What is the role of the military-industrial complex and the arms trade? What are the economic causes and consequences of civil wars and international conflicts? What are the economic conditions for resolving wars and building and maintaining peace?

There are many different economic theories used to examine the problems of war and peace-building in the world today, and thus to answer such questions. In this course, we begin by surveying the historical and current debates concerning the economic and noneconomic conditions and consequences of war. Then, we study the main concepts of neoclassical economics (the predominant economic theory in the United States and around the world), the Marxian critique of political economy, and the different approaches to international trade and development utilized by neoclassical and Marxian economists. Finally, in the remainder of the course, we turn to a series of key topics in the political economy of war and peace, especially the economic causes and consequences of national and international conflicts and the conditions that need to be in place to end such wars.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

All students are expected to complete the assigned readings, before the material is covered in class, and to participate in classroom discussions. Grading will, in addition, be based on weekly essays and a final research paper. The weekly essays, each approximately 400-500 words, are due each Tuesday in class. The purpose of the essays is to “grapple” with the readings—to formulate the main themes, to raise the interesting issues, to pose the key questions—in preparation for the classroom discussions. I will be looking for serious, thoughtful, and well-written critical engagements with the readings. The other assignment is a final paper, 3750-5000 words, on the material in the course in relation to a specific topic in the political economy of war and peace. You need to submit an abstract and reading list by 17 April. The final paper is due at the regularly scheduled final exam time.
TEXTS AND READINGS

Three books have been ordered for the course: Mary Kaldor’s *New and Old Wars: Organized Violence in a Global Era* (2nd ed.); *Rethinking the Economics of War: The Intersection of Need, Creed, and Greed*, edited by C. J. Arnson and I. W. Zartman; and *The Political Economy of Armed Conflict: Beyond Greed and Grievance*, edited by Karen Ballentine and Jake Sherman. They can be purchased at the campus bookstore. You can purchase a fourth required book, Richard D. Wolff and Stephen A. Resnick’s *Economics: Marxian versus Neoclassical*, from one of the usual online sources. All other readings are available on electronic reserve.

INTRODUCTION [17 January]


IT’S NOT (ONLY) ECONOMICS [24 January]


HISTORY & OVERVIEW OF THE DEBATES [31 January]


AT THE MOVIES [7 February]

E. Jarecki, Why We Fight (Culver City, CA: Sony Pictures Home Entertainment, 2006)

NEOCLASSICAL ECONOMIC THEORY [14 & 21 February]


cases:


MARXIAN CRITIQUE OF POLITICAL ECONOMY [28 February]

case:


GLOBALIZATION & DEVELOPMENT [6 March]


cases:


CAUSES OF WAR

- Imperialism, Trade & the Military-Industrial Complex [20 March]


  K. Mani, “*Militares Empresarios*: Approaches to Studying the Military as an Economic


cases:


- Poverty, Inequality & Underdevelopment [27 March]


cases:


• Resources [3 April]


O. Dube and J. Vargas, “Commodity Price Shocks and Civil Conflict: Evidence from Colombia,” CERAC - Centro de Recursos para el Análisis de Conflictos (December 2006)

cases:


CONDITIONS AND CONSEQUENCES OF WAR [10 April]

• Conditions of War


cases:


• Consequences of War


cases:


PREVENTING WAR/BUILDING PEACE

• Sanctions & International Institutions [17 April]  > ABSTRACT DUE


cases:


- Development, Aid & NGOs [24 April]


cases:


IN LIEU OF A CONCLUSION [1 May]


