

**POLS 4344**  
**POLITICS OF WAR**  
**Special Topics in Political Theory**  
**FALL 2021**  
**MW 1:30-2:50**  
**Quinn Hall 203**

William G. Weaver, J.D., Ph.D.  
108 Miners Hall  
wweaver@utep.edu  
915.747.8867  
Cell: 915.525.5803  
Office Hours: On Campus 10:30am-1:00pm M-W or by appointment.

**ALL READINGS ARE EITHER AVAILABLE ON BLACKBOARD OR THROUGH A LINK ON THE SYLLABUS**

**NOTE THAT READINGS IN THE SYLLABUS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. I WILL ALERT YOU TO ANY CHANGES.**

**WARNING: THIS CLASS USES DISTURBING INFORMATION, AND OFFENSIVE VISUAL AND WRITTEN MATERIAL ARE CONTAINED IN READINGS OR IN WEBSITES THAT ARE CITED OR LINKED TO. CONSIDERING THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE CLASS, SOME EXPOSURE TO DISTURBING INFORMATION IS UNAVOIDABLE. BE PREPARED FOR DESCRIPTIONS AND ACCOUNTS THAT MAY ON OCCASION BE UNPLEASANT, OFFENSIVE, AND DISTURBING.**

### **INTRODUCTION**

Unfortunately, the United States has been in almost a constant state of war for many decades. An incomplete list is up on BlackBoard (Wars of the Last Century). This is a vast subject that could completely occupy one's life time, as we have been at war constantly in many different forms and areas for much of our country's existence. It is clear we are a bellicose and dangerous actor on the world stage; some of this is warranted, some of it is almost inexplicable, and some of it is profoundly tragic and unnecessary. Many of our engagements in combat have been morally justifiable and in service of freedom, but many have been unjustified and unwise actions that have caused much pain, suffering and death around the world and for U.S. citizens. We will examine examples that are warranted and unwarranted, who pays the price for war, who fights wars and the political climate and decisions that inform undertaking war.

This course examines the reasons we go to war, who we fight, where we fight, how we fight, why we fight, and who fights for us. The readings and assignments in the course are eclectic and designed to provide an introduction to how war and combat operations arise in the United States with the blessing or acquiescence of our citizens and our social and political systems. I am a direct person, and prefer to take an unvarnished view of what war is and the costs it imposes on America, its people, citizens of foreign nations, and innocent lives caught up in combat operations. Some of these costs are justified by circumstances, others are not. Some of the readings and material are troubling, but this is unavoidable given the course's subject. I will try to alert you to material that is particularly troubling.

Participation is crucial in this class; even more so given its small size.

All readings are due before the class date in which they appear in the syllabus.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

#### **GRADING:**

<b>Categories</b>	<b>Points (105 maximum possible)</b>
Participation/Discussion	50 points
Term Paper	30 points
Final Exam	25 points

#### **Final Grade:**

90-105 points	A
80-89 points	B
70-79 points	C
60-69 points	D
Less than 60	F

1. **Participation.** This means having done the class readings, partaking in discussions, asking questions, explaining things to others, and otherwise participating in class and discussion boards. Participation comprises 50% of your final grade. Participation will consist of written comments on BlackBoard and comments in class. You should write responses on BlackBoard to most of the questions posed for each week. Your responses should be **SUBSTANTIAL AND ANALYTICAL**, rather than a brief remark or a sentence or two. **WHERE A DISCUSSION TOPIC IS LABELED "REQUIRED" THAT MEANS YOU MUST RESPOND TO THAT TOPIC.** The best score you may receive for participation is 50 (and makes up 50% of your grade). Obviously, robust and insightful participation is crucial to passing this class and doing well.

2. **One 12-page (minimum length excluding sources and notes) paper examining a particular aspect of war.** Comprises 30% of your final grade. You will submit a written analysis, at least 12 pages in length (excluding notes, title page, etc.), addressing and analyzing in some depth a particular war or aspect of a war. Try to pick something unusual or fairly obscure. You should discuss your topic with me before undertaking research and writing.

**Concerning the 12-page paper:**

The paper must conform to one of the standard and broadly used citation forms (Chicago Manual of Style, Modern Language Association, American Psychological Association, or the Bluebook). You must cite all quotes, all ideas that are not your own, paraphrased statements, and matters not part of common knowledge. Your reasoning for this paper should demonstrate capacity to render opinions based on close readings of material needed for the subject you pick.

3. **Final examination. Essay/Short Answer format.** Comprises 20% of your final grade. The best score you can receive on this assignment is 20.

***Special Situations***

Americans with Disabilities Act

The University and its employees are required under the ADA to make reasonable accommodation for many types of disabilities. I am thoroughly committed to the ADA and the reasoning that brought it into law. If you believe you have a disability – or if you already have a documented disability – you must 1) Contact me in a timely manner and explain what your disability is and what sorts of accommodation you will need, 2) Notify and consult with the Center for Accommodations and Support Services as soon as possible (747-5148; Union East, Room 106).

Other Civil Rights Matters

I will maintain a class environment that conforms to all requirements found in the various applicable state and federal civil rights and criminal statutes and in the UTEP Handbook of Operating Procedures. Specifically, we will maintain an environment free from sexual harassment, undue intimidation, discrimination based on protected characteristics, and threats of violence or crime. This does not mean that you cannot hold and express, even vehemently, controversial or unpopular opinions. Indeed, the First Amendment protects us in the unpopular opinions we hold, otherwise it would be a useless gesture. But all members of the class should feel equally safe and able to express their opinions.

***Academic Dishonesty***

Examinations and Cheating

Unless I indicate otherwise, you may not use any notes or aids during examinations or quizzes, nor may you discuss exams during exam period with other students. You may not copy off another student's exam or otherwise submit writing or answers that are not original to you. **I am required to report to the Dean of Students instances where I reasonably believe a student has cheated on an examination or otherwise engaged in scholastic dishonesty.**

Plagiarism

The Handbook of Operating Procedure for UTEP (Student Conduct and Discipline – Scholastic Dishonesty Section II, paragraph 1.2.2) states the following:

“Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts.”

## **CLASS SCHEDULE**

**BB Means Item is in BlackBoard in the assigned week's readings**

## **WEEK ONE** (August 23-27)

### **MAKING WAR**

#### **Readings and Assignments:**

- Clausewitz – “On War” Introduction; Book I, Chapters 1-2 <https://www.gutenberg.org/files/1946/1946-h/1946-h.htm#chap03>
- Kenneth Shewmaker – “Daniel Webster and the War Power” (BB)
- Matthew Waxman – “The Power to Wage War Successfully” (BB)
- Louis Fisher and David Gray Adler – “The War Powers Resolution – Time to Say Goodbye”(BB)
- War Powers Resolution of 1973 [https://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th\\_century/warpower.asp](https://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/warpower.asp)

- David Gray Adler – “Louis Fisher on the Constitution and the War Power” (BB)
- J. Terry Emerson – “War Powers – An Invasion of Presidential Prerogative” (BB)
- Harvard Law Review – “Recapturing the War Power” (BB)

## **WEEK TWO** (August 30-September 3)

### **MAKING WAR Cont.**

#### **Readings and Assignments:**

- READ – “The Clausewitzian Universe and the Law of War” (BB)
- READ – “Why We Fight – A Study of U.S. Government War Making Propaganda” (BB)
- READ – “Understanding the U.S. Posture Toward Use of Force” (BB)
- READ – THE CALL TO ARMS - President's Proclamation of Conscription (BB)
- READ/VIEW – Jennifer Farrel – “World War I and the Visual Arts” (BB)
- READ/POEM – Thomas Hardy “Channel Firing”  
<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/46544/channel-firing>
- READ/POEM – John McRae “In Flander’s Fields”  
<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/47380/in-flanders-fields>
- READ – Congressional Medal of Honor:
  - Deming Bronson  
<https://valor.militarytimes.com/hero/641>

## **WEEK THREE** (September 6-10)

### **NO CLASS SEPTEMBER 6 – LABOR DAY**

### **MAKING WAR Cont.**

#### **Readings and Assignments:**

- READ – George S. Patton – “Speech to the Third Army” (June 5, 1944) (BB)
- READ – Arash Abizadeh – “Hobbes on the Causes of War” (BB)
- “Declarations of War and Authorizations to Use Military Force” (Congressional Research Service Publication)  
<https://www.everycrsreport.com/reports/RL31133.html>
- PERUSE:  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Declaration\\_of\\_war\\_by\\_the\\_United\\_States](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Declaration_of_war_by_the_United_States)
- VIEW: Congressional Medal of Honor:
  - WATCH/READ: Patton Presents Medal of Honor to Harold Garmon:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FVQCcSrjyoQ>
  - [https://mohmuseum.org/medal\\_of\\_honor/garman-harold-a/](https://mohmuseum.org/medal_of_honor/garman-harold-a/)

## **WEEK FOUR** (September 13-17)

### **WAR CRIMES**

#### **Readings and Assignments:**

- READ: Melian Dialogue  
(<https://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/melian.htm>)
- PERUSE: Wounded Knee Massacre  
<https://www.history.com/news/remembering-the-wounded-knee-massacre>
  - FARCE/TRAGEDY/WHITEWASH – Medals of Honor for Wounded Knee Massacre:  
[https://military.wikia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Medal\\_of\\_Honor\\_recipients](https://military.wikia.org/wiki/List_of_Medal_of_Honor_recipients)

## onor recipients for the Wounded Knee Massacr e

- READ: Thomas Nagel – “War and Massacre” (BB)
- READ: James J. Weingartner – “Massacre at Biscari: Patton and an American War Crime” (BB)
- READ: James J. Weingartner “Americans, Germans and War Crimes” (BB)
- READ: Carl R. Weinberg – “Massacre at No Gun Ri” (BB)

## **WEEK FIVE** (September 20-24)

### **WAR CRIMES Cont.**

#### **Readings and Assignments:**

- READ – “The Gita of J. Robert Oppenheimer” (James A. Hijiya) (BB)
- READ – “The Bombed” (BB)
- READ – Japanese Internment  
<https://www.archives.gov/education/lessons/japanese-relocation>
- READ – Jeffery D. Hockett – “Robert Jackson, the Supreme Court, and the Nuremberg Trials” (BB)
- READ – Korematsu v. United States  
<https://www.oyez.org/cases/1940-1955/323us214>
- VIEW: Photographs of Japanese Internees (Dorothea Lange - Famous Photographer of the Depression Era):  
<https://www.nytimes.com/slideshow/2017/02/08/blogs/rarely-seen-photos-of-japanese-internment/s/08-lens-lange-slide-P1YD.html>
- WATCH – BBC - Hiroshima (Four Minutes)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3wxWNAM8Cso>
- VIEW – Photographs of Destruction – Hiroshima and Nagasaki <https://qz.com/1349319/pictures-of-hiroshima-and-nagasaki-atomic-bomb-destruction/>
- READ – Congressional Medal of Honor: Ralph Ellis Dias  
<https://www.cmohs.org/recipients/ralph-e-dias>

## **WEEK SIX** (September 27-October 1)

### **WAR CRIMES Cont.**

#### **Readings and Assignments:**

- James Fallows – “What Did You Do in the Class War Daddy?” (BB)
- READ: “Why the United States Went to War in Vietnam” <https://www.fpri.org/article/2017/04/united-states-went-war-vietnam/>
- My Lai Massacre (**WARNING – VERY DISTURBING**)  
<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/features/mylai-massacre-evidence/>
- Courts Martial of William Calley <https://famous-trials.com/mylaicourts/1656-myl-intro>
  - VIEW: Ronald Haeberle Photographs at My Lai  
<https://time.com/longform/my-lai-massacre-ron-haeberle-photographs/> (**WARNING – VERY DISTURBING**)
- READ/POEMS
  - Denise Leverton “Life at War”:  
<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poetrymagazine/browse?volume=108&issue=3&page=8>
- WATCH/LISTEN/READ
  - Country Joe McDonald – “The Fish Cheer”  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bu9c10xmVCI>

- CSNY – “Ohio”  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JCS-g3HwXdc>
- Kent State <https://www.kent.edu/may-4-historical-accuracy>

## **WEEK SEVEN** (October 4 – 8)

### **WHO FIGHTS – AFRICAN AMERICANS**

#### **Readings and Assignments:**

- “The African American Citizen-Soldier and the Continental Army” (BB)
- “Not Only War is Hell: World War I and African American Lynching Narratives” (BB)
- “Vanguards of the New Negro: African American Veterans and Post-World War I Racial Militancy” (BB)
- “World War I as I Saw It: The Memoir of an African American Soldier” (BB)
- “Fighting for Respect – African Americans in World War I” (BB)
- READ: Jackson State Shootings:  
<https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=126426361>
- VIEW/READ: Charles H. Alston  
<https://prologue.blogs.archives.gov/2017/02/22/the-drawings-of-charles-alston/#more-23443>

## **WEEK EIGHT** (October 11 – 15)

### **WHO FIGHTS – AFRICAN AMERICANS Cont.**

#### **Readings and Assignments:**

- “African Americans and World War II – A Pictorial Essay” (BB)
- Dave Bartholomew’s WWII Service and Musical Influences  
<https://www.nationalww2museum.org/dave-bartholomew-service-and-musical-influences>
- “Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing”  
<https://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/lift-evry-voice-and-sing>
- “Medgar Evers”  
<https://www.nationalww2museum.org/war/articles/medgar-evers-us-army-veteran-and-civil-rights-leader>
- The Song That Ruled the Airwaves During the Second World War”  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZSMuTm649Hk>
- VIEW:
  - Patton Pins Silver Star on Private Ernest Jenkins  
<https://catalog.archives.gov/id/535724>
  - Private Johnathan Hogue Receives Croix de Guerre <https://catalog.archives.gov/id/535724>
- Congressional Medal of Honor:
  - Eugene Ashley  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eugene\\_Ashley\\_Jr](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eugene_Ashley_Jr)

## **WEEK NINE** (October 18 – 22)

### **WHO FIGHTS – LATINOS**

- “Latinos in World War II: Fighting on Two Fronts”  
<https://www.nps.gov/articles/latinoww2.htm>

- “Hispanics in the U.S. Army”  
<https://www.army.mil/hispanics/history.html>
- “Latinos Officers in the Military”  
<https://www.usatoday.com/in-depth/news/nation/2020/05/23/latino-hispanic-military-high-ranking-commissioned-officer-positions/4668013002/>
- Congressional Medal of Honor
  - Leonard L. Alvarado  
<https://www.cmohs.org/recipients/leonard-l-alvarado>

## **WEEK TEN** (October 25 –29)

### **WHO FIGHTS – WOMEN**

- “Women in Combat – The Revolutionary War Experience” (BB)
- “Easing Combat Restrictions for Women is Unintended Result of War” (BB)
- Five Years Later: Women, Combat Operations, and Revisiting "The Other Fifty Percent"
- Congressional Medal of Honor:
  - Mary E. Walker  
<https://www.cmohs.org/recipients/mary-e-walker>
- Photos of Vietnam War – <https://time.com/vietnam-photos/> (**WARNING - YOU MAY FIND SOME OF THE MATERIAL DISTURBING**)

## **WEEK ELEVEN** (November 1-5)

### **WHO FIGHTS – THE MIDDLE CLASS AND POOR**

- Council on Foreign Relations: Demographics of the military:  
<https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/demographics-us-military>
- Racial composition of U.S. Military  
<https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2019/09/10/the-changing-profile-of-the-u-s-military/>
- Congressional Medal of Honor:
  - David G. Bellavia:  
<https://www.cmohs.org/recipients/david-g-bellavia>

## **WEEK TWELVE** (November 8-12)

### **PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS**

- “Psychological Operations – A Force Multiplier” (BB)
- “Organizational Problems Affecting Information Operations and Psychological Operations” (BB)
- “Why We Fight – A Study of U.S. War-Making Propaganda”
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### **Readings and Assignments:**

## **WEEK THIRTEEN** (November 15-19)

### **ESPIONAGE**

Virginia Hall

<https://www.npr.org/2019/04/18/711356336/a-woman-of-no-importance-finally-gets-her-due>

### **Readings and Assignments:**

“Wars of None – Artificial Intelligence and the Future of Conflict”

(BB)

**WEEK FOURTEEN** (November 22-26)

**NO CLASS**

**WEEK FIFTEEN** (November 29-  
December 2)

**REVIEW**