

COURSE OUTLINE

History 136
War: History, Causes, Solutions

I. Catalog Statement

History 136 explores the history, causes, and potential solutions to the problems of war. The history of individual wars is examined with a broader picture of war in general, including ancient warfare, the Middle Passage, the rise of modern war, and the development of total war. An interdisciplinary approach is taken in exploring the immediate causes of war, including historical, economic, political, anthropological, sociological, and psychological causes. The course probes moral and philosophical aspect for the ultimate causes of war. Finally, solutions are considered, including diplomacy, treaties, the United Nations, a one-world government, and the dismantling of nation-states.

Total Lecture Units: 3.0

Total Course Units: 3.0

Total Lecture Hours: 48.0

Total Faculty Contact Hours: 48.0

Recommended preparation eligibility for English 101.

Note: This course cannot be taken for credit for students who have completed SOC S 136.

II. Course Entry Expectations

Skills Level Ranges: Reading 6, Writing 6, Listening/Speaking 6, Math 2.

Prior to enrolling in the course, the student should be able to:

1. Read at the 12th grade level or higher;
2. understand abstract and complex collegiate reading selections;
3. write an organized and grammatically correct essay which focuses on a central idea and employs specific details; complete a research paper, write essay exams, or complete other types of writing assignments;
4. communicate learning, conceptual understanding and critical analysis skills through writing research papers, essay exams, or other types of writing assignments;
5. learn material through class discussion and lecture;
6. add, subtract, multiply, and divide using whole numbers, fractions, and decimals and convert fractions and decimals to percentages.

III. Course Exit Standards

Upon successful completion of the required coursework, the student will be able to:

1. compare and contrast periods in the history of war, including ancient, medieval and modern periods;
2. identify and evaluate causes of specific wars in order to better historical, economic, and political causes;
3. examine and evaluate immediate causes of wars, including historical, economic, and political causes;
4. explore deeper causes of wars, including anthropological, sociological, and psychological causes;
5. review theories on the ultimate causes of war in the form of morality and philosophy;
6. consider possible solutions to war, including those of the past such as diplomacy treaties, and leagues of nations; and those of the future, including a one-world government or the dismantling of the nation-state;
7. use critical thinking skills in the analysis of the understanding of causes and effect relationships.

IV. Course Content**Total Faculty Contact Hours = 48 hours**

A. Background	1.5 hours
1. Introduction	
2. Thesis statement	
3. Definitions	
B. Problems and consequences	4.5 hours
1. Definition of war	
2. The cost of war in dollars	
3. The cost of war in lives	
4. The consequences of a nuclear war	
5. The nuclear winter scenario	
C. Predicting wars	1.5 hours
1. The statistics of deadly quarrels—L.F. Richardson	
2. Parallels of World War I and II and predictions for III	
D. The horrors of war	3 hours
E. The horrors of holocausts	
1. The final solution	
2. The American holocaust of the Indians and Dee Brown	
3. My Lai	
F. The history of war	10.5 hours
1. Prehistory: 7000 B.B. to 1500 B.C.	
2. The Middle Passage: 1500 B.C. to 1500 A.D.	

3. The development of modern warfare: 1453-1793
 4. The rise of modern total war: 1793-World War II
 5. The Cold War
- G. The proximate causes 12 hours
1. Evolutionary causes
 2. Psychological causes
 - a. Brainwashing
 - b. Persuasion
 - c. Obedience to authority
 - d. De-individuation
 - e. Role playing
 - f. Compliance
 - g. Internalization
 - h. Cognitive dissonance
 - i. Identification
 - j. Social facilitation
 - k. Diffusion of responsibility
 3. Political causes
 - a. Rise of the nation-state
 - b. Manifest destiny
 - c. Defense and retaliation
 - d. Failure of uniting nations
 4. Revolutionary zeal: the struggle between ideology and utopia, the status quo and the will to change
 5. Economic causes
 - a. The practical economics of war
 - b. Economic wealth and the frequency of wars
 - c. Trade intervention
- H. The ultimate causes: absolute morality 6 hours
- I. Solutions 9 hours
1. Education
 2. Relative morality
 3. Elimination of national authorities
 4. One world government
 5. Dismantling the nation states

V. **Methods of Instruction**

The following methods of instruction may be used in the course:

1. lectures;
2. student individual or group presentations;
3. multimedia;
4. online (Including hybrid, blogs, discussion groups, etc.

VI. Out of Class Assignments

The following out of class assignments may be used in the course:

1. essay (e.g. summarize and critique one of Howard Zinn's readings from Power that were assigned in this class);
2. blog response (e.g. write a short response to the questions in the Bog website, making sure to use evidence to support your position. Then comment on two other students' Blog responses);
3. research paper (e.g. write a research paper based on secondary materials to be evaluated in graded steps. The paper will argue for a cause of a specific war in human history).

VII. Methods of Evaluation

The following methods of evaluation may be used in the courses:

1. midterm examinations;
2. student paper (e.g.)
3. student portfolio of work (e.g.);
4. final examination.

VIII. Textbook(s)

Blainey, Geoffrey. The Causes of War, 3rd edition
New York: Simon & Schuster,
12th Grade Reading Level. ISBN: 0-02-903591-0

IX. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the required coursework in War: History, Causes, Solutions, the student will be able to:

1. identify and evaluate causes of specific wars in order to better understand the general causes of war;
2. examine and evaluate immediate causes of wars, including historical, economic, and political causes;
3. consider possible solutions to war, including those of the past such as diplomacy, treaties, and leagues of nations; and those of the future, including a one-world government or the dismantling of the nation state.