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PSC 336.01: Causes War

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Political Science 336
Causes of War

Autumn, 2003
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 hourly exams - October 6 and November 10 each counting for 25% of final grade. The comprehensive final exam is scheduled for December 17 from 8:00-10:00 counting for 50% 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

EXAM # 1 - OCTOBER 6

5. War in the East
Read: Chapter 5

EXAM # 1 - OCTOBER 6

6. War and technology
Read: Chapter 6
7. Modern war
Read: Chapter 7
8. The state and war
Read: Chapter 8

EXAM # 2 - NOVEMBER 10

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 17 - 08:00-10:00

Note: September 22 is the last day to drop classes or change grading option.