IR 331
War, Peace and Security
Spring 2006

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Monday 16:40-17:30, Tuesday 10:40-11:30, and by appointment

Aims
This course is about three concepts that have been at the core of thinking about world politics, namely: 'war', 'peace' and 'security'. By introducing a wide variety of intellectual traditions and contemporary ideas on these three core concepts to students of International Relations, this course aims to provide a comprehensive basis for understanding the dynamics of world politics.

Objectives
The objectives of this course are both subject-specific and general. General objectives include the development of oral, written and research skills as the course requires students to become able to read, absorb and critically assess a significant amount of complex (and at times contradictory) material. The subject-specific objectives of the course include the attainment by the end of the semester an ability to discuss the causes and significance of war, alternative meanings and practices of peace, and contending conceptions and practices of security.

Teaching
This course is designed to encourage active learning. It will therefore be taught by mixing lectures and seminars. You should expect me to be lecturing some weeks when the topic is rather new and/or complicated. Other weeks, I will provide a basic overview of that week's topic, offer you contending perspectives on the issues concerned, and seek to generate a discussion structured around a set of questions. The aim is to encourage you to think independently and critically whilst remaining firmly grounded in the technical and/or theoretical knowledge provided by the readings. You will be given a list of required and recommended texts for each week. Needless to say you are expected to prepare for every class. You will be given the necessary guidance and feedback to help you develop your argumentation skills. What you should remember at all times is that good discussions depend on serious preparation by students. You are strongly encouraged to read the texts carefully and prepare written answers to the questions (that will be provided in advance) to ensure thorough preparation especially in the first few weeks of the course when you are less experienced in participating in seminars.

You are required to attend all the classes (in accordance with the University regulations). If you cannot attend please let me know beforehand, or contact me (immediately) afterwards to provide a 'legitimate' excuse for your absence. Attendance will be taken and absences will be noted. If you have any problems regarding the reading material or with the course in general, please let me know as soon as possible so that I can try and address the problem.
Assessment
You will be assessed in three ways:

30% of your assessment will be based on in-class participation. This will take the form of participating in class discussions, which will be structured around questions that will be provided in advance (i.e. questions that you will have time to prepare for). You will be expected to demonstrate evidence of having read and thought about that week’s topic.

30% of your assessment will be based on a 800-1000 word book review (You are expected to write a critical review of Mary Kaldor’s New and Old Wars, a copy of which is on reserve in the library. Copies of the book are also available for purchase at Meteksan Bookshop. The deadline for submission of the reviews is March 24, 2006, 17:30.

40% of your assessment will be based on a research paper (10% annotated paper outline, 30% paper). You are expected to formulate your own research question and submit a research proposal indicating your topic (my topic is...), your research question (I will seek to answer....) and why you are interested in this topic (I am interested in this topic because...). Once I approve that proposal, you are expected to write a 1200-1500 word research paper. Please feel free to consult me regarding research topics as well as sources. Please also note that I will not accept those research papers whose proposals have not been approved by April 4, 2006. The research paper is due on May 18, 2006.

In-class discussions

What I am looking for

- Evidence of active listening
- Evidence of reading and independent thinking
- Gradual development of seminar skills

I will be using the following criteria to assess your performance

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<th>Evidence of having read the required material</th>
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<td>Relevant contribution</td>
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<td>Concern not to dominate the discussion</td>
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<td>Avoidance of anecdotal / irrelevant accounts</td>
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<td>Encouragement / enablement of others' contributions</td>
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<td>Respectful treatment of others' beliefs, values and opinions</td>
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<td>Evidence of ability to identify and evaluate different theoretical positions, bias, and orientation</td>
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<td>Confident handling of critical concepts and analytical terms</td>
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<td>Ability to respond effectively to constructive feedback</td>
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Please try to follow the requirements listed below when preparing your assignments:

Be careful not to copy out great chunks from the assigned text or other articles/books. This is at best weak and at worst plagiarism. Plagiarism consists of any form of passing off, or attempting to pass off, the knowledge or work of other people as one's own. It is a form of cheating and is considered an academic offence. The following are simple guidelines to help you avoid such problems:¹

• Surround all direct quotations with inverted commas and cite the precise source (including page numbers) in a footnote.

• Use quotations sparingly and make sure that the bulk of the essay is in your own words.

• Remember that it is ‘what you say’ that gives an essay merit.

• Make sure you give references to your source(s) throughout the text, not just when you give direct quotations but also when you paraphrase or give your version.

Essay presentation

• Each essay should be typed.

• State the number of words used at the end. The word limit is there to make you decide what is or is not important to say. The ability to say what you want in a limited number of words is also a skill you need to gain. Essays that are over length will be penalised.

• Appropriate footnotes and/or bibliography should be supplied.

• Do not use single-spacing and leave a sufficient margin for comments.

• Pay attention to how you write the essay (your style) as well as its content. It is important to develop your ‘writing skills’ as a student of International Relations.

Course Outline

Week 1
Introduction

Week 2
War and Strategy


Recommended readings


Ken Booth and Eric Herring, Keyguide to Information Sources in Strategic Studies (London: Mansell, 1994).


Mary Midgley, ‘Understanding the “war on terrorism”’, OpenDemocracy.
Week 3

‘War’ and ‘Peace’


Recommended readings:
- Osman Bah, ‘I was a child soldier,’ OpenDemocracy.

Week 4

Globalization and War


Recommended Readings:
Week 5

Meanings of Peace and Security in the Developing World


Recommended Readings


Week 6

Terrorism and ‘New’ Security Challenges


Recommended Readings

Week 7
Nuclear Weapons and the ‘Long Peace’


Recommended readings
- Kenneth Waltz, ‘Nuclear Myths and Political Realities,’ The American Political Science Review 84:3 (1990) 731-745. (available on-line at JSTOR)

Week 8
Legacies of the ‘Long Peace’


Recommended readings
Week 10
‘Just and Unjust Wars’

- Richard Falk, ‘Appraising the War against Afghanistan.’ Internet. Available at http://www.theglobalsite.ac.uk/press/201falk.htm

Recommended readings

Week 11
‘New’ Problems, ‘Old’ Policies: Multilateral Peacekeeping


Recommended readings
Week 12

‘New’ Problems, ‘Old’ Policies: Military Intervention

Michael McCGwire, ‘Why Did We Bomb Belgrade?’ International Affairs 76:1 (January 2000) 1-23.

Recommended readings


Week 13

‘New Wars’ and the Future of Security in Europe


Recommended readings


Week 14

Overview