POLITICAL SCIENCE 154: Peace and Conflict

Fall Quarter 2012  Professor Erik Gartzke
Tuesdays 109 Center  Office: 327 SSB (Poli Sci)
5:00 PM - 7:50 PM  Phone: (858) 534-8211
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Course Description:
Peace has been sought after and debated since earliest times. Intellectual traditions in the study of
peace are diverse, but few theories offer claims that are readily verifiable or that are solid enough
in terms of their logic to persuade large numbers of people over the long term. Modern world
history is punctuated by repeated claims that war has become obsolete. Yet, war recurs. The
recurrence of war (if not its regularity) has lead some to argue that warfare is endemic to human
nature (or the nature of all living things?), and thus that the search for peace is foolish or worse.
How is one to know whether (and when) peace can be achieved? What theories are credible when
arguments are imperfect and evidence is incomplete? How can one improve the study of peace in
an era of contrasting cues and rising global consequences? This course examines these questions.

Course Requirements:
• **Class Participation (20% of course grade):** Come to class prepared to discuss and assert
your ideas. There is a **much larger premium** on being willing to talk than on being ‘right.’
• **Quizzes (40% of course grade):** Each class begins with a short quiz. The quizzes are easy
if you have done the readings for that session. The objective is just to keep you reading.
• **Final Exam (40% of course grade):** The final for the course is a written essay exam. The
questions will be given out one week before the final. You will have a degree of choice.

Note #1: Students are encouraged to study and learn together. However, all written assignments
must be the sole product of the person submitting the work. Don’t cheat and don’t plagiarize.

Note #2: It is your responsibility to apprise me of any factor that may interfere with your ability to
perform in this class well in advance of scheduled assignments. Appropriate measures for
disabilities and other concerns will be taken in accordance with University of California policy.

Note #3: In order to document requests, students seeking a change of grade must prepare a written
memo detailing his or her request and citing reasons for requesting the proposed change.

Required Texts:
Title: The Causes of War, 3rd ed.
Author: Geoffrey Blainey, Publisher: Free Press, ISBN: 978-0029035917

Title: Peace: A History of Movements and Ideas
Author: David Cortright, Publisher: Cambridge, ISBN: 978-0521670005

Title: Approaches to Peace: A Reader in Peace Studies
Author: David P. Barash, Publisher: Oxford, ISBN: 978-0195382860
WEEK 1: October 2 How Pragmatic is Peace? Cortright Ch. 1


WEEK 2: October 9 Why War? Blainey Ch. 1, 9 Cortright Ch. 2 Barash Ch. 1


Optional:

WEEK 3: October 16 Theories of Cooperation Cortright Ch. 3 Barash Ch. 2


Optional:
WEEK 4: October 23 The Liberal Tradition

Kant, Immanuel 1795. *Perpetual Peace: A Philosophical Sketch.*

Wilson, Woodrow. 1918. “Speech on the Fourteen Points.”

Optional:

WEEK 5: October 30 Democratic Peace


Optional:

WEEK 6: November 6 International Organizations

Optional:


WEEK 7: November 13 Interdependence/Globalization

Blainey Ch. 2, 4, 17
Cortright Ch. 7, 15


Optional:


WEEK 8: November 20 Being Civil

Cortright Ch. 8, 14
Barash Ch. 6


Optional:


WEEK 9: November 27 Terrorism


Optional:
• Li, Quan. “Does Democracy Promote or Reduce Transnational Terrorist Incidents?” Journal of Conflict Resolution 49(2):278-297.

WEEK 10: December 4 Debating the Durability of Peace


Optional:

FINAL EXAM: 7:00 PM – 9:59 PM, Friday December 14, Room: TBA