Objectives & Course Content: An introduction to "who gets what, when, where and how." Course is pitched at first and second year students. Power and the struggle for power are main thrusts...

Prerequisites: None.

Attendance: Mandatory.

Class Format: Lecture.

Laboratory/Field Experience: None

Readings: 1 text, 3 or 4 paperbacks

Paper/Projects: None.

Evaluation: 3 in class exams.
Objectives & Course Content: Course deals with presidential power and leadership. A major focus is presidential leadership of Congress. Political power and personality are also discussed.

Prerequisites: Not open to freshmen.

Attendance: Mandatory.

Class Format: Lecture 75%; Discussion 25%; Enthusiasm 10%; Zeal 5%.

Laboratory/Field Experience: None.

Readings: 6 paperbacks, "Hand-Outs".

Paper/Projects: This is a WAC course (W-2). Students are required to write 5 to 7 short papers (4 to 6 pages each).

Evaluation: 3 in-class exams; take-home exams; enthusiasm (even zeal for the learning enterprise); oral presentations.
Objectives & Course Content: War is among the very few universal human endeavors. War transcends politics, culture, ethnicity, and economic and social development; it occurs in pre-modern and post-modern societies alike. Yet while people have waged war against one another since the dawn of time, the nature of war and its sources, forms, and rationales continue to evolve. This course familiarize students with a variety of perspectives on the causes of war, as well as the impact of politics, economics, technology, and society (and changes associated with each) on the likelihood and scope of conflict in the contemporary age.

A course entitled “war in the modern age” compels us to examine two timeless (and inter-related) questions: (1) Why do we fight, and (2) what does ‘modern’ war look like? In the first part of the course we will evaluate the first question by examining several major (and some minor) causes of war as identified throughout human history. We will then proceed to a consideration of war as a policy tool, and in particular will examine the systemic, strategic, and political imperatives precipitating wars and shaping their conduct and cessation. We turn more directly in the second part of the course to the question of what distinguishes war in the ‘modern’ era, focusing in particular on the period since 1900. In this we will lean heavily on Mary Kaldor’s excellent book New and Old Wars as well as other sources in order to identify what we think defines war in the modern age, in contrast to what war has looked like throughout preceding millennia. We will rely throughout the course on empirical evidence in order to enliven our discussion of the readings as well as to connect theory to the “real world” in which war is hardly an abstract phenomenon.

This course also introduces students to quantitative approaches to international relations, with particular emphasis on research on conflict and peace. Since the quantitative international relations literature on war and peace is so extensive, the particular readings and issues that we cover in this must inevitably be a small and somewhat idiosyncratic sample. However, we will also focus on more general issues and generic skills in empirical analysis that have wider applicability in international relations research beyond the specific readings assigned. The course will also focus on how to go beyond consuming or evaluating the research of others to become active contributors and improve on existing research.

Prerequisites: POLS 2160 or POLS 2170 or permission of instructor

Attendance: I will be taking attendance at each class meeting. To successfully participate in the class, you need to attend regularly, arrive on time, come prepared, having carefully completed the readings, be able to ask and answer relevant questions, and be prepared to
participate in group exercises. If a student misses a class it is her/his responsibility to ask the Instructor what class materials he/she missed, get the missed material from one of your classmates, review it carefully, and then if you have any questions, come to see me during my office hours.

Class Format: In order to achieve these aforementioned objectives, we will rely on a mixture of lectures, active learning exercises, facilitated discussions, films, and other supplementary material. Rather than sitting passively and listening to hours of lectures, students are required to come to class familiar with the assigned material and ready to participate in our discussions.

Laboratory/Field Experience: None

Readings: To be announced the first day of classes

Paper/Projects: Since this class provides a broad overview of different theoretical perspectives, views, and themes, students are required to write a research paper. This research paper provides students an opportunity to more closely explore issues and concepts related to the topic of war by using structured datasets such as COW, POLITY, and the Armed Conflict for quantitative analysis. The goal of the paper is for students to do additional outside reading, to explore how the literature on ethnic conflict, inter-state disputes, or intra-state disputes has been applied to a particular issue(s) related to the topic of war in the modern age, and to reach your own conclusions about how well the literature explains the selected issue(s) and how the literature could be refined.

Evaluation: Take-home final exam; Research project