

War in the 20th Century

Last Updated: Thu, 07/10/2025

Course prefix: INTA

Course number: 3012-A

Section: 3012

CRN (you may add up to five):
89018

Instructor First Name: Robert

Instructor Last Name: Hines

Semester: Fall

Academic year: 2025

Course description:

In the twentieth century, warfare underwent profound transformations, leading to some of the most violent conflicts in world history. In this course, students learn about conceptual and theoretical frameworks about warfare, including its causes, its duration, and deterrence. The course then applies these concepts about the nature of war to some of the most violent interstate wars in the twentieth century. The course concludes by examining contemporary topics and research in the study of war.

This course surveys prominent research on warfare and the use of force, and it applies these concepts to the study of major wars in the twentieth century. The first part of the course focuses on important concepts and theories related to warfare and the use of force. In the second part of the course, students will apply these concepts to prominent wars in the twentieth century, including World War I, World War II, The Korean War, The Cold War, the Vietnam War, the Iraq War, and the Afghanistan War. The third part of the course focuses on contemporary research and topics in the study of warfare.

Course learning outcomes:

By the end of this course, students should be able to:

- Evaluate theoretical concepts about the causes of war, its duration, and other concepts in international security.
- Apply and assess theoretical concepts on the causes of war through a series of cases on prominent wars in the 20th century.
- Draw upon concepts and lessons learned from prominent wars of the 20th century to consider elements of continuity and change and the nature and conduct of war, and

apply lessons learned to contemporary concepts such as the rise of China.

Required course materials:

Most readings for this course are available online through the Georgia Tech Library or are open access. I have uploaded any readings that are not available through the library or online on Canvas. Students are not required to purchase any materials for this course. Reading must be completed before each class. Students are responsible for all assigned readings, even if the material is not explicitly discussed in class.

Grading policy:

Grading Scale

Assignment

Weight (Percentage)

Class Participation

15%

Weekly Reflections

15%

Midterm Exam

35%

Final Essay

35%

Your final grade will be assigned as a letter grade according to the following scale:

A 90-100%

B 80-89%

C 70-79%

D 60-69%

F 0-59%

Attendance policy:

Your success in this course depends on careful preparation for and active engagement in seminar discussions. You are expected to read and study all assigned materials, come to

class prepared to contribute to the seminar, and engage in thoughtful and critical discussions with your classmates and instructor. Attendance is a prerequisite for participation.

Academic honesty/integrity statement:

Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. All work submitted must be original and properly cited. Plagiarism, cheating, or any form of academic dishonesty will result in immediate consequences as outlined in the university's academic integrity policy.

Core IMPACTS statement(s) (if applicable):

This is a Core IMPACTS course that is part of the Social Sciences area.

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help students master course content, and support students' broader academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I understand human experiences and connections?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:

- Students will effectively analyze the complexity of human behavior, and how historical, economic, political, social, or geographic relationships develop, persist, or change.

Course content, activities, and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Intercultural Competence
- Perspective-Taking
- Persuasion