endnotes. Do not copy other people's old papers. Do not submit the same paper to multiple courses. Do not copy or buy papers or sections of papers from the web or other sources. Your ideas, your arguments, and the vast majority of your text must be your own. Everything that is not your own must be noted. Students who cheat will not only receive an "F" for the assignment, but also be reported to the Dean.

*Policy on email communication with the professor*

Two rules must be followed in order to receive timely response from the professor: 1) you should always indicate which course and section you're taking with the professor (DIPL 6131 for this class), preferably in the subject line; 2) you must copy all your teammates if your email is about your team project.

*Policy on make-ups and late papers*

It is my policy not to give make-ups to graded exercises. I believe to give such special treatment is unfair to your classmates. If you miss such an exercise, you will be given an "F" grade for it. Written assignments submitted more than one week after the due date will not be accepted, and your grade for that assignment will be an "F". Papers submitted within one week after the due date will be downgraded 1 point for each day it is late.

**Accommodation:**

Students who have a physical, medical, learning or psychiatric disability, either temporary or permanent, may be eligible for reasonable accommodations at the

University as per the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and/or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. In order to receive such accommodations, students must identify themselves at the Office of Disability Support Services (DSS), provide appropriate documentation and collaborate with the development of an accommodation plan. The DSS is located at Duffy Hall Rm 67, and phone number is 973-313-6003. For further information, please go to website at:  
<http://www.shu.edu/offices/disability-support-services/>

**Class 1: 1/23 Introduction; Systemic Level Causes of War**

Read the first part (up to page 151) of Jack S. Levy, "The Causes of War and the Conditions of Peace," Annual Review of Political Science, 1 (1998).  
Manus I. Midlarsky, ed., *Handbook of War Studies* (Boston: Unwin Hyman, 1989):  
Jacek Kugler and A. F. K. Organski, "The Power Transition: A Retrospective and Prospective Evaluation."  
Nazli Choucri and Robert C. North, "Lateral Pressure in International Relations: Concept and Theory."

**Class 2: 1/30 State-Society Level Causes of War**

Read the second part of Jack S. Levy, "The Causes of War and the Conditions of Peace."  
Steven Walt, "Revolution and War," World Politics 44, No. 3 (1992).  
Stanislav Andreski, "On the Peaceful Disposition of Military Dictatorship," Journal of Strategic Studies 3, No. 3 (1980).

**Class 3: 2/6 Military Policy and Causes of War**

Geoffrey Blainey, *The Causes of War*, 3rd ed. (NY: Free Press, 1988), Chapter 3  
"Dreams and Delusions of a Coming War," pp. 35-56.  
Stephen Van Evera, *Causes of War: Power and Roots of Conflict* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1999), Chapters 3-6.

**Class 4: 2/13 Ideational/Psychological/Individual Causes of War I**  
(gender, personality, emotions, culture, religion)

Joshua S. Goldstein, *International Relations* (Longman, 7<sup>th</sup> edition, 2005), pp. 108-119.  
Dan Byman and Kenneth M. Pollack, "Let Us Now Praise Great Men: Bringing the Statesman Back In," International Security Vol., 25, No. 4 (Spring 2001).  
Roger Petersen, *Understanding Ethnic Violence: Fear, Hated, and Resentment in Twentieth-century Eastern Europe* (Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2002), pp. 17-84.

Leopold Bellak, "Why I Fear the Germans" (op-ed), The New York Times, April 4, 1990, p. A29; and responses, NYT, May 10, 1990, p. A30.

**Class 5: 2/20 Ideational/Psychological/Individual Causes of War II**  
(national misperception, nationalism, national-mythmaking, media)  
**(A 1-3 page research proposal due in class in hard copy)**

Robert Jervis, "Hypotheses on Misperception," World Politics, Vol. 20, No. 3 (April 1968).

Stephen Van Evera, "Primed for Peace: Europe after the Cold War," International Security, Vol. 15, No. 3 (Winter 1990-91), (focus on pp. 18-25 and skim the rest).

Nicholas Kristof, "A Tojo Battles History, for Grandpa and for Japan," New York Times, April 22, 1999.

David Pearson, "The Media and Government Deception," Propaganda Review, Spring 1989.

**Class 6: 2/27 The Peloponnesian War**

Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War* (Penguin, 1972) pp. 35-108, 118-164, 212-223, 400-429, 483-488, 516-538.

**Class 7: 3/5 What Caused WWI?**

Immanuel Geiss, *German Foreign Policy, 1871-1914* (Boston: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1976), pp. vii-ix, 75-83, 106-181, 206-207; the key pages are pp. 121-127, 142-150, 206-207.

Stephen Van Evera, "The Cult of the Offensive and the Origins of First World War," International Security, Vol. 9, No. 1, Summer 1984.

Martin Kitchen, *The German Officer Corps, 1890-1914* (Oxford: Clarendon, 1968), Chapters 5 and 6, pp. 96-142.

**No class on 3/12. Spring break.**

**Class 8: 3/19 WWII**

R.R. Palmer and Joel Colton, *A History of the Modern World*, 7th ed. (NY: Knopf, 1991), pp. 798-799, 822-849.

Wolfram Wette, "From Kellogg to Hitler (1928-1933). German Public Opinion Concerning the Rejection or Glorification of War," in Wilhelm Deist, ed., *The German Military in the Age of Total War* (Dover: Berg, 1985), pp. 71-99.

Jack Snyder, *Myths of Empire: Domestic Politics and International Ambition*, Chapter 4, "Japan's Bid for Autarky."

Scott Sagan, "The Origins of the Pacific War," in Robert I Rotberg and Theodore K. Rabb, ed., *The Origins and Prevention of Major Wars* (NY: Cambridge University Press, 1988), pp. 323-352.

**Class 9: 3/26 The Korean War**

**(Take-home exam is distributed in class today, due at 1pm on Friday, 3/30, in hard copy. Please slip your paper under the professor's office door)**

Thomas J. Christensen, *Useful Adversaries: Grand Strategy, Domestic Mobilization, and Sino-American Conflict, 1947-1958* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996), Chapter 5.

Steven Goldstein, "Sino-American Relations, 1948-1950: Lost Chance or No Chance?" in Yuan and Harding, *Sino-American Relations 1945-55: A Joint Reassessment of a Critical Decade* (Wilmington, DE: Scholarly Resources, 1989).

Christopher Twomey, *The Military Lens: Doctrinal Difference and Deterrence Failure in Sino-American Relations* (Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 2010), read Chapter 3, and skim Chapters 4 and 5.

**No class on 4/2. Professor attends International Studies Association annual meeting.**

**No class on 4/9. Easter Monday.**

**Class 10 & 11: 4/16 & 4/23 Arab-Israel Conflict**

Avi Shlaim, "The Middle East: Origins of the Arab-Israeli Wars," in Ngaire Woods, ed., *Explaining International Relations Since 1945* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996): 219-236 (skim 219-221, read 221-236).

Stephen Van Evera, "Memory and the Israel-Palestinian Conflict: Time for New Narratives." Manuscript, 2003.

R. Stephen Humphreys, *Between Memory and Desire: The Middle East in a Troubled Age* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1999), pp. 46-59.

**Class 12: 4/30 Student Presentations**

**Class 13: 5/7 Student Presentations**

**All final papers due on Friday, 5/11, at 1pm, in both electronic and hard copies (Please slip your paper hardcopy under the professor's office door).**

Suggested research topics:

1. Anglo-French Seven Year's War, 1756-1763
2. Italian Wars of Independence, 1848-1870
3. Mexican-American War, 1846-1848
4. Crimean War, 1853-1856
5. Austro-Russian War of 1866
6. Franco-Prussian War of 1870
7. Russo-Japanese War, 1904-1905
8. Japanese-Soviet War, 1938-1939
9. French Indochina War, 1946-1954
10. America at War in Vietnam, 1965-1973
11. Argentina-Britain War over the Falklands, 1982
12. Iran-Iraq War, 1980-1988
13. Persian Gulf War, 1990-1991
14. Your choice, with professor's approval