War has existed as a phenomenon across human history. Wars have shaped the form and activities of political institutions, contributing to the rise of states, the way in which they interact, and the manner in which they channel the resources of their people. This course will focus upon the forces that promote conflict and peace within the international system. Is a propensity for war an innate characteristic of humans or is it a reflection of failed political institutions? We will discuss the ways in which warfare has changed across history as well as the form it is likely to take in the future. Of particular interest in our survey of international war will be the intersection between war and politics.

This course begins with one fundamental assumption that we will discuss at the beginning of the term: war as a phenomenon is a concept that is generalizable over time. We will survey the scholarly literature on war in order to gain a better understanding of what the leading research on war can tell us about conflict in the international system. Following this survey, we will analyze the current wars in Syria and Afghanistan.

**Assigned Readings**
- Carl Von Clausewitz, *On War* (ebook: available electronically through the library webpage)
- Additional readings available online as noted below

**Grading**

**Blogging assignment – 10%**
*In this assignment, students will post an opinion piece of approximately 500 words on a topic related to conflict in the international system and/or responses it to the course blog on Blackboard. In addition, students must comment on at least one other student’s blog post. The deadline for completion of this assignment is 8:00 pm on Thursday, April 24th.*

**Research paper – 20%**
*Students will complete a 10-12 page research paper. This paper is due at 8:00 pm on Thursday, April 17th and must be submitted electronically through the class webpage. Further information on this assignment will be distributed during the first week of class.*

**Exam 1 – 35%**
**Exam 2 – 35%**
*There will be 2 exams. These exams will consist of short answer questions and cover material assigned in the readings as well as material covered in our class discussions. Exam 1 will be on Thursday, March 6th and Exam 2 will be on Thursday, May 8th. The final exam is not cumulative. Makeup exams will only be given under extraordinary circumstances supported by documentation.*

**Course Rules**
1. I take academic honesty very seriously. Students caught plagiarizing or cheating will receive an F in the course and will be referred to the proper university authorities.
2. Students may not turn in papers in which any part was assigned or submitted to another class. Doing so without my prior permission will result in an “F” on the assignment.
3. I do not give extra credit or other compensatory assignments. Please do not ask, it will make both of us sad when I say “no”.
4. Course information will be disseminated through the class webpage (learn.unt.edu). You are responsible for checking the class webpage on a regular basis for class updates, information, and announcements.
6. This syllabus is not a contract; I reserve the right to alter both dates and assignments
6. Late assignments will only be accepted under extraordinary circumstances, with prior approval, and with appropriate documentation.
7. Students are expected to arrive at each class meeting with the readings for that class completed and prepared to discuss them.
8. I am available to answer questions about the course during my office hours, via e-mail, or by appointment. If you have a question about the course, do not hesitate to ask me. I get paid to study and talk about international conflict, a topic that interests me greatly. I am more than happy to do so with you.

Course Schedule:

Part 1: Roots of Conflict and the Means to Mitigate them
1. Why War? (Jan 14-16)
   - Morgan, Chapter 1
   - Carl Von Clausewitz, On War (Chapter 1: What is War?, Chapter 2: End and Means in War) (ebook available through library webpage)
2. Individual-Level Explanations: Human Nature, Psychology (Jan 21-23)
   - Morgan, Chapter 2
   - Thomas Hobbes, “Chapter XIII: Of the Natural Condition of Mankind, As Concerning Their Felicity and Misery” http://oregonstate.edu/instruct/phl302/texts/hobbes/leviathan-c.html
4. Power Distribution, System Structure and War (Jan 28-30)
   - Morgan, Chapter 3, Chapter 6
5. Deterrence (Feb 4-6)
   - Morgan, Chapter 5
6. Arms Races and War (Feb 11-13)
7. Simulation Week (Feb 18-20)
   - Readings to be assigned
8. Democracy and War (Feb 25-27)
- Immanuel Kant, “Perpetual Peace – Section II, Definitive Articles 1-2”
  http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/kant/kant1.htm, “First Supplement: Of the Guarantee for Perpetual Peace”
  http://www.mtholyoke.edu/acad/intrel/kant/firstsup.htm

9. Politics and War: Diversionary Theory (Mar 4-6)

** Midterm Exam, Thursday March 6th **

Spring Break – March 11 & 13 (no class meeting)

10. Third-Party Efforts to Mitigate Conflict (Mar 18-20)
- Morgan, Chapters 9 & 10


12. Unconventional War I – Guerilla Warfare (Apr 1-3)

13. Unconventional War II - Terrorism (Apr 8-10)
Part 2: The U.S. at War

14. Syria’s War (Apr 15-17)
   - BBC Chronology of Events in Syria. [Link]
   - William R. Polk (2013) on the Syria Conflict. [Link]

15. Afghan War (Apr 22-24)

16. The Future of War (Apr 29-May 1)
   - John Mearsheimer “Why We Will Soon Miss the Cold War” *The Atlantic* (August).

** Final Exam – Thursday, May 8 1:30-3:30pm **
at the discretion of the instructor, be referred to the Undergraduate Studies Committee in the case of undergraduate students, or the Graduate Studies Committee in the case of graduate students. These committees, acting as agents of the department Chair, shall impose further penalties, or recommend further penalties to the Dean of Students, if they determine that the case warrants it. In all cases, the Dean of Students shall be informed in writing of the case.

Students may appeal any decision under this policy by following the procedures laid down in the UNT Code of Student Conduct and Discipline.

University of North Texas -- Department of Political Science
POLICY ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The Political Science Department adheres to and enforces UNT’s policy on academic integrity (cheating, plagiarism, forgery, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty and sabotage). Students in this class should review the policy (UNT Policy Manual Section 18.1.16), which may be located at http://policy.unt.edu/sites/default/files/untpolicy/pdf/7-Student_Affairs-Academic_Integrity.pdf. Violations of academic integrity in this course will addressed in compliance with the penalties and procedures laid out in this policy. Students may appeal any decision under this policy by following the procedures laid down in the UNT The UNT Policy Manual Section 18.1.16 “Student Standards of Academic Integrity

Acceptable Student Behavior:

Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students’ opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Center for Student Rights and Responsibilities to consider whether the student's conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The university's expectations for student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including university and electronic classroom, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at www.unt.edu/csrr.