

**PLSC 345**  
**War and Peace in the Nuclear Age**

Eastern Michigan University  
Department of Political Science

Fall 2017  
MW, 2:00-3:15 p.m., 419 Pray-Harrold

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Office Hours: MW, 12:30-2:00 p.m., 3:30-4:30 p.m., or by appointment

**Course Description:**

While humankind in the nuclear age has so far avoided another world war with possible nuclear annihilation, peace is far from assured ubiquitously. Despite the relatively long peace among the world's great or major powers since 1945, millions of people have died in non-nuclear warfare, ethnic cleansing, and genocide. International wars and civil wars, massacres and acts of terrorism, are still making headlines despite appeals to peace and the rule of law. How can we achieve security? How can we understand and prevent war? What solutions to the problem of war may promote peace? How can we deal with nuclear proliferation? How can we organize effective peacekeeping? All these questions and others related to them are what this course is about as we seek to comprehend what accounts for war and peace in the nuclear age.

The objective of this course is to advance understanding of international security, war, and policies to foster security and peace at a time when global politics is under the shadow of nuclear weapons. The course first introduces and defines security and the problem of war and then looks at structural and strategic solutions in response to threats to security and peace, including power distributions, cheap victories, deterrence and arms control, great-power concerts, Wilsonian collective security, as well as complex multilateralism and integration. After reviewing a debate over the spread of nuclear weapons, you will have an opportunity to apply the material in class and in the readings to present a nuclear non-proliferation policy in regard to North Korea. Next, the course deals with practical and tactical solutions in response to threats to security and peace, including negotiation and mediation, peacekeeping, peace enforcement and peace imposition, as well as peacebuilding. After examining peace operations, you will have an opportunity to apply the material in class and in the readings to present an international peacekeeping policy in regard to Darfur. Upon completion of the course, you will have an enhanced ability to:

- Understand and critically reflect on alternative definitions of security, sources of war, and effects of war on various levels of security.

- Examine a variety of structural and strategic solutions in response to threats to security and peace.
- Evaluate alternative perspectives on the spread of nuclear weapons and present a nuclear non-proliferation policy.
- Examine a variety of practical and tactical solutions in response to threats to security and peace.
- Evaluate peace operations and present an international peacekeeping policy.
- Comprehend a variety of factors associated with war and peace in the nuclear age.

### **Course Structure:**

Class meetings combine lectures and discussions. While lectures introduce and explain key concepts, ideas, arguments, and evidence, discussions address critical questions, problems, and issues identified during lectures. You are expected to be active participants in class discussions and contribute meaningfully to the explanation, evaluation, and application of the concepts and issues covered in the course. To this end, you are expected to read the assigned material and be well prepared for each class session.

In this class, you will be members of a nuclear non-proliferation commission and an international peacekeeping commission. In the nuclear non-proliferation commission, you are asked to present a nuclear non-proliferation policy in regard to North Korea. In the international peacekeeping commission, you are asked to present an international peacekeeping policy in regard to Darfur.

### **Required Texts:**

In pursuit of the course objective, the following texts are required:

- Patrick M. Morgan, *International Security: Problems and Solutions*, 1<sup>st</sup> edition, Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, 2006. ISBN: 978-1-56802-587-2  
Link: <http://www.cqpress.com/product/International-Security-Problems.html>
- Scott D. Sagan and Kenneth N. Waltz, *The Spread of Nuclear Weapons: An Enduring Debate*, 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, New York, NY: W.W. Norton, 2012. ISBN 978-0-393-92010-9  
Link: <http://books.wwnorton.com/books/detail-contents.aspx?ID=4294971047>
- Paul. F. Diehl and Alexandru Balas, *Peace Operations*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, Malden, MA: Polity Press, 2014. ISBN: 9780745671819  
Link: <http://www.polity.co.uk/book.asp?ref=9780745671802>

### **Course Requirements:**

A midterm exam, a final exam, a commission, and a commentary will give you opportunities to demonstrate critical and analytical thinking by applying the material covered in class and in the readings.

**Midterm Exam:** There will be a midterm exam worth up to 25 points, depending on quality. This exam is **due on Wednesday, October 25 (2:00-3:15 p.m.)**.

**Final Exam:** There will be a final exam worth up to 25 points, depending on quality. This exam is **due on Wednesday, December 13 (1:30-3:00 p.m.)**.

**Commission:** Asked to present a nuclear non-proliferation policy and an international peacekeeping policy, one half, or close to one half, of all students will be assigned to a nuclear non-proliferation commission while all other students will be assigned to an international peacekeeping commission. Members of the nuclear non-proliferation commission will present a nuclear non-proliferation policy in regard to North Korea. Members of the international peacekeeping commission will present an international peacekeeping policy in regard to Darfur. While you may prepare for a policy presentation by working with one another, each individual team member is expected to contribute actively to their team's policy presentation. Depending on quality, a policy presentation will be worth up to 20 points, requiring a hard copy of an outline/set of PowerPoint slides to be submitted in class when a policy presentation is scheduled. Please note that there will be **no credit for a policy presentation without a hard copy of an outline/set of PowerPoint slides**. Please cite relevant sources and provide a list of references.

The presentation by the nuclear non-proliferation commission is **scheduled on Monday, November 6, and Wednesday, November 8**.

The presentation by the international peacekeeping commission is **scheduled on Monday, December 4, and Wednesday, December 6**.

Members of the nuclear non-proliferation commission are expected to address the following questions in their presentation of a nuclear non-proliferation policy in regard to North Korea:

1. What benefits might North Korea expect to gain from possessing nuclear weapons? Please consider military, political, and economic benefits.
2. What assessment is there of the extent to which North Korea's nuclear capabilities threaten international security and peace? Please consider threats to systemic security (international norms, order, and stability), state security (territorial integrity and political independence), and societal security (protection of citizens from political violence, terrorism, and humanitarian disaster).
3. What options may be most effective in convincing North Korea to disengage from nuclear proliferation? Please consider military, economic, and diplomatic options.

Members of the international peacekeeping commission are expected to address the following questions in their presentation of an international peacekeeping policy in regard to Darfur:

1. What operational factors are most conducive to successful peacekeeping in Darfur? Please consider the authorizing agency, mandate, resources, and command, control, and coordination.
2. What contextual factors are most conducive to successful peacekeeping in Darfur? Please consider the geographic configuration (size, topography, urbanization), history between disputants, type of conflict (inter-state conflict or intra-state conflict), and phase of conflict (pre-violence, active hostilities, post-cease-fire, or post-peace-agreement phase).
3. What behavioral factors are most conducive to successful peacekeeping in Darfur? Please consider the number of disputants, cooperation of primary disputants, actions of subnational actors, and influence of third-party states.

**Commentary:** Each of you will write an individual follow-up commentary related to your team's commission policy presentation. The commentary is expected to include about four to six double-spaced type-written pages of text as well as a title page and a list of references. Depending on quality, the commentary will be worth up to 20 points.

Members of the nuclear non-proliferation commission will write a follow-up commentary in response to the following questions:

1. What previous two cases might provide some useful lessons for an effective nuclear non-proliferation policy in regard to North Korea? What lessons are there and how applicable are they to the case of North Korea?
2. What two cases other than North Korea are still or will be of greatest concern in regard to nuclear proliferation?

The follow-up commentary by members of the nuclear non-proliferation commission is **due on Monday, November 13.**

Members of the international peacekeeping commission will write a follow-up commentary in response to the following questions:

1. What previous two cases might provide some useful lessons for a successful international peacekeeping policy in regard to Darfur? What lessons are there and how applicable are they to the case of Darfur?
2. What two cases other than Darfur are still or will be of greatest concern in regard to international peacekeeping?

The follow-up commentary by members of the international peacekeeping commission is **due on Monday, December 11.**

**Class Attendance:** Since class performance is related to class attendance, I encourage you to attend class by awarding you up to 10 points for perfect class attendance.

### **Grading Scale:**

Through the midterm exam, the final exam, a commission, a commentary, and class attendance, you can obtain a possible total number of 100 points, which are divided as follows:

Midterm Exam: 25 points  
Final Exam: 25 points  
Commission: 20 points  
Commentary: 20 points  
Class Attendance: 10 points

Your course grade will be based on your total number of points on the following scale:

95-100 A  
90-94 A-  
87-89 B+  
83-86 B  
80-82 B-  
77-79 C+  
73-76 C  
70-72 C-  
67-69 D+  
63-66 D  
60-62 D-  
0-59 F

### **Course Schedule:**

**Week 1:** September 6

**Topic:** Introducing and Defining Security and the Problem of War

**Reading:** Morgan (Chapters 1 and 2)

**Week 2:** September 11 and September 13

**Topic:** Introducing and Defining Security and the Problem of War (continued)

**Reading:** Morgan (Chapters 1 and 2)

**Week 3:** September 18 and September 20

**Topic:** Structural and Strategic Solutions in Response to Threats to Security and Peace:  
Power Distributions

**Reading:** Morgan (Chapter 3)

**Week 4:** September 25 and September 27

**Topic:** Structural and Strategic Solutions in Response to Threats to Security and Peace:  
Power Distributions (continued)

**Reading:** Morgan (Chapter 3)

**Week 5:** October 2 and October 4

**Topic:** Structural and Strategic Solutions in Response to Threats to Security and Peace:  
Cheap Victories

**Reading:** Morgan (Chapter 4)

**Week 6:** October 9 and October 11

**Topic:** Structural and Strategic Solutions in Response to Threats to Security and Peace:  
Deterrence and Arms Control

**Reading:** Morgan (Chapter 5)

**Week 7:** October 16 and October 18

**Topic:** Structural and Strategic Solutions in Response to Threats to Security and Peace:  
Deterrence and Arms Control (continued)

**Reading:** Morgan (Chapter 5)

**Week 8:** October 23 and October 25

**Topic:** Structural and Strategic Solutions in Response to Threats to Security and Peace:  
Great-Power Concerts; Wilsonian Collective Security; Complex Multilateralism and  
Integration

**Reading:** Morgan (Chapters 6, 7, and 8)

**Week 9:** October 30 and November 1

**Topic:** The Spread of Nuclear Weapons

**Reading:** Sagan and Waltz (Entire Book)

**Week 10:** November 6 and November 8

**Topic:** Presentation by the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Commission

**Reading:** Sagan and Waltz (Entire Book); Individual Research

**Week 11:** November 13 and November 15

**Topic:** Practical and Tactical Solutions in Response to Threats to Security and Peace:  
Negotiation and Mediation

**Reading:** Morgan (Chapter 9)

**Week 12:** November 20

**Topic:** Practical and Tactical Solutions in Response to Threats to Security and Peace:  
Peacekeeping; Peace Enforcement and Peace Imposition; Peacebuilding

**Reading:** Morgan (Chapters 10, 11, and 12)

Note: No classes on November 22!

**Week 13:** November 27 and November 29

**Topic:** Peace Operations

**Reading:** Diehl and Balas (Entire Book)

**Week 14:** December 4 and December 6

**Topic:** Presentation by the International Peacekeeping Commission

**Reading:** Diehl and Balas (Entire Book); Individual Research

**Week 15:** December 11

**Topic:** Review of Nuclear Proliferation and International Peacekeeping

**Reading:** Sagan and Waltz (Entire Book) and Diehl and Balas (Entire Book)

**Course Policy:**

- Please note that the course schedule is subject to change.
- Late commentaries or absence from the midterm exam, from the final exam, or from commission policy presentations will be accepted only in cases of documented medical or family emergencies.
- Incomplete grades will be given only for documented medical or family emergencies, and must be negotiated before final grades are due.
- Since I respect students' observance of religious holidays, nobody will be penalized or disadvantaged for missing class on such days.
- Reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities will be available upon documentation provided by EMU's Disability Resource Center.
- International students need to make sure that they meet the requirements of their visas to study in the United States.
- I will work hard to help anyone who has to miss class due to illness, religious holidays, or unavoidable conflicts.
- I will try to offer extensive support in office hours and schedule appointments at other times for any student who is staying up-to-date but has questions. Conversely, I will give only basic guidance to a student who lets the course go for no important reason.
- I recommend that students take this class only if they are seriously committed to doing the course work.
- Academic dishonesty (including plagiarism and cheating) will not be tolerated and is prohibited by the EMU Code of Student Conduct. Academic dishonesty evident in any assignment will result in a score of zero for the assignment.
- Violations of the EMU Code of Student Conduct or the University's Safe Working and Learning Environment may result in sanctions up to removal from the course or expulsion from the university.

**Course Resources:**

- If you have questions or comments about class contents, please feel free to email me; please keep your questions and comments brief, precise, and to the point so you may obtain a response as quickly and effectively as possible.
- Additional course-related material and information will be posted through Canvas. For Canvas support, please click on "Help" in the bottom left corner of the Canvas website (<https://canvas.emich.edu/>).

- For university policies, procedures, and services, please see the EMU Student Handbook (<https://www.emich.edu/studenthandbook/index.php>).
- For one-on-one consultation on writing, please contact EMU's University Writing Center (<https://www.emich.edu/uwc>) by phone at 734-487-0694; the center's consultants also work in EMU's Academic Projects Center (<https://www.emich.edu/apc>), which offers drop-in consultation on writing, research, and technology-related issues, and which may be reached by phone at 734-487-2543.
- If you have questions concerning EMU's Bruce T. Halle Library (<http://www.emich.edu/halle/>) and its resources, please contact a librarian, by phone at 734-487-0020, or visit the on-line library services at <http://www.emich.edu/halle/askalibrarian.html>.
- For issues related to registration and enrollment, please contact EMU's Office of Records and Registration (<http://www.emich.edu/registrar/>) by phone at 734-487-4111.
- For institutional support for students with disabilities, please contact EMU's Disability Resource Center (<http://www.emich.edu/disabilities/>) by phone at 734-487-2470.
- For support related to multicultural issues, please contact EMU's Center for Multicultural Affairs (<http://www.emich.edu/cma/>) by phone at 734-487-2377.
- For academic advising, please contact EMU's University Advising & Career Development Center (<http://www.emich.edu/aac/>) by phone at 734-487-0400.
- For advising in political science, please contact the main office of EMU's Political Science Department (<http://www.emich.edu/polisci/>) by phone at 734-487-3113.