This course is a survey of anthropological approaches to war. It does not cover theories from political science, the history of Europe or the great powers, or other “standard” war topics. If you are looking for those discussions, look elsewhere. This course looks at the nature of war as a human institution, where it comes from, and how it affects society. It asks how can we better understand war by using the vast range of cultures and behaviors that anthropologists study, and how those insights may relate to wars raging in the world today. Perhaps the best way to frame the scope of this course is to raise the question that Albert Einstein posed to Sigmund Freud: “Why war?”

We will begin by examining the actual practice of war in “tribal” societies, then move to theoretical overviews about interrelationships between war and society. Next come two units examining evidence and debates about “human nature” and war in humanity’s distant past. Four units sequentially present detailed discussions about war in relation to ecology, economy, and kinship, gender relations, values and belief systems, and finally, politics. The latter part of the semester shifts to the contemporary world. Two units examine first theories, then cases, of “ethnic” and other violence. The next unit deals with topics and cases related to the current global confrontation over terrorism, and the next with contemporary issues about anthropological engagement with military and security organizations. We conclude with a focus on peace.

This course is oriented to weekly readings and class discussions. Readings are all included in two photocopied books prepared by myself. Each reader contains selections chosen and edited to illustrate particular theoretical topics, and a wide variety of cultures. With the enormous scope of peoples we will read about, this course can also be considered an introduction to world ethnography. Be forewarned that there will be about 80 to 90 standard pages of reading per week, but the thick mix of cultural areas and diverse theoretical arguments may make this the heaviest single inundation of new ideas you ever experience. Be sure to read my introductions—they tell you what to look for. The readings are a challenge to take in, and I expect you to demonstrate you have done so in class discussions. At the same time, this is a Writing Intensive course. My point: expect a lot of work.

Class participation counts. It does not have a set percentage assigned to it, but regular contributions can significantly raise your grade. Your basic grade, however, is based on three types of grades: three short essays, one 10 page research paper, and weekly short-answer “quizlets” on the readings, as described below. Each type counts for about 1/3 of your grade.

Readers. The Anthropology of War, R. Brian Ferguson editor, Book I and Book II. Available from Affordable Copies Center, 60 Halsey Street, phone 973 802-1007. Call in advance to be sure a copy is available. Both are available now. These are the same readers I used in 2008, so if you know someone with those, they can be used.

Office: 619 Hill Hall
Course requirements

**Short writing assignments.** The quizlets discussed below are intended to keep your nose to the readings. The short writing assignments are to demonstrate that you are thinking about the content of the readings and class discussions. You will write three short essays (4-5 pages each—no more than 6, or 1,000-1500 words). Each will discuss and evaluate 4 Units from your readings (Units 1-4, 5-8, 9-12—for due dates see the course outline). There is much, much more in each of these Unit groupings than you could possibly discuss in five pages, so I want you to be critical, selective, and insightful in describing major themes and important theories. Take it in a way that interests you. Your job in these essays is to show me that you are thinking about this material and figuring out what is most meaningful for you. Do not give me a point by point summary of the readings—your own thought is more important. Also do not confine your essay to articles from just one Unit. Even if one Unit is your main interest area—and that is ok—use material from the other Units to discuss points. Show me you are bringing the different readings together. **The three short essays will be graded separately, and the average of the three will count for about one third of your grade.**

**Research paper.** This is to be about 10 pages (about 3000 words), and is due at the end of the semester. I will be talking more about it in class as the semester progresses, but here is the basic idea. The topic is up to you. Two basic approaches would be to pick a case study of war to investigate; or to focus on a more theoretical topic, and analyze the pros and cons. I am open to other possibilities. Any way you go, I expect you to demonstrate real investigation (and not just on the internet—books and papers too!), and thoughtfulness using the ideas you are learning in class. You also have to make a point. You need to say something of your own about whatever you are investigating, not just report what others have said.

A problem with this assignment is that you have to start working on it long before we cover everything in the semester. Theoretical issues about war in general continue to be laid out all the way through Unit 8, and beyond. Contemporary world conflicts are the subject of Part Three, Units 9-12, and I urge you to consider researching cases such as Liberia or western Pakistan (just for example). As we go through the first weeks, and you become somewhat accustomed to the subject of this course, I expect you to look ahead in the course outline and readers, to see what is to come. If your own interests coincide with future topics, you should peruse those readings to get a sense of how you should proceed. Eventually we will catch up, and all that reading will be done by the time your paper is due. **The research paper will count for approximately one third of your semester grade.**
Important details:

(1) There are three stages in this process. On February 16, I want one (substantial) paragraph from you indicating your area(s) of interest, and your initial ideas/sources on how to proceed. By all means come to talk to me during my office hours as you sort things through, at this stage or later. On March 23, hand in a 250-40 word statement of your finalized research topic, including the issue(s) you intend to focus on, and the sources you are using. The final paper is due in my office by the last day of classes, Monday, May 3. Late papers will lose credit.

2) For source citations and bibliography, use the American Anthropologist style. For a bibliography example, see crossed out section on pg. 98K of your first reader (ignoring the missing DeWaal reference), and look at the text above it for how to cite sources. If you are citing a specific point, or a direct quote, include the page number, e.g. (Ferguson 1983:135)

3) And don’t forget this one: You must make at least five explicit references to readings or class lectures in the paper. Connect what you are doing with what we have done. The paper should clearly demonstrate that your perspective is responding to what we have covered this semester.

Quizlets. Starting in the second week of the semester, you will be tested every week. These are five-question "quizlets", of multiple choice and true-false questions. All tests will be based on the assigned readings for that week, but also contain a question about the previous week's lectures. The first quizlet will be for practice, and not count toward your final grade. Over the course of the semester, there will be twelve quizlets that do count. I will drop the lowest two of the twelve. Your semester quizlet grade will be the total of your ten highest scores times two, giving you a score based on 100%, and will count as about 1/3 of your semester grade.

You may take a maximum of three quizlet make-ups. More than that requires a serious note. Beyond those three, missed quizlets will count as zero. After the first couple of times, you will be given about five minutes to complete a five-question quizlet. If you arrive at class too late to take the quizlet with the others, you can take it at the end of that same class. You can take a maximum of two such late quizlets. Over that, any more "lates” will count as make-ups.

Note well: the purpose of these quizlets is to make sure you are doing the reading, and paying attention in class. I will not ask you questions about picky details or tricky theory. The questions are about significant discussions in articles, and are designed to separate those who have done the reading from those who have not. You will never know which article will get a question on that week’s quizlet.

Also note well: though four of the five questions are on the readings, one is on the last week’s lecture and discussion. Although that is just one out of four, it amounts to 20% of your quizlet grade. Again I will not test on small points. When I spend a lot of time making a particular point, or summarize topics, that is where you should put a mark in your notes to study.
Sample questions. The following two questions, based on Chapter 1 in the reader, exemplify the kind of question you will get through this semester.

2. _____ In Keeley’s two chapters, several topics are discussed. Which of the following is not one of them?
   a) Casualties.
   b) Ways of maintaining peace.
   c) Tactics.
   d) Comparison of native weapons and firearms.

3. ____ (T/F) According to Chagnon, the goal of Yanomamo raids is to surround a village and kill all its inhabitants, which is what actually happened on the raid he describes.

Keep track of your score here, so you do not have to ask me later in the semester.

Quizlet 1   _____ (practice)   Quizlet 8   _____
Quizlet 2   _____               Quizlet 9   _____
Quizlet 3   _____               Quizlet 10  _____
Quizlet 4   _____               Quizlet 11  _____
Quizlet 5   _____               Quizlet 12  _____
Quizlet 6   _____               Quizlet 13  _____
Quizlet 7   _____
Weekly Course Outline

Part One
Introduction, Film: Dead Birds, January 19

Unit #1 Practicing War, January 26

Unit #2 Overviews, February 2

Unit #3 War as a Species Characteristic, February 9

Unit #4 Western Contact and the Antiquity and Intensity of War, February 16

First paragraph on research topic due February 16

Part Two
Unit #5 War and Society: Ecology, Economy, and Kinship, February 23

First short writing assignment due February 23

Unit #6 Gender, March 2

Unit #7 Cultural Logics of Violence, March 9

Unit #8 Politics: Leaders, Factions, States, March 23

One-two page statement of concept and sources for research paper due March 23

Part Three
Unit #9 Macro-Perspectives on Wars of the 1990s, March 30

Second short writing assignment due March 30

Unit #10 Identerest Violence, Down to Cases, April 6

Unit #11 The Post 9/11 World, April 13

Unit #12 Ethics of Anthropological Engagement with U.S. Security Agencies, April 20

Unit #13, Peace, April 27

Third short writing assignment due April 27

Term research paper due in my office by Monday, May 3
Readings: Book One

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Lawrence Keeley, “Policy by Other Means: Tactics and Weapons”.............. 11
Lawrence Keeley, “Imitating the Tiger: Forms of Combat”.......................... 21
Napoleon Chagnon, “A Yanomamo Raid”......................................................... 29
Jeffrey Fadiman, “Waging War among the Meru of Mt. Kenya”................. 34
Keith Otterbein, “Huron vs. Iroquois: A Case Study in Inter-Tribal Warfare”.. 48
Julius Caesar, “Battle with the Nervii/Siege of Alesia”................................. 54a

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Franz Boas, “An Anthropologist’s View of War”.............................................. 55
Bronislaw Malinowski, “War--Past, Present, and Future”............................ 62
Keith Otterbein, “Warfare: A Hitherto Unrecognized Critical Variable”........ 68
Eric Wolf, “Cycles of Violence: The Anthropology of War and Peace”......... 78
R. Brian Ferguson, “A Paradigm for the Study of War and Society”............. 91
R. Brian Ferguson, “10 Points on War”................................................................. 95

Unit 3. War as a Species Characteristic

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Robert Ardrey, “Cain’s Children”................................................................. 103
Konrad Lorenz, “Militant Enthusiasm”........................................................... 108
Morton Fried, “On Human Aggression”......................................................... 112
Jane Goodall, “Wild’ Chimpanzee Aggression and--War?”.......................... 116
Margaret Power, “Gombe Revisited”............................................................... 119
R. Brian Ferguson, Review of “The Dark Side of Man”................................. 124
Napoleon Chagnon, “Life Histories, Blood Revenge, and Warfare in a Tribal
Population”........................................................................................................ 125
Stephen Strauss, “The Boys of War”................................................................. 133
R. Paul Shaw, “Humanity’s Propensity for Warfare”...................................... 134
Paul Berenson, “U.S. Army Briefing on Root Causes of Wars”................... 137
R. Brian Ferguson, “Biological Approaches”.................................................. 143
Douglas Fry, “A Macroscopic Anthropological View”................................... 145a
Carolyn Nordstrom, “Deadly Myths of Aggression”..................................... 146
Unit 4. Western Contact and the Antiquity and Intensity of War

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European-Induced Culture Conflict”........................................... 151
R. Brian Ferguson, “Blood of the Leviathan”................................ 158
R. Brian Ferguson, “When Worlds Collide”.................................. 164a
Douglas Bamforth, “Indigenous People, Indigenous Violence”........... 165
Lawrence Keeley, “Neo-Rousseauians and the Pacified Past”............. 176
R. Brian Ferguson, “The Birth of War”......................................... 186
R. Brian Ferguson, “Archaeology, Cultural Anthropology, and the Origins
and Intensifications of War”.................................................... 193a
R. Brian Ferguson, Review of “Warless Societies and the Origin of War”... 194

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Andrew Vayda, “Expansion and Warfare among Swidden Agriculturalists”... 198a
Janet Siskind, “Tropical Forest Hunters and the Economy of Sex”.............. 199
Andrew Vayda, “War and Coping”........................................... 207
Terrence McCabe, “Ecology, Raiding and History among Turkana of Kenya”... 212
Carol and Melvin Ember, “Resource Unpredictability, Mistrust, and War”.... 219
R. Brian Ferguson, “Warfare and Redistributive Exchange on the
Northwest Coast”........................................................................ 226
J.J. Guy, “Production and Exchange in the Zulu Kingdom”.................... 231
Robert Murphy, “Intergroup Hostility and Social Cohesion”.................... 235
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Robert McC. Netting, “The Social Idiom of Warfare”............................ 257

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Male Supremacist Complex”....................................................... 260
David B. Adams, “Why There Are So Few Women Warriors”.................. 266
R. Brian Ferguson, “War and the Sexes in Amazonia”........................... 273
Robert Edgerton, “Warrior Women”............................................ 279
Ian Fisher, “Like Mother, Like Daughter, Eritrean Women Wage War”......... 293a
Anna Simons, “In War, Let Men Be Men”....................................... 293c
Joshua Goldstein, “Reflection: The Mutuality of Gender and War”........... 293d
Francis Fukuyama, “Women and the Evolution of World Politics”............. 293k
Sharon Tiffany and Kathleen Adams, “Anthropology’s ‘Fierce’ Yanomami”... 294

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Clayton Robarchek, “Motivations and Material Causes” ........................................ 308
Neil Whitehead, “The Cultural Production of Warfare” ........................................ 318a
Rodney Needham, “Skulls, Soul Substance, and Fertility” .................................... 319
Michelle Rosaldo, “The Shame of Headhunters and the Autonomy of Self” ....... 322
R. Lincoln Keiser, “Death Enmity in Thull” .......................................................... 328a
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R. Brian Ferguson, “Alliance, Factionalism, and War in a Yanomami Village Cluster” 21
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Robert Carneiro, “What Happened at the Flash Point?” ...................................... 38
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International Crisis Group, “Crisis in Darfur” .................................................... 200
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Tarique Niazi, “Pakistan’s Peace Deal with Taliban Militants” ......................................................... 220
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Tarique Niazi, “Troop Defections Threaten Pakistan’s Operations in Tribal Regions” ...................... 228
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Ilyas Khan, “Pakistan’s Tribals—Who Is Killing Who?” ................................................................. 231
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Akbar Ahmed, “Strategy and Conflict in Waziristan” ........................................................................... 238
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