

Defense and Peace Economics
ECON 695-C01
Summer 2017 (Session C, June 26 – July 29)
M, W, F: 7:00 – 10:00pm
Music/Theater Building 1004

Professor Christopher J. Coyne
Department of Economics
Mason Hall D101
ccoyne3@gmu.edu
Office hours by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course uses the tools of economics to explore various aspects of conflict, defense, and peace. Students will learn how to apply concepts from microeconomics to a variety of issues related to domestic defense and international relations. Among the topics covered are: an exploration of why conflict occurs, different forms of conflict, the arms trade, terrorism, torture, alternatives to conflict and war (e.g., sanctions), nation building, humanitarian intervention, and the impact of different political and economic systems on the likelihood of peace or conflict.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

The reading for this course comes from the books and journal articles listed below. You are expected to do all of the required readings and come to class prepared to engage in active discussion.

Required Books:

Sharp, Gene. 1973 [2012]. *The Politics of Nonviolent Action, Pt. 1: Power and Struggle*. Porter Sargent Publishers. <https://tinyurl.com/kasd2t9>

Van Buren, Peter. 2012. *We Meant Well: How I Helped Lose the Battle for the Hearts and Minds of the Iraqi People*. Metropolitan Books. <https://tinyurl.com/m9kfo4h>

SCHEDULED OUTLINE OF COURSE EVENTS:

1. What is Defense & Peace Economics? (June 26)

Michael Intriligator. 1990. "On the Nature and Scope of Defence Economics," *Defence Economics* 1(1): 3-11.

Coyne, Christopher J. 2015. "Lobotomizing the Defense Brain," *The Review of Austrian Economics*, 28(4): 371-396.
http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2486268

2. Why Wars are Waged (June 28)

Thomas C. Schelling. 1956. "An Essay on Bargaining," *American Economic Review* 46(3): 281-306.

<http://userpages.umbc.edu/~nmiller/POLI388/BARGAINING.TCS.pdf>

3. Terrorism (June 30)

Apuzzo, Matt. 2016. "Who Will Become a Terrorist? Research Yields Few Clues," *The New York Times*, March 27.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2016/03/28/world/europe/mystery-about-who-will-become-a-terrorist-defies-clear-answers.html>

John Mueller and Mark G. Stewart. 2011. "Terror, Security, and Money: Balancing the Risks, Benefits, and Costs of Homeland Security"

<http://politicalscience.osu.edu/faculty/jmueller/MID11TSM.PDF>

Graeme Wood. 2015. "What ISIS Really Wants," *The Nation*, March.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/features/archive/2015/02/what-isis-really-wants/384980/>

4. Monday, July 3, No Class, University Closed for Independence Day**5. Torture & Civil War (July 5)**

Alfred McCoy. 2005. "Cruel Science: CIA Torture and U.S. Foreign Policy," *New England Journal of Public Policy* 19(2): 209-262.

<http://scholarworks.umb.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1148&context=nejpp>

6. Civil War, Coups, and Sanctions (July 7)

Robert Pape. 1997. "Why Sanctions Do Not Work," *International Security* 22(2): 90-136.

http://web.stanford.edu/class/ips216/Readings/pape_97%20%28jstor%29.pdf

Gordon Tullock. 1971. "The Paradox of Revolution," *Public Choice* 11: 89-99.

7. Sanctions, Alliances & Arms Races (July 10)

Thomas C. Schelling. 1957. "Bargaining, Communication, and Limited War," *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 1(1): 19-36.

8. The Defense Industrial Base & Defense Procurement (July 12)

Gene Sharp, *The Politics of Nonviolent Action*, Introduction (by Thomas Schelling), Introduction to part one, & Chapter 1

9. Defense Procurement & The Defense Industrial Base and the U.S. Economy in the 1940s (July 14)

Gene Sharp, *The Politics of Nonviolent Action*, Chapter 2

10. Drones (July 17)

Gary M. Anderson and Adam Gifford Jr. 1995. "Order out of Anarchy: The International Law of War," *Cato Journal* 15(1): 25-38.
<https://object.cato.org/sites/cato.org/files/serials/files/cato-journal/1995/5/cj15n1-2.pdf>

James Fallows. 2015. "The Tragedy of the American Military," *The Atlantic*, January/February.
<https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/archive/2015/01/the-tragedy-of-the-american-military/383516/>

11. The Arms Trade & The Political Economy of Occupation and Nation Building (July 19)

Van Buren, *We Meant Well*, pp. 3-74 ("Help Wanted, No Experience Necessary," through "Water and Sewage")

12. International Humanitarian Action (July 21)

Van Buren, *We Meant Well*, pp. 75-134 ("Democracy in Iraq" through "Some Chick Event")

13. The Realities of Humanitarian Action (July 24)

Van Buren, *We Meant Well*, pp. 135-192 ("Widowed Tractors, Bees for Widows" through "Sex")

14. Defense Expenditures and Growth (July 26)

Van Buren, *We Meant Well*, pp. 193-262 ("General Anxiety" through "Exhaling: Leaving Iraq")

15. Closing Remarks & Final Journals Due (July 28)

GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS:

Your final grade is based on regular quizzes and a journal maintained throughout the semester.

Quizzes

Quizzes constitute 50% of your overall grade. Quizzes will be given at the beginning of each class and will be based solely on the readings listed above for each class. There are no makeup quizzes and students must be on time to receive a quiz. Once collected, quizzes will not be distributed to latecomers. I will drop one quiz when calculating your final grade.

Journals

Your journal constitutes 50% of your overall grade.

Details of the semester-long journal exercise will be handed out and discussed during the first class meeting.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY:

Cheating will not be tolerated and can result in a failing grade, dismissal from class, and expulsion from the university. If I suspect you of cheating, I will seek the appropriate punishment under George Mason University guidelines. Please review the George Mason University Honor System and Code:

<http://www.gmu.edu/academics/catalog/9798/honorcod.html>