

GREAT POWER RELATIONS
Fall 2011

PROFESSOR SALOMONE

Office Hours: M,W,F 12-12:45pm
mike.salomone@inta.gatech.edu
Office: Habersham 145, 404-894-6600

TA: Tarun Chaudhary
gte293y@mail.gatech.edu

TEXTS:

Donald Kagan, On the Origins of War

Barbara Tuchman, The Guns of August

A.J.P. Taylor, The Origins of the Second World War

James Fallows, Blind into Baghdad

REQUIREMENTS:

- **Three examinations during the semester, and a final examination, non-cumulative.**
- **Class attendance and class participation are extremely important in helping you sort out the complexities of the subject matter.**
- **Read the assignments before you come to class. That is your “homework”.**

OBJECTIVES:

This course presents the realist theory of international affairs to explain the behavior of the great powers and the relations among them in the international system through a series of historical case studies. The theoretical material is presented against the backdrop of 5 case studies: (1.) the Second Peloponnesian War, (2.) the outbreak of the Great War, (3.) the inter-war period and the coming of World War II, (4.) the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Cold War, and (5.) the emergence of the United States as the sole super-power.

There will be an examination following cases 1, 2, and 3. There will be a final examination administered during finals week consisting of questions from cases 4 and 5. Each examination will be worth 25% of your final grade. The examinations will be 50 multiple choice questions. There may be extra credit questions on each exam, the number of which will be based entirely on your aggregate attendance, your preparation, and your participation in class. You will have one week's notice of an exam, so stay current with the reading, which gets heavier the deeper we get into the course.

There will be a review session conducted by my teaching assistant for the course before each examination. There will be study guides for some of the case studies. Remember: “Past performance is no indicator of future results”. If you are in this course because of the grade distribution from past semesters, you are here for the wrong reason. The formula for success is read the material, come to class, study for the exams.

1.0 Theories on the Causes of War.

Lectures on the theories of Kenneth Waltz, Thucydides, Thomas Hobbes, and Hans Morgenthau.

Read Robert Gilpin, "The Theory of Hegemonic War", Journal of Interdisciplinary History, Spring 1988, pp 591-613. *On T-2*.

Read Donald Kagan, On the Origins of War, "Introduction" and "The Peloponnesian War".

Read Hans Morgenthau, "Political Power" and other selections *On T-2*

Film: "The Rise and Fall of the Spartans"

Examination #1.

2.0 Survey of General Theoretical Approaches.

Lectures on the nature of the international system and systems change.

Read Donald Kagan, On the Origins of War, "The First World War 1914-1918".

Read Barbara Tuchman, "The Guns of August" chapters to be assigned.

Film: Selected scenes from the original "All Quiet on the Western Front".

Examination #2.

3.0 The Classical Balance of Power.

Lectures on the changes in the inter-war balance of power.

Read Donald Kagan, On the Origins of War, "The Second World War 1939-1945".

Read A.J.P. Taylor, The Origins of the Second World War

Film: Selections from the series "Visions of War"

Examination #3.

4.0 Levels of Analysis Issues.

Lectures on strategy, bargaining, deterrence theory, and organization theory.

Graham T. Allison, "Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis".

Donald Kagan, On the Origins of War, "The Cuban Missile Crisis".

Film on the Cuban Missile Crisis and "The Fog of War: Eleven Lessons of Robert S. MacNamara"

5.0 Hegemony and Responsibility

Lectures on the Iraq War and imperial hubris.

Read James Fallows, Blind into Baghdad.

Film: "Bush's War".

Washington Post Roundtable, "The Bush-Cheney Legacy", On T-2

Explore <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/politics/bush/legacy/>

Suggested Further Reading:

Joseph J. Collins, "The Decision to Invade Iraq and Its Aftermath", On T-2

Jeffrey Record, "Bounding the Global War on Terrorism", On T-2

Final Examination during exam week covering 4.0 and 5.0.