Welcome to UNT
As members of the UNT community, we have all made a commitment to be part of an institution that respects and values the identities of the students and employees with whom we interact. UNT does not tolerate identity-based discrimination, harassment, and retaliation. UNT’s full Non-Discrimination Policy can be found in the UNT Policies section of the syllabus.

Instructor Information:
Melissa McKay, Ph.D. (she/her)
Office: Hall Park A #125
Email: melissa.mckay@unt.edu
(I will only email students on university accounts)

Student Office Hours:
Virtual: Monday 6:00pm - 7:30pm via Zoom (link in Canvas)
In-person: Monday 12:00pm – 1:00pm, by appointment made via Canvas calendar function
By appointment as available throughout the week

Class Information
Meeting times: Wednesday 5:30 – 8:20pm
Meeting place: Hall Park A #121
Online classroom: https://unt.instructure.com

Course Structure
This is an in-person class presented in a mixed format including assigned reading, lectures, online resources, in-class activities, homework assignments, and exams. You are expected to have read the assigned readings that corresponds to the schedule on the most up to date syllabus schedule, which will be found on Canvas.

Class Communications
Please email me via the Canvas Inbox functionality with any class-related issue and allow me at least 24 hours to get back to you. If you send a note on Friday-Sunday, please expect that I will not write you back until Monday.
Course Description
We begin with the assumption that most people would prefer to live in a peaceful and secure environment than in one torn by conflict, violence, and war. This assumption must be tempered with the observation that war and other forms of violence are all too common features of politics within and between nations: since the end of World War II, there has not been a single day in which there was not a war of some sort going on somewhere in the world. This paradox defines the core purposes of this course: how do we understand the causes and forms of conflict and violence, and how do we understand the conditions and processes that contribute to the resolution of on-going conflicts and violence?

Since this is a political science course, we will focus more on political questions such as the forms and causes of armed conflict, means of conflict resolution, and the conditions that contribute to a durable peace within and between nations. However, the field of peace studies and human security encompasses theories from sociology, anthropology, philosophy, and psychology as well as political science. Insights from these other disciplines will broaden our understanding of the conditions of peace.

Learning objectives:
1. Understand how peace and conflict is studied systematically
2. Understand various ethical perspectives on war and peace
3. Understand theories regarding the causes and resolution of international and civil conflict
4. Explain the various factors affecting human security throughout the world and explain why some human security problems are more prevalent in some countries and under some circumstances than others.
5. Assess and evaluate the relative impact of these human security problems and their potential for leading to long-term harm in the affected countries.
6. Develop one’s own perspective on peace and justice issues

Required Class Materials
   a. This is available in many formats through many retailers.
3. Access to a popular and reliable podcast app (Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Play, etc....)
4. Consistent and reliable access to the internet outside of class in order to be able to complete the reading and embedded assignments. (see below if this becomes an issue)
5. Smart device (smart phone, tablet, laptop, etc.) needed for each class meeting
   a. If you do not have one, you can check out a laptop on campus for daily use

Assignments and Assessments
Final grades are numerically based on the following weighted assignment types:

Exams: 30% of total grade. Two exams are scheduled throughout the semester to assess comprehension of materials covered in the course – at the midterm and at the end of the
semester. Both exams will be comprised of essays. You will be given a choice of prompts based on the materials covered in class, and the goal is for you to be able to demonstrate mastery of the content by applying what you’ve learned by writing responses in your own voice. Exams are open resource and be completed at home and we will not meet as a class the week of the midterm exam.

Please note that any instance of academic dishonesty on any question or portion of a response on an exam will automatically result in a zero for the entire exam, not just that question.

**In-class activities – 15% of total grade.** From time to time we will collaborate in groups or as a class on activities that expand our understanding and application of certain topics. These assignments are often simulations, in-class research assignments, or other collaborative projects that are completed within the class meeting for that week. This can also include small group reading discussions.

**Dr. McKay's Totally Mandatory Book Club: 15% of total grade.** Reading actual books seems to be a lost or at least dying concept, and success in college wholeheartedly depends on your ability to read, comprehend, and interpret your assigned readings. I like to try to incorporate reading relevant and topical books where I can. This semester we will all read “The Better Angels of Our Nature, Why Violence Has Declined” by Steven Pinker and set aside class time throughout the semester to discuss elements and findings of this book. Assignments will consist of a brief ‘quiz’ due each week we have Book Club that recap your comprehension of the book, and/or in-class discussion participation.

**Writing Assignments -15% of total grade.** There are two writing assignments, the first is due at the midterm, the second is due near the end of the semester (please see Canvas for exact dates for both). First, you will identify one non-governmental organization (NGO) that focuses its work in the peace community and complete a dossier on this firm. As we learn in class, there are many interpretations of peace and thousands of NGO’s to pick from. Second, you will identify one of the topics we cover throughout the semester and do a deeper dive into that concept. It could be a topic we covered indirectly, one closely related to a unit we cover, or one that you think should have been included in the semester. Complete details and thorough instructions for both writing assignments will be found in Canvas.

**Reading Notes -15% of total grade.** We do a lot of our learning this semester through assigned readings. These include peer-reviewed journal articles, news articles, NGO reports, and other relevant information. Some of these readings will be found in the assigned book (Mason and Meernik), others will be uploaded to Canvas or linked elsewhere. To help students keep track of the pertinent information from each reading and remember key takeaways, keeping structured notes is a graded assignment. Instructions and a template for these notes are found in Canvas.

**Engagement and Participation – 10% of total grade.** This is an interactive class and it requires commitment and engagement from everyone involved. Your in-class participation will be noted and contribute to your overall grade. Students begin the semester with 100 percent for participation grade. **Points will be deducted** if a student repeatedly fails to meet expectations for participation, professionalism, and respect for others in this class. Once deducted from the
grade, there is no make-up opportunity to replenish points lost. A rubric of points and examples that can be deducted is included in the Canvas assignment page associated with this grade. Although attendance will not directly contribute to your overall grade it will be recorded each week.

**Recap of assignments and assessments:**
- Exams (2) – 30% total
- Writing Assignments (2) – 15%
- In-class activities – 15%
- Book Club – 15%
- Reading Notes – 15%
- Engagement and participation – 10%

**Letter grades are assigned based on standard grade scales:**
Final grades will be based on the weighted outcomes of the assignments above. *I use standard mathematical rounding where proper.*

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<tr>
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<td>A</td>
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**Notes about grading**
1. All assignments will be due by 11:59pm on Sundays. If you’re sick or have a university excused absence, contact me to work out an extension – do not assume an extension automatically exists.
2. You are able to turn in book club assignments and reading notes up to seven (7) days late for up to 50% credit. After 7 days, no credit will be given for late work.
3. **Please do not request extra credit.** If there is an activity that I feel would be relevant I will offer it to the entire class. I cannot and definitely will not provide extra credit opportunities for individual students. If you email me to ask for individual extra credit, I will not respond. Don’t take that personally, just know that I don’t entertain individual extra credit requests.
4. If you have any questions about the way an assignment was graded, if there is an issue with a potential error in grading, or any other question regarding a recorded grade on an assignment or exam, you have 14 days to raise the question or dispute a grade in writing via Canvas “Inbox” communications. After 14 days, I will not return to an older, closed assignment to re-grade or reconsider. (please do not passively ask me before or after class).

*If you feel like your grades are slipping or you are falling behind, please reach out to me immediately. Too many students wait until their semester progress is a lost cause, but if we catch it early enough we can most likely work together on a plan of action.*

**Class Policies**

**Attendance**
Attendance at every class meeting is expected. In addition to the engagement grade, I am required to take attendance at the beginning of every class for COVID contact tracing purposes.
Excessive absences of five or more missed classes (outside of being ill) may be cause for failing this class.

**A few notes about attendance:**
- If you are absent, assigned work is still due unless you have made arrangements with me prior.
- You do not need to let me know if you won’t be in class and please do not email me asking what you missed. Check the LMS, refer to the syllabus, and ask a classmate for any missed notes or other insight into what you missed. It is your responsibility to stay on top of your progress.

**Technical Support**
Part of working with digital content involves dealing with the inconveniences and frustration that can arise when technology breaks down or does not perform as expected. Here at UNT we have a Student Help Desk that you can contact for help with Canvas or other technology issues. **Please do not rely on me for technical support – trust me, I am not the person for that.**

**UIT Help Desk:** [UIT Student Help Desk site](http://www.unt.edu/helpdesk/index.htm)
**Email:** helpdesk@unt.edu
**Telephone Availability:**
- Sunday: noon-midnight
- Monday-Thursday: 8am-midnight
- Friday: 8am-8pm
- Saturday: 9am-5pm

**Rules of Engagement**
Rules of engagement refer to the way students are expected to interact with each other and with their instructors. Here are some general guidelines:
- While the freedom to express yourself is a fundamental human right, any communication that utilizes cruel and derogatory language on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law will not be tolerated.
- Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in any communication online or face-to-face, even when their opinion differs from your own.
- Ask for and use the correct name and pronouns for your instructor and classmates.
- Speak from personal experiences. Use “I” statements to share thoughts and feelings. Try not to speak on behalf of groups or other individual’s experiences.
- Use your critical thinking skills to challenge other people’s ideas, instead of attacking individuals.
- Avoid using all caps while communicating digitally. This may be interpreted as “YELLING!”
- Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm in emails or discussion posts as tone can be difficult to interpret digitally.
- Avoid using “text-talk” or SMS language
- Proofread and fact-check your sources.
- Keep in mind that online posts can be permanent, so think first before you type.
See these Engagement Guidelines for more information.

FERPA and discussing your progress with anyone outside UNT
Federal law prohibits me from discussing your progress, grades, attendance – anything about your participation in my class – with anyone not involved in your education at UNT. I am restricted from confirming you are a student at UNT and/or in any of my classes. In most cases, I will not acknowledge an email sent by a family member, guardian, or any other person. You must have a waiver on file with the university granting faculty permission to speak with a specific individual before we will discuss any student-related topic.

Plagiarism and Cheating
To offer clarity to the UNT policy described below:
• If I uncover any kind of cheating, plagiarism, or other type of academic dishonesty the assignment or exam will automatically receive a zero with no opportunity for resubmission
• It is my discretion to file an academic dishonesty report with the university for the first violation, and I definitely will file a report if there is a second occurrence

Access to reliable internet connection and technology
While it can generally be assumed that UNT campus provides a consistent and reliable connection to the internet, I do not assume that every student has this at home. Nor do I assume everyone has access to their own laptop or dedicated computer to do homework and reading. If you fall into one of these categories, even temporarily, please let me know immediately in the manner that you feel most comfortable. We have access to resources and services that may help bridge a gap where needed.

Food insecurity
We think about Frisco as being a fairly affluent area, but statistics show with unemployment rates and inflation rising, housing and food are becoming more difficult to procure.

UNT at Frisco has a food pantry available to all students, no questions asked. It is stocked with non-perishable items donated by the community as well as stocked by UNT staff and faculty wherever possible. The food pantry also has personal hygiene items.

University Policies

Academic Integrity Standards and Consequences
According to UNT Policy 06.003, Student Academic Integrity, academic dishonesty occurs when students engage in behaviors including, but not limited to cheating, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, forgery, plagiarism, and sabotage. A finding of academic dishonesty may result in a range of academic penalties or sanctions ranging from admonition to expulsion from the University.

ADA Accommodation Statement
UNT makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Accommodation (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide a student with an accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding one's
specific course needs. Students may request accommodations at any time, however, ODA
notices of accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any
delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of accommodation for every
semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. For
additional information see the ODA website at disability.unt.edu.

**Prohibition of Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation (Policy 16.004)**
The University of North Texas (UNT) prohibits discrimination and harassment because of race,
color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age,
disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under
applicable federal or state law in its application and admission processes; educational programs
and activities; employment policies, procedures, and processes; and university facilities. The
University takes active measures to prevent such conduct and investigates and takes remedial
action when appropriate.

**Emergency Notification & Procedures**
UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the
event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety
emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, please
refer to Canvas for contingency plans for covering course materials.

**Acceptable Student Behavior**
Student behavior that interferes with an instructor’s ability to conduct a class or other students'
opportunity to learn is unacceptable and disruptive and will not be tolerated in any instructional
forum at UNT. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior will be directed to leave the
classroom and the instructor may refer the student to the Dean of Students to consider whether
the student’s conduct violated the Code of Student Conduct. The University’s expectations for
student conduct apply to all instructional forums, including University and electronic classroom,
labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc. The Code of Student Conduct can be found at
deanofstudents.unt.edu/conduct.

**Sexual Assault Prevention**
UNT is committed to providing a safe learning environment free of all forms of sexual
misconduct, including sexual harassment sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence,
and stalking. Federal laws (Title IX and the Violence Against Women Act) and UNT policies
prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, and therefore prohibit sexual misconduct. If you or
someone you know is experiencing sexual harassment, relationship violence, stalking, and/or
sexual assault, there are campus resources available to provide support and assistance. UNT’s
Survivor Advocates can assist a student who has been impacted by violence by filing protective
orders, completing crime victim’s compensation applications, contacting professors for
absences related to an assault, working with housing to facilitate a room change where
appropriate, and connecting students to other resources available both on and off campus. The
Survivor Advocates can be reached at SurvivorAdvocate@unt.edu or by calling the Dean of
Students Office at 940-565- 2648. Additionally, alleged sexual misconduct can be non-
confidentially reported to the Title IX Coordinator at oeo@unt.edu or at (940) 565 2759.
Federal Regulation: Important Notice for F-1 Students taking Distance Education Courses

To read detailed Immigration and Customs Enforcement regulations for F-1 students taking online courses, please go to the Electronic Code of Federal Regulations website (http://www.ecfr.gov/). The specific portion concerning distance education courses is located at Title 8 CFR 214.2 Paragraph (f)(6)(i)(G).

COVID-19 & Attendance

UNT encourages everyone to wear a face covering when indoors, regardless of vaccination status, to protect yourself and others from COVID infection, as recommended by current CDC guidelines. Face covering guidelines could change based on community health conditions.

If you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 please seek medical attention from the Student Health and Wellness Center (940-565-2333 or askSHWC@unt.edu) or your health care provider PRIOR to coming to campus. UNT also requires you to contact the UNT COVID Hotline at 844-366-5892 or COVID@unt.edu for guidance on actions to take due to symptoms, pending or positive test results, or potential exposure. While attendance is an important part of succeeding in this class, your own health, and those of others in the community, is more important.

While attendance is expected as outlined above, it is important for all of us to be mindful of the health and safety of everyone in our community, especially given concerns about COVID-19. Please contact me if you are unable to attend class because you are ill, or unable to attend class due to COVID-19 including symptoms, potential exposure, pending or positive test results, or if you have been given specific instructions to isolate or quarantine from a health care provider or a local authority. The strictest confidence will be placed on your privacy and I will never reveal any personal information to any other student or non-essential personnel.

Students who have been asked to quarantine or have tested positive for COVID-19 but are asymptomatic should attend their class over Zoom. If attending class on Zoom, the student must notify the instructor over email at least 2 hours before the start of class, preferably sooner. The instructor will provide you with a Zoom link. Students may not attend class on Zoom for any other reason. Any student who attends on Zoom for any other reason will be marked absent.

Students who have tested positive for COVID-19 or are symptomatic are not expected to attend class in any capacity. Please contact COVID@unt.edu for further guidance and contact your instructor to arrange make-up work.

Academic Support Services

Chosen Names

A chosen name is a name that a person goes by that may or may not match their legal name. If you have a chosen name that is different from your legal name and would like that to be used in class, please let the instructor know. Below is a list of resources for updating your chosen name at UNT:

- UNT Records
- UNT ID Card
• **UNT Email Address**
• **Legal Name**

*UNT euIDs cannot be changed at this time. The collaborating offices are working on a process to make this option accessible to UNT community members.*

**Pronouns**
Pronouns (she/her, they/them, he/him, etc.) are a public way for people to address you, much like your name, and can be shared with a name when making an introduction, both virtually and in-person. Just as we ask and don’t assume someone’s name, we should also ask and not assume someone’s pronouns.

You can [add your pronouns to your Canvas account](https://canvas.unt.edu/) so that they follow your name when posting to discussion boards, submitting assignments, etc.

Below is a list of additional resources regarding pronouns and their usage:
- **What are pronouns and why are they important?**
- **How do I use pronouns?**
- **How do I share my pronouns?**
- **How do I ask for another person’s pronouns?**
- **How do I correct myself or others when the wrong pronoun is used?**

**Additional Student Support Services**
- [Registrar](https://registrar.unt.edu/registration)
- [Financial Aid](https://financialaid.unt.edu/)
- [Student Legal Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/student-legal-services)
- [Career Center](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/career-center)
- [Multicultural Center](https://edo.unt.edu/multicultural-center)
- [Counseling and Testing Services](https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/counseling-and-testing-services)
- [Pride Alliance](https://edo.unt.edu/pridealliance)

**Academic Support Services**
- [Academic Resource Center](https://clear.unt.edu/canvas/student-resources)
- [Academic Success Center](https://success.unt.edu/asc)
- [UNT Libraries](https://library.unt.edu/)
- [Writing Lab](http://writingcenter.unt.edu/)
PSCI 3500.501 Spring ‘22
Schedule
(subject to mid-semester updates)
All assignments due Sundays at 11:59pm unless otherwise noted

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Jan 17-23</td>
<td>Introduction to class</td>
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| 2 Jan 24-30 | What is war?  
What is peace?  
How do we study peace and violence? |
| 3 Jan 31 – Feb 6 | When is war/violence justified? |
| 4 Feb 7-13 | Theories and exploration of interstate war |
| 5 Feb 14-20 | Theories and exploration of intrastate war |
| 6 Feb 21-27 | Genocide and Ethnic Conflict |
| 7 Feb 28 – Mar 6 | Terrorism |
| 8 Mar 7 – 13 | Midterm |
| 9 Mar 8-14 | UNT Spring Break |
| 10 Mar 21-27 | Political Violence |
| 11 Mar 28 – Apr 3 | Psychology of Hate and Hate Crimes |
| 12 Apr 4 - 10 | Effects of Economy, Globalization, and Poverty |
| 13 Apr 11-17 | Peacemaking and Peacebuilding |
| 14 Apr 18 - 24 | Post Conflict Transitional Justice, Justice as Peace |
| 15 April 25 – May 1 | Nonviolent Action |
| 16 May 2 -6 | Reading Day |
| Finals May 11 | Final Exam |