



ANTH495B

Anthropology of War and Peace
Term 2: MON/WED, 3:30–5:00PM
Instructor: Dr. Hugh Gusterson

This class asks how war works as a cultural institution, how war is changing, and how war is experienced by those involved in it. Readings focus largely on the period after the end of the cold war. This class does not recount the chronological history of war, and does not dwell on strategy and tactics in war. Rather, the class probes the cultural experience of war. Has the nature of war changed since the end of the cold war? What drove recent bouts of genocide and ethnic cleansing in Yugoslavia, Rwanda, El Salvador and other places? Why did the US fail in Iraq and Afghanistan, and Russia in Ukraine, and with what costs and consequences? Why do people become suicide bombers? How have drones changed the character of war? How accurately have the media covered these wars? How might peace be cultivated?

