

# Minnesota State University Moorhead

## POL 314: War and the Modern World

### A. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Credits: 3

Lecture Hours/Week: 3

Lab Hours/Week: \*.\*

OJT Hours/Week: \*.\*

Prerequisites: None

Corequisites: None

MnTC Goals: Goal 08 - Global Perspective

This course examines world military affairs and patterns of warfare from mid-eighteenth century to the present day. Particular attention will be given to the interplay of cultural, political, and technological factors in the formation of military institutions and in the experience of warfare by diverse constituencies in the participating groups. MnTC Goal 8.

**B. COURSE EFFECTIVE DATES:** 08/22/2011 - Present

### C. OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS

1. What is modern war?
2. Wars of the empires
3. Wars of the Great Powers
4. Wars of the Soviet Successor States
5. Wars of Regional Ascendancy
6. Wars of the American Empire
7. Wars of the Blue Helmets: Peacekeeping
8. The Theorists at War
9. Information War
10. Asymmetrical Warfare and Marginal Actors

### D. LEARNING OUTCOMES (General)

1. Know factual information about the actors, causes and outcomes of major conflicts of the modern world
2. Understand the cultural aspects of military operations and the ways in which these decisions reflect the society that orders, finances and supports them.
3. Understand the means by which states and international organizations attempt to avert war
4. Examine the Cold War between the Soviet Union and the United States, with emphasis on the actual scene of superpower conflict in the Third World and an analysis of the varied levels of power and their interrelationships that made the Cold War unique.
5. Analyze of the origins and structures of insurgency and revolution to include the actual history of specific groups of insurgents and revolutionaries such as the Chinese Communists, the Viet Minh/Viet Cong, and the militant Islamist insurgents.
6. Assess great and middle power military interventions into civil wars during the 1990s and extraordinary security enjoyed by the great and middle powers of the Western world in the Cold War's aftermath.
7. Evaluate turbulent areas in the history of the world, with emphasis on modern political and military issues, to include the Balkans, Israel, Iraq, Afghanistan, and other regions.

## **E. Minnesota Transfer Curriculum Goal Area(s) and Competencies**

### Goal 08 - Global Perspective

1. Describe and analyze political, economic, and cultural elements which influence relations of states and societies in their historical and contemporary dimensions.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of cultural, social, religious and linguistic differences.
3. Analyze specific international problems, illustrating the cultural, economic, and political differences that affect their solution.
4. Understand the role of a world citizen and the responsibility world citizens share for their common global future.

## **F. LEARNER OUTCOMES ASSESSMENT**

As noted on course syllabus

## **G. SPECIAL INFORMATION**

None noted