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PSC 336.01: Causes of War

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Political Science 336
Causes of War

Autumn, 2005
Office: LA 349
Office hours:
10-11 MWF or
by appt.

Text: Christon Archer, et al, World History of Warfare

This course is concerned with armed conflict as a social phenomenon. It does not involve analysis of battles, campaigns or military history. Instead several aspects of war as human endeavor are considered. For our purposes armed conflict may be defined as the organized, systematic and persistent use of force for defined objectives. The course generally follows a chronological pattern in accordance with the chapter sequence of the textbook. The focus is upon the relationship between armed conflict and the many different roles it plays in society. This relationship will be examined in terms of several variables: sociological, psychological, technological, political, and economic.

Requirements:

There will be two exams. The mid-term will be on October 14 and will count for 30% of final grade. A comprehensive final exam is scheduled for December 15 from 8:00-10:00 and will count for 70% of the final grade. Exams will be essay type.

Topic Outline:

1. The place of war in history
Read: Chapter 1
2. Ancient warfare
Read: Chapter 2
3. War and the early modern period
Read: Chapter 3
4. The state: Western and Islamic models
Read: Chapter 4

5. War in the East
Read: Chapter 5
6. War and technology
Read: Chapter 6
7. Modern war
Read: Chapter 7

MID-TERM EXAM OCTOBER 14

8. The state and war
Read: Chapter 8
9. War and revolution
Read: Chapter 9
10. War and industry
Read: Chapter 10
11. Western domination
Read: Chapter 11
12. Computerized warfare
Read: Chapter 12
13. Primitive war in the 21st century
Read: Chapter 13
14. The future of warfare
Read: Epilogue

FINAL EXAM - DECEMBER 15 - 08:00-10:00