PSC 336.01: Causes of War

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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

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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