

McGill University

Political Science 360

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY: STRATEGIES OF WAR AND PEACE

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Fall 2023
Office Hours: Tues/Thu: 4:00-5:00 pm

Much of known history has been characterized by the waging of wars and the endless search for peace. Countries fought wars on the basis of strategic myths and beliefs, while peace-makers devised plans for reducing conflict and the eventual abolition of war itself. This course deals with different strategies of war (both conventional and nuclear) and peace in comparative and historical perspectives. During the first half of the semester, we will discuss strategy as applied to war with the aid of a number of case studies. In the second half, we will devote our attention to different strategies for attaining peace among nation-states in a semi-anarchic international system. Traditional and non-traditional security challenges will be discussed.

Required Reading Materials: The textbook, T.V. Paul, *Restraining Great Powers: Soft Balancing from Empires to the Global Era* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 2018) will be available for purchase from the McGill bookstore. All other course materials will be on reserve at the McGill library.

Evaluation:

Conference Participation	10%
Take-home Mid-term Examination	20%
Short Research Paper	30%
Take-home Final Examination	40%

The **mid-term exam** will be distributed on the slated day and students will have 3 days to return the exam to the respective TA on MyCourses. It will consist of 2 short essays out of 4 choices. The answer for each question shall not exceed 2 single-space, typed pages. The answer should be in your own language and no lengthy verbatim quotes from the texts or lectures are allowed.

The **final exam** will consist of 2 longer essays out of 4 choices. The exam will be distributed online the slated day and students will have 3 days to return the exam to the respective TA on MyCourses. The exam will be cumulative of the whole course. The answer for each question shall not exceed 4 single-space, typed pages. The answer should be in your own language and no lengthy verbatim quotes from the texts or lectures allowed. The exam date will be coordinated with McGill Exams office.

Conferences: Students are expected to actively participate in conferences and to make presentations on assigned topics.

The research paper: 4k word length maximum (inclusive of bibliography and footnotes) may be on any one of the strategies of war or peace discussed in the course, its application to a case (a war, crisis, or event of peace) and an explanation of how the strategy contributed to the event's occurrence. Also, when applicable, discuss an alternative strategy (or strategies) that might have prevented the war or crisis from breaking out or improved the prospects for attaining peace. The materials for the paper may be drawn from the course readings, although some library research is recommended. You must provide footnotes for cited materials of academic quality. The paper should be written exclusively for

this course. Be aware that according to University regulations, plagiarism and double submission carry severe penalties. The papers are due on Tuesday, **November 14, 2022**.

Lectures will take place in class on Tuesdays and Thursdays. I strongly encourage you to attend the lectures. Please note no zoom option is available this Fall.

Conferences will start in Week 3. They will be led by the TA and will take place in assigned class rooms. Please sign up for a conference and attend that conference slot. There is a maximum limit of 25 in each conference.

Statement of Academic Integrity: McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences such as ChatGPT under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information).

Language of Submission: In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.

Extraordinary Circumstances Statement: In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

Copyright of lectures Statement: All slides, recordings, lecture notes, etc. remain the instructor's intellectual property. As such, you may use these only for your own learning (and research, with proper referencing/citation) ends. You are not permitted to disseminate or share these materials; doing so may violate the instructor's intellectual property rights and could be cause for disciplinary action.

Indigenous Land Statement: McGill University is on land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples, including the Haudenosaunee and Anishinabeg nations. We acknowledge and thank the diverse Indigenous people whose footsteps have marked this territory on which peoples of the world now gather.

Inclusive learning Environment: As the instructor of this course I endeavor to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me and the [Office for Students with Disabilities](#), 514-398-6009.

Section I: Strategies of War

8/31 **Introduction**

Buzan, Barry and Lene Hansen, *The Evolution of International Security Studies*, Cambridge University Press, 2009, 8-20.

9/5 **Security, Strategy; Grand Strategy**

John Baylis and James J. Wirtz, "Introduction," in Baylis et.al., *Strategy in the Contemporary World*, 6th edition, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019:1-15.

9/7 **Military Power**

Art, Robert "To What Ends Military Power?" *International Security*, 4(4), Spring 1980:3-35.

9/12 **Economic Dimensions of Security**

Jonathan Kirshner, "Political Economy in Security Studies after the Cold War," *Review of International Political Economy* 5(1) 1998:64-91.

9/14 **Technology/Revolution in Military Affairs/Global Spread of Arms**

Eliot Cohen, "Technology and Warfare," in Baylis et al., *Strategy in the Contemporary World*, 127-143.

9/19 **Military Doctrines; Conventional Strategies**

Posen, B., *The Sources of Military Doctrine*, Cornell University Press, 1984:13-33.
Mearsheimer, J., *Conventional Deterrence*, Cornell University Press, 1984:33-60.

9/21 **Nuclear Deterrence**

Patrick M. Morgan, *Deterrence Now*, Cambridge University Press, 2003, 1-41.
Paul, T.V. "Complex Deterrence: An Introduction," in T.V. Paul, Patrick Morgan, James Wirtz eds., *Complex Deterrence* (University of Chicago Press, 2009), 1-27.

Section II: Understanding War

9/26 **What is War? Types of Wars**

K.J. Holsti, *The State, War, and the State of War*, Cambridge University Press, 1996:19-40.
T.V. Paul, *Asymmetric Conflicts: War Initiation by Weaker Powers*, Cambridge University Press, 1994: 3-37.
Andrew Kydd and Barbara Walter, "The Strategies of Terrorism," *International Security* 31(1), Summer 2001:49-80.

9/28 **Theories of War: Systemic Explanations**

Greg Cashman, *What Causes War?* Lexington Books, 2014:371-454.

10/03 **Theories of War: Societal-level Explanations**

Jack Levy, "Domestic Politics and War," *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, 18(4), 1988: 653-73.

10/05 **Theories of War: Psychological Explanations**

Jack Levy, "Misperception and Causes of War: Theoretical Linkages and Analytical Problems," *World Politics*, 36, October 1983: 76-99.

10/12 **Mid-term Examination**

Section III: Case Studies

10/17 **World War I**

Nye, Joseph. *Understanding International Conflicts*, Harper Collins, 1993:58-73.

10/19 **World War II: The European Theater**

Nye, J. *Understanding International Conflicts*, New York: Longman, 74-89.

Alexandroff A. and R. Rosecrance, "Deterrence in 1939," *World Politics*, April 1977: 404-24.

10/24 **World War II: The Pearl Harbor Attack**

Paul, *Asymmetric Conflicts*, pp. 64-85.

10/26 **The Korean War**

Paul, *Asymmetric Conflicts*, pp. 86-106.

Baylis, "Revolutionary Warfare," in John Baylis, et. al., eds. *Contemporary Strategy*:
New York: Holmes & Meier, 1987, 209-29.

10/31 **The Vietnam War**

Gelb and Betts, *The Irony of Vietnam*, 2016:9-26, 325-349.

Mack, Andrew, "Why Big Nations Lose Small Wars: The Politics of Asymmetric Conflict,"
World Politics, Jan. 1975:175-200.

Section IV: Strategies of Peace and Order

11/02 **Dimensions of Peace and Security**

Buzan, B., "Is International Security Possible?" in Ken Booth ed., *New Thinking About
Strategy and International Security*, London: Harper Collins, 1991:31-55.

Commission on Human Security, Final Report, New York: United Nations, 2003: 2-19.

11/07 **Power-based Approaches: Balance of Power**

Paul, T.V. *Restraining Great Powers: Soft Balancing from Empires to the Global Era* (New
Haven: Yale University Press, 2018). Chapters 1 and 2.

Mathews, R. et al. eds. *International Conflict and Conflict Management*, Prentice Hall, 1984:
Chapters by Elrod, Osgood, and Gaddis, 411-27; 435-53.

11/09 **Balancing from Concert to the Cold War Era**

Paul, T.V. *Restraining Great Powers*, Chs. 3 and 4.

11/14 **Post-Cold War Balancing: US and Russia**

Paul, T.V. *Restraining Great Powers*, Chs. 5 and 7.

Goddard, Stacie, "The Outsiders: How the International System can Still Restrain China and
Russia," *Foreign Affairs*, 101(3), May-June 2022, 28-39.

[Research Paper Due]

11/16 **Balancing Rising China and the Future of Balance of Power**

Paul, T.V. *Restraining Great Powers*, Chs. 6 and 8.

Paul, T.V. ed., *Accommodating Rising Powers: Past, Present and Future* (Cambridge
University Press, 2016), Ch.1.

11/21 **Liberal and Constructivist Approaches**

Russett, Bruce and John Oneal, *Triangulating Peace* New York, W.W. Norton, 2001:125-55.

Adler, Emanuel and Barnett M. eds., *Security Communities*, Cambridge, 1998:29-64.

11/23 **Peacekeeping/Peace-building**

Sarah-Myriam Martin-Brûlé, Lou Pingeot and Vincent Pouliot, “The Power Politics of United Nations Peace Operations,” in Wivel, Anders and T.V. Paul, Eds. *International Institutions and Power Politics: Bridging the Divide* (Washington DC: Georgetown University Press, 2019), pp.149-165.

SIPRI Multilateral Peace Operations, 2023

https://sipri.org/sites/default/files/2023-05/mpo23_3.pdf

11/28 **Non-Traditional Security Challenges: Climate Change and Pandemics**

Ashok Swain, “Climate Change, Collective Action and Peaceful Change,” in T.V. Paul et al eds. *Oxford Handbook of Peaceful Change in International Relations* (Oxford University Press, 2021), Ch.18 (pp.337-350).

Craig Albert, Amado Baez, and Joshua Rutland, “Human Security as Biosecurity: Reconceptualizing National Security Threats in the Time of COVID-19,” *Politics and the Life Sciences*, 40, 1 (Spring 2021), 83-105.

Gompert, David C. & Martin Libicki, “Towards a Quantum Internet: Post-pandemic Cyber Security in a Post-digital World,” *Survival*, 63:1, (2021) 113-124.

11/30 **Review**