

PSCI 3603A
International Security and Strategic Thought
6:05pm-8:55pm Monday
Face-to-Face
Check brightspace for class location

I General information

Instructor: Alex McDougall
On-line Office Hours: 8:00-10:00 am Monday
Email: alex.mcdougall@carleton.ca

This course introduces students to issues in contemporary international security studies. In doing so, it covers traditional security issues such as the causes of war, nuclear proliferation and arms control, and the uses of military force; as well as some new issues, such as private military companies, technology and war, and non-state armed groups in conflict.

II Course Format

This is a face-to-face (live, in person) class. As a matter of format, the class will follow a hybrid lecture/seminar style with periods of lecturing interspersed with opportunities for student discussion and participation.

III Texts

All readings will be posted on brightspace and the library reserve system. There is no textbook or anything to purchase at the bookstore.

IV Evaluation at a glance

<i>Item</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Due Date</i>	<i>% of total</i>
<i>Participation</i>	Students should be prepared to participate class as required. Grading will be based on the quantity and quality of participation. To earn discussion points, students should make contribution to class discussion throughout the semester. To prepare, students should complete the required reading and bring with them any questions or thoughts about the issues raised in the readings.	Continuous through the semester	15

Topic papers	Students will compete three or four 1250-1500 word topic papers. Students have the option to submit all four and have the lowest grade dropped. These papers can be based entirely on the course readings and do not require outside research. Each paper should advance a thesis/answer to topic question listed below and support that thesis/answer with arguments and evidence. The paper should make proper use and demonstrate an understanding of the course material. 45% of each paper grade will assess the quality of the argument; 45% the use of the course material; and 10% the quality of writing and style. The topic questions are listed below, as are the due dates associated with each topic.		45 (3*15 – students can submit four and the lowest mark is dropped)
Topic Paper 1	Are armed groups more like criminals or more like protesters? Explain your answer with reference to the readings from September 27.	October 1	
Topic Paper 2	Compare the causes of insurgency in Iraq and Afghanistan.	October 22	
Topic Paper	Watch the movie Dr. Strangelove. How would Waltz and Sagan explain why deterrence failed in the movie? Which perspective better applies to the reasons for the deterrence failure in the film?	November 19	
Topic Paper 4	Should private military companies have a role in stopping mass killings, or longer-term peace building in failed states, particularly where no state actors are capable/willing to intervene?	December 6	
Take home exam	This will consist of 8 short answer questions (~100 words each) distributed on the last day of class and due on the last day of the final exams.	December 23	40

VIII Course schedule

Date	Topic	Course Material
Sept. 13	Introduction and Trends in International Security	<p>** are recommended/supplementary readings that may be referred to during the lecture but are not required.</p> <p>Chapter 6, 7 of Buzan, Barry, and Lene Hansen. <i>The evolution of international security studies</i>. Cambridge University Press, 2009.</p>
Sept. 20	Intra-state conflicts and the security dilemma	<p>Kauffman, possible and impossible solutions to ethnic conflict. <u>International Security</u> 34.3 (1999)</p> <p>Walter, Barbara F. "Why bad governance leads to repeat civil war." <i>Journal of Conflict Resolution</i> 59.7 (2015): 1242-1272.</p> <p>Walter, Barbara F. "The new new civil wars." <i>Annual Review of Political Science</i> 20 (2017): 469-486.</p> <p>**Skarbek, D. (2014). <i>The social order of the underworld: How prison gangs govern the American penal system</i>. Oxford University Press.</p>
Sept. 27	Armed non-state groups	<p>Pg. 1-10 of Td Gurr, <i>why men rebel</i></p> <p>Collier and Hoeffler, <i>economic causes of conflict</i> (2010)</p> <p>Chapter 1, 2 of Weinstein, Jeremy M. <i>Inside rebellion: The politics of insurgent violence</i>. Cambridge University Press, 2006.</p> <p>**Gambetta, <i>Engineers of Jihad</i></p>
Oct 4	Afghanistan, counterinsurgency, state building	<p>Hazelton, Jacqueline L. "The "hearts and minds" fallacy: Violence, coercion, and success in counterinsurgency warfare." <i>International Security</i> 42.1 (2017): 80-113.</p> <p>Malkasian, Carter. "How the Good War Went Bad: America's Slow-Motion Failure in Afghanistan." <i>Foreign Aff.</i> 99 (2020): 77.</p> <p>HR McMaster, <i>How to Avert Disaster in Afghanistan in the Wall Street Journal</i> (July 26, 2021)</p>

		<p>Jones, Seth G. <i>Strategic Reversal in Afghanistan</i>. Council on Foreign Relations., 2016.</p> <p>**Gopal, Anand. <i>No Good Men among the living: America, the Taliban, and the War through Afghan eyes</i>. Metropolitan books, 2014.</p> <p>**Sands, F. Qazizai. <i>Night letters: Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and the Afghan Islamist who changed the world</i></p> <p>**Craig Whitlock (2021). <i>The Afghanistan Papers: A Secret History of the War</i>.</p>
Oct. 11	Thanksgiving	No class
Oct 18	Iraq and Syria	<p>Watch: The Secret History of ISIS (PBS 2016)</p> <p>Chapter 5, 6 of Gary Shiffman, <i>The economics of Violence'</i></p> <p>Malkasian, Carter. <i>Illusions of victory: The Anbar awakening and the rise of the Islamic State</i>. Oxford University Press, 2017.</p> <p>**Cambanis, Thanassis, et al. <i>Hybrid actors: Armed groups and state fragmentation in the Middle East</i>. Century Foundation Press, 2019.</p> <p>**B.Walter (2014) Four things we know about how civil wars end (and what this tells us about Syria). Political Violence at a Glance.</p>
Oct. 25	Reading week	No class
Nov. 1	Nuclear Proliferation	<p>Waltz, K. "More may be better".</p> <p>Waltz, Kenneth N. "Why Iran should get the bomb: Nuclear balancing would mean stability." <i>Foreign Affairs</i> (2012): 2-5.</p> <p>Watch: Robert MacNamera – <i>The Fog of War</i> (watch the first 25 minutes or so)</p>

		Watch: Stanley Kubrick – Dr. Strangelove: How I learned to stop worrying and love the bomb
Nov. 8	The Iran Nuclear Deal and the Solemeni Assassination	<p>Sagan, S. "More will be worse"</p> <p>Fitzpatrick, Mark. <i>Uncertain future: The JCPOA and Iran's nuclear and missile programmes</i>. Routledge, 2019.</p> <p>Bergman, Ronen, and Mark Mazzetti. "The secret history of the push to strike Iran." <i>The New York Times</i> 4 (2019).</p> <p><u>Iran Is Becoming Immune to U.S. Pressure</u>, in <i>Foreign Policy</i> (June 2021)</p>
Nov. 15	Resurgence of Great power Politics	<p>Mearsheimer, John J. "Why the Ukraine crisis is the West's fault: the liberal delusions that provoked Putin." <i>Foreign Aff.</i> 93 (2014).</p> <p>Ramsay, K. W. (2017). "Information, Uncertainty, and War." <i>Annual Review of Political Science</i>, 20, 505-527.</p> <p>O'Hanlon, Michael E. <i>The Senkaku paradox: Risking great power war over small stakes</i>. Brookings Institution Press, 2019.</p>
Nov. 22	China/Economic Power	<p>Drezner, Daniel W. "Bad debts: assessing China's financial influence in great power politics." <i>International Security</i> 34.2 (2009): 7-45.</p> <p>Allison, Graham. "The thucydides trap." <i>Foreign Policy</i> 9 (2017).</p>
Nov. 29	Climate Change and Migration and conflict	<p>Linke, Andrew M., and Brett Ruether. "Weather, wheat, and war: Security implications of climate variability for conflict in Syria." <i>Journal of Peace Research</i> 58.1 (2021): 114-131.</p> <p>Hendrix, Cullen S. "A comment on "climate change and the Syrian civil war revisited"." <i>Political Geography</i> 60 (2017): 251-252.</p> <p>Mitchell, Sara McLaughlin, and Elise Pizzi. "Natural Disasters, Forced Migration, and Conflict: The Importance of Government Policy Responses." <i>International Studies Review</i> (2020).</p>

Dec. 6	Mercenaries and Private Security Companies	<p>Chapter 4 and chapter 7: Peter Singer, <i>Corporate Warriors</i></p> <p>Akcinaroglu, Seden, and Elizabeth Radziszewski. "Private military companies, opportunities, and termination of civil wars in Africa." <i>Journal of Conflict Resolution</i> 57.5 (2013): 795-821.</p> <p>Fitzsimmons, Scott. "Wheeled warriors: explaining variations in the use of violence by private security companies in Iraq." <i>Security studies</i> 22.4 (2013): 707-739.</p> <p>**Barnes, David M. "Should private security companies be employed for counterinsurgency operations?." <i>Journal of military ethics</i> 12.3 (2013): 201-224.</p>

Appendix

Covid-19 Information

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow COVID-19 prevention measures and all mandatory public health requirements (e.g. wearing a mask, physical distancing, hand hygiene, respiratory and cough etiquette) and [mandatory self-screening](#) prior to coming to campus daily.

If you feel ill or exhibit COVID-19 symptoms while on campus or in class, please leave campus immediately, self-isolate, and complete the mandatory [symptom reporting tool](#). For purposes of contact tracing, attendance will be recorded in all classes and labs. Participants can check in using posted QR codes through the cuScreen platform where provided. Students who do not have a smartphone will be required to complete a paper process as indicated on the [COVID-19 website](#).

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow guidelines regarding safe movement and seating on campus (e.g. directional arrows, designated entrances and exits, designated seats that maintain physical distancing). In order to avoid congestion, allow all previous occupants to fully vacate a classroom before entering. No food or drinks are permitted in any classrooms or labs.

For the most recent information about Carleton's COVID-19 response and required measures, please see the [University's COVID-19 webpage](#) and review the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\)](#). Should you have additional questions after reviewing, please contact covidinfo@carleton.ca

Please note that failure to comply with University policies and mandatory public health requirements, and endangering the safety of others are considered misconduct under the [Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy](#). Failure to comply with Carleton's COVID-19 procedures may lead to supplementary action involving Campus Safety and/or Student Affairs.

Requests for Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy accommodation: Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf.

Religious accommodation: Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf.

Accommodations for students with disabilities: If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, reach out to your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. For more information, please visit carleton.ca/pmc.

Accommodation for student activities: Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who engage in student activities at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>.

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: students.carleton.ca/course-outline.

Sexual Violence Policy

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated. Survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support.

Plagiarism

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, art works, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, material on the internet and/or conversations.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings without appropriate acknowledgement;
- submitting a computer program developed in whole or in part by someone else, with or without modifications, as one’s own; and
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s work and/or failing to use quotations marks.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They may include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

More information on the University’s Academic Integrity Policy can be found at: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>.

Intellectual property

Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

Submission and Return of Term Work

Papers must be submitted directly to the instructor according to the instructions in the course outline. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the departmental office will not accept assignments submitted in hard copy.

Grading

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Final standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points is:

Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale	Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale
90-100	A+	12	67-69	C+	6
85-89	A	11	63-66	C	5
80-84	A-	10	60-62	C-	4
77-79	B+	9	57-59	D+	3
73-76	B	8	53-56	D	2
70-72	B-	7	50-52	D-	1

Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Carleton E-mail Accounts

All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via official Carleton University e-mail accounts and/or Brightspace. As important course and university information is distributed this way, it is the student's responsibility to monitor their Carleton University email accounts and Brightspace.

Carleton Political Science Society

The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. By hosting social events, including Model Parliament, debates, professional development sessions and more, CPSS aims to involve all political science students at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through our networking opportunities, academic engagement initiatives and numerous events which

aim to complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CarletonPoliticalScienceSociety/>.

Official Course Outline

The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.