McGill University  
Political Science 360  
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY: STRATEGIES OF WAR AND PEACE

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Fall 2008  
Office Hrs: Mon/Wed 1-2 p.m.

Much of known history has been characterized by the waging of wars and the endless search for peace. Countries fought wars on the basis of strategic myths and beliefs, while peace-makers devised plans for reducing conflict and the eventual abolition of war itself. This course deals with different strategies of war (both conventional and nuclear) and peace in comparative and historical perspectives. During the first half of the semester, we will discuss strategy as applied to war with the aid of a number of case studies. In the second half, we will devote our attention to different strategies for attaining peace among nation states in a semi-anarchic international system.


**Evaluation:**
- Conference Participation 10%
- Mid-term Examination 20%
- Research Paper 20%
- Final Examination 50%

The exams consist of identifications and essays. Students are expected to actively participate in conferences and to make presentations on assigned topics.

The research paper (12 double-spaced pages maximum, including bibliography) may be on any one of the strategies of war or peace discussed in the course, its application to a case (a war, crisis, or event of peace) and an explanation of how the strategy contributed to the event's occurrence. Also when applicable, discuss an alternative strategy (or strategies) that might have prevented the war or crisis from breaking out or improved the prospects for attaining peace. The materials for the paper may be drawn from the course readings, although some library research is recommended. You must provide footnotes for cited materials. The paper should be written exclusively for this course. Be aware that according to University regulations, plagiarism and double submission carry severe penalties. The papers are due on November 24, 2008.
Section I: Strategies of War

9/3 Introduction

9/5 Security, Strategy; Grand Strategy

9/8 Economic Dimensions of Security

9/10 Military Power

9/12 Technology/Revolution in Military Affairs/Global Spread of Arms

9/15 Military Doctrines; Conventional Strategies

9/17 Nuclear Deterrence

Section II: Understanding War

9/22 What is War? Types of Wars.

9/24 Theories of War: Systemic Explanations

9/29 Theories of War: Societal Explanations
10/1  **Theories of War: Psychological Explanations**

10/6  **Mid-term Examination**

**Section III: Case Studies**

10/8  **World War I**

10/15  **World War II: The European Theater**

10/20  **World War II: The Pearl Harbor Attack**

10/22  **The Korean War: The Strategy of Guerrilla Warfare**

10/27  **The Vietnam War**

**Section IV: Strategies of Peace**

10/29  **Dimensions of Peace and Security**

11/3  **Realpolitik Approaches**

11/5  **Arms Control and Disarmament**
Booth, "Disarmament and Arms Control," in Baylis et al., *Contemporary Strategy*, 140-83.
11/10 **Diplomacy and International Law**  

11/12 **Liberal and Constructivist Approaches**  

11/17 **International Organizations; Regimes**  
Chapters by Ekens and Oudraat, 517-528; 323-51.  

11/19 **Conflict Resolution & Conflict Prevention**  

11/24 **Peacekeeping/Peace-building**  


12/1 **Review**