Course Description
This course examines the development of theories explaining the outbreak of major wars. In particular, we will focus on the case of World War I. Theories to be discussed are drawn from all levels of analysis and from varied perspectives.

Course Requirements
Participation counts for 10% of the total course mark, the paper counts for 25% of the total course mark, the midterm counts for 25%, and the final counts for the remaining 40%. The midterm is currently scheduled for February 25. The paper is expected to be no more than 8 pages in length (double-spaced). It will be due on March 25.

Course Materials
All assigned readings for this course will be available on JSTOR, Muse or via MyCourses. For those who would like an historical overview of the outbreak of World War I, there is one recommended text available at the bookstore:


Academic Integrity
*McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offenses under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/integrity for more information).*

Note: In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded.
Course Schedule

Lecture 1 (Jan. 7): Causation and Prevention

Lecture 2 (Jan. 9): The Outbreak of the War

Lecture 3 (Jan. 14): World War I as a Case

Lecture 4 (Jan. 16): Idiosyncratic Explanations
Saul Friedlander and Raymond Cohen, "The Personality Correlates of Belligerence in International Conflict," *Comparative Politics* 7 (2) 1975: 155-186.

Lecture 5 (Jan. 21): Idiosyncratic Explanations

Lecture 6 (Jan. 23): Perception and Misperception

Lecture 7 (Jan. 28): July 1914 as a Period of Crisis

Lecture 8 (Jan. 30): July 1914 as a Period of Crisis
Lecture 9 (Feb. 4): July 1914 as a Period of Crisis

Lecture 10 (Feb. 6): Domestic-Based Explanations

Lecture 11 (Feb. 11): Domestic-Based Economic Explanations

Lecture 12 (Feb. 13): Domestic-Based Political Explanations

Lecture 13 (Feb. 18): Marxist Explanations for the War
V. I. Lenin, Imperialism, excerpts

Lecture 14 (Feb. 20): Kehr and Fischer

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Lecture 16 (Feb. 27): Snyder’s Myths of Empire

Lecture 17 (March 11): Bureaucratic Politics - A Cult of the Offensive?

Lecture 18 (March 13): Bureaucratic Politics - Mobilization
Lecture 19 (March 18): Bureaucratic Politics - Technological Change

Lecture 20 (March 20): System-Level Explanations - Distribution of Power

Lecture 21 (March 25): System-Level Explanations - Deterrence

Lecture 22 (March 27): System-Level Explanations - Power Dynamics

Lecture 23 (April 1): System-Level Explanations - Alliances

Lecture 24 (April 8): Interdependence in 1914
Lecture 25 (April 10): World War I as a Hegemonic War
Margaret Macmillan, “The Rhyme of History: Lessons of the Great War,” 2013:
http://www.brookings.edu/research/essays/2013/rhyme-of-history

Lecture 26 (April 14): Pulling Arguments Together; Conclusions