PS 142k: Politics and Warfare

Spring 2007

The long cycle of Western and world war seemed to end with the conclusion of the Cold War and the dismantling of Soviet communism. For many observers the demise of World War II global politics signaled much more than the conclusion of one phase of human conflict. What many believed to be at issue was the end of war itself as a viable and probable mode of human conflict and power politics. As a result, much of the attention of political science turned from the classic pre-occupation with realism and security studies to a new focus on international economics, global cooperation, and the design of worldwide institutions conducive to stability and prosperity.

Yet as the last decade strongly shows us, war has not disappeared from the human experience, and the analytic study of war and warfare remains a vital part of contemporary social science. It is therefore necessary for students of political science to understand the underlying problems of war and its international and domestic causes and consequences. This course has accordingly been designed to provide undergraduates with a comprehensive analytic framework for understanding warfare at the international, domestic, and micro-levels.

There are no prerequisites and students from all disciplines and backgrounds are welcome. Course grades will be based on one mid-term (40%) and one final (60%) paper. IMPORTANT: No assignments will be graded without first submitting to Turnitin.com. You must still submit printed paper copies for grades; online submission does not fulfill assignment requirements.

Maintaining Academic Integrity: Students agree that by taking this course all required papers will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the terms of use agreement posted on the Turnitin.com site.

Readings:

Weeks 1-5:
- Fromkin, Europe's Last Summer (entire)
- Doyle, Ways of War and Peace (Introduction, Realism, and Liberalism sections, pp. 9-311)

Weeks 6-10:
- McPherson, Battle Cry of Freedom (entire)
- McPherson, Antietam (entire)
- Murray and Millett, A War to be Won (selections)
- Merridale, Ivan's War (entire)

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