The seminar will focus on the following key themes: Is international security fundamentally changing in the 21st century? Is war in decline or just changing its character? We will start with the argument that following the end of the Cold War the world has been transformed and has become much more peaceful. In this context, we’ll address the debate on the changing concept of security. The key advocates of this change are what we might call “Liberal Optimists.” In contrast, realists, especially Offensive Realists, highlight the basic continuity under international anarchy, though many of the realists, especially defensive ones, recognize the revolutionary effects which nuclear weapons have on international security. Others focus on the effects of the transition to unipolarity following the collapse of the Soviet Union and the rise of the US as the sole superpower. Another school argues, however, that even though warfare continues to dominate international security, war changes its character toward civil war, violent non-state actors, asymmetric warfare, ethnic conflict, violence in failed states, terrorism or “clash of civilizations.” This approach can be called “The New Conflict Pessimists.” We’ll examine the argument that variations in the level of state capacity and nationalism can capture some of the major variations in war and peace in different parts of the world by looking at different regions. Indeed, there seem to be major differences in the security challenges in regions such as Europe and South America in contrast to the Middle East, Africa and South Asia on the one hand and East Asia and the post-Soviet on the other hand.

We’ll conclude with a discussion on the prospects for war and peace in the 21st century.

Requirements:

1. An active participation in classes, based on a critical discussion of the readings. A considerable part of the readings is only under “recommended,” though it can be useful for the assignments—the presentations, simulations and esp. the final paper. Each of the mandatory readings is marked by both a number and an asterisk (*); the recommended readings, for their part, are not marked by numbers or asterisks.
2. A very brief class presentation based on critical reading of the bibliography.

3. An active participation in occasional simulations of war and peace issues based on the competing views of the various approaches to security.

4. A Final Paper—applying the debate on the future of war and peace to one region or two. Length: up to 20 pages, double-space using 12 font.

Requirements/Grading:

1. Final paper—60%
2. Oral Presentation(s), including participation in simulations - 20%
3. Class Participation - 20%

Key books for the Seminar:


**Week I: Is the War in Decline: The Great Debate on War and Security in the Post-Cold War Era—An Overview**


4. * Samuel Huntington, "The clash of civilizations." Foreign Affairs (Summer 1993), vol. 72, no. 3.

**Recommended:**


**WEEK II: The Concept of Security**


The post-Cold War Expansion of the Security Concept


**Types of War and Peace: Hot and Cold--**


**Additionally recommended on** the security concept and its post-Cold War expansion:


Week III: Fundamental Change in International security: The Liberal Optimists and Changing Ideas and Norms


Recommended on the Optimists in general:


Globalization and economic interdependence:


Recommended:


Norms and Ideas:


WEEK IV: The Democratic Peace vs. Democratization and War
(a potential simulation on democracy and peace)


Recommended:


Week V.: Back to the Future: Offensive Realism and the Balance Of Power


Recommended:


Week VI: Continuity: Defensive Realism, The Security dilemma, Offense-defense and the nuclear revolution (Class simulation)


**Recommended:**


(Or: For post-9/11 Kurthammer’s view of unipolarity, see his National Interest piece: “The unipolar moment revisited: America, the benevolent empire.” (Winter 2002-03).


**Recommended:**


**Or:** Benjamin Miller, "Integrated Realism and Hegemonic Military Intervention in Unipolarity," in Andrew K. Hanami (ed.), *Structural Realism After the Cold War* (New York: Palgrave, 2003).


An earlier version is of this book: Special issue of *World Politics*, vol. 61, no. 1 (January 2009): “IR Theory and the Consequences of Unipolarity.”


WEEK VIII. The Pessimists: Is War Changing its Character? (SIMULATION)


Recommended:


Week IX. Stateness, Nationalism, War and Peace


**Recommended:**


Hagen, William W. (July/August 1999). "The Balkans' lethal nationalisms." Foreign Affairs, vol. 78, no. 4

**WEEK X-III Continuity or Change: Regional Application**

**WEEK X. The End of War--Peaceful regions: Europe/S. America**


**Recommended:**


**WEEK XI. War Changing its character: The Middle East (briefly also South Asia/Africa)**


3.* Miller, Benjamin (October-December 2006) “Balance of Power or the State-to-Nation Balance: Explaining Middle East War-Propensity." *Security Studies vol. 15, no.4.*


**Recommended:**

Benjamin Miller, “The ‘Arab Spring’ and the Post-Cold War International Order,” *ISA: Toronto*; March 2014.


**Week XII: Continuity? East Asia and the Post-Soviet regions**


**Recommended:**


**WEEK XIII: Students’ Presentations of their Papers**

**WEEK XIV. Integrating Competing Paths to Peace**

1. *. Benjamin Miller, States, Nations and Great Powers: The Sources of Regional War and


**Recommended:**


**Additionally Recommended Readings (might be useful for the final paper)**

**Non-systemic causes of conflict and war:**

**Diversionary Wars**


**Territorial Conflicts**


**Ethnic conflict and civil war**


David, Steven R. (July 1997). "Review article: internal wars." *World Politics*. Or: