Course Title:
Problems in International Relations: Decisions for War

Course Number:
PSC 5550-221

Course Description:
The course examines the decision for war in American foreign policy from historical, theoretical, and practical perspectives. By what logic, political calculations, moral perspectives, or sheer madness do rulers decide upon war? Class discussion will take up the causes of war as well as the question of how diplomats and statesmen react once they throw themselves and their armies into the breach. Discussion and assignments will focus on three cases studies: Shakespeare’s Henry V; Robert McNamara and the Vietnam War; and George W. Bush and the Iraq War.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:
Dates: November 1-6, 2016
Location: SHAPE, Belgium. See Site Director for classroom location.
Hours: Tuesday - Friday 6:00-9:30 pm; Saturday and Sunday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: October 3, 2016

Site Director:
Email: apshape@ou.edu Phone: 065-44-3654; DSN 423-3654.

Professor Contact Information:
Course Professor: Greg Russell, Ph.D.
Mailing Address: Department of Political Science
University of Oklahoma, 205 DAHT
Norman, Oklahoma 73019
Telephone Number: (405) 325-2061
E-mail Address: grussell@ou.edu
Professor availability: The professor will be available via e-mail to students before and after the class sessions. On-site office hours are half an hour before and after each class session, by appointment.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:
Student materials are available at the OU Follett Bookstore located at 1185 Asp Avenue; Norman, OK, and can be ordered online, by phone, by email, or by fax. Ordering online at http://www.bksstr.com/oklahomastore/home is strongly recommended – students can track the status of their order within 48 hours. If an order has not been shipped within three days, students can contact the Follett textbook manager by phone (405) 325-3511, (800) 522-0772 (toll-free) or email 0831mgr@fheg.follett.com. Phone orders (ask for the textbook manager and identify yourself as an Advanced Programs student) can be placed 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday (CST). Summer hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday (CST). Fax orders can be placed 24 hours a day at (405) 325-7770. Text prices are available online.

Note: The Follett/AP Bookstore is the Advanced Programs contractual textbook provider. Should text changes become necessary after publication of the course syllabus, Advanced Programs will facilitate text returns/refunds only for texts purchased through the Follett/AP Bookstore.

Course Objectives:

- To understand the causes of war: levels of analysis.
- To assess the moral, political, and philosophical considerations involved in decisions for war.
- To understand how international perspectives of Realism and Liberalism relate to war.
- To assess the perspectives and requirements of foreign policy decision-makers.
- To recognize American foreign policy traditions that relate to national security.

Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:

1. Students are expected to read:
   a. before the first class meeting: Shakespeare (entire); McNamara, Chapters 1-4
   b. before the second meeting: McNamara, Chapters 5-8.
   c. before the third class meeting, McNamara, Chapters 9-11
   d. before the fourth class meeting: review all materials
   e. before the fifth class, Woodward, Prologue & Chapters 1-17
   f. before the sixth class, Woodward, Chapters 18-36 & Epilogue

2. **Students must attend all class sessions** for the entire period of the class. Any absence or missed time will lead to at least one letter grade penalty from the final course grade.

3. Students are expected to participate actively in class discussion of the material. Students must read all the assigned material before coming to class and contribute as much as possible to the discussions in class. The value of a graduate class is in the sharing of knowledge and perspective that each participant brings to the sessions.

4. A mid-term essay examination will be administered on Friday, and a cumulative final exam will be administered on Sunday. Both examinations will cover material from the assigned readings, class discussion, and DVD presentations.

Grading:

This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F.

Final grades will be calculated as follows: 20% class participation; 35% mid-term examination; and 45% final examination. Grades will be determined by the quality of the written work and class participation. The professor reserves the right to adjust grades in borderline cases depending on the quality of an individual’s in-class participation of discussion.

Notice: Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.
POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution’s policy regarding “I” (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy. Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any “I” (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on “financial aid probation.” If the “I” grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student’s Financial Aid may be suspended make the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Integrity and Student Conduct

Academic integrity means honesty and responsibility in scholarship. Academic assignments exist to help students learn; grades exist to show how fully this goal is attained. Therefore all work and all grades should result from the student's own understanding and effort.

Academic misconduct is any act which improperly affects the evaluation of a student’s academic performance or achievement. Misconduct occurs when the student either knows or reasonably should know that the act constitutes misconduct. Academic misconduct includes: cheating and using unauthorized materials on examinations and other assignments; improper collaboration, submitting the same assignment for different classes (self-plagiarism); fabrication, forgery, alteration of documents, lying, etc…in order to obtain an academic advantage; assisting others in academic misconduct; attempting to commit academic misconduct; destruction of property, hacking, etc…; intimidation and interference with integrity process; and plagiarism. All students should review the Student’s Guide to Academic Integrity at http://integrity.ou.edu/students_guide.html

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. All students should review policies regarding student conduct at http://studentconduct.ou.edu/

Accommodation Statement

The University of Oklahoma is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your local OU Site Director.

Course Policies

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course. Advanced Programs does not provide duplicating services or office supplies.

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: http://www.goou.ou.edu/
INSTRUCTOR VITA
Greg Russell, Ph.D.

Education
• 1987 Ph.D., Political Science, Louisiana State University
• 1979 M.A., Political Science, East Texas State University
• 1977 B.A., Political Science, East Texas State University

Current Positions
• Advanced Programs professor since 1991
• Professor of Political Science, University of Oklahoma

Frequently Taught Advanced Programs Courses
• PSC 5550 Problems In International Relations
• PSC 5513 International Relations Theory

Major Areas Of Teaching and Research Interest
• American Diplomatic History
• International Relations
• American Foreign Policy

Representative Publications and Presentations