

PSCI 3603A
Strategic Thought and International Security
6:05pm-8:55pm Monday /Wednesday
Online (synchronous/asynchronous)

Instructor: Alex McDougall
On-line Office Hours: by appointment
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I Description of course

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

Online, with a mix of synchronous and asynchronous components. Synchronous components will include live online lectures, one per week. The asynchronous components will include pre-recorded video, online discussion, written essays, and reading.

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

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	DUE DATE	% OF TOTAL
<u>Participation</u>	Students should be prepared to participate in class as required. For the synchronous components, both attendance and participation will be tracked and graded. Participation can take the form of discussion and interaction during the lecture. To earn discussion points, students should make contributions to class discussion	Continuous through the semester	15

	throughout the semester. Asynchronous participation will take the form of online/written discussion forums. Students should complete required reading/viewing in order to prepare for class and to have informed discussions.		
<u>Topic papers</u>	Students will complete three 1250-1500 word topic papers. 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.		60 (3*20 – students can submit four and the lowest mark is dropped)
<u>Topic Paper 1</u>	Which of Blattman’s 5 causes of war best explains the Russia/Ukraine conflict?	July 14	
<u>Topic Paper 2</u>	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?	August 1	
<u>Topic Paper 3</u>	Apply Collier/Hoeffler’s theory of armed group formation to sub-Saharan African conflicts.	August 14	
<u>Take home exam</u>	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.	August 23	25

VIII Course schedule

Date	TYPE OF CLASS	Topic	Description of topic	Readings
03-Jul-24	Live (synchronous)	Introduction to class - The Concept of Security	What's this course all about? What does international security even mean?	Walt, Stephen M. "The renaissance of security studies." <i>International studies quarterly</i> 35.2 (1991): 211-239; Krause, Keith, and Michael C. Williams. "Broadening the agenda of security studies: Politics and methods." <i>Mershon international studies review</i> 40.Supplement_2 (1996): 229-254;
08-Jul-24	Asynchronous	interstate war I	Overview of the causes of interstate war from a rational choice perspective.	Chapter 1-2 - Blattman, Christopher. <i>Why we fight: The roots of war and the paths to peace</i> . Penguin, 2023; Thayer, Bradley A. "Bringing in Darwin: Evolutionary theory, realism, and international politics." <i>International Security</i> 25.2 (2000): 124-151.
10-Jul-24	Live (synchronous)	interstate war II	Case studies and data on interstate war	Chapter 3-4 - Blattman, Christopher. <i>Why we fight: The roots of war and the paths to peace</i> . Penguin, 2023; Mitchell, Sara McLaughlin, and John A. Vasquez. "The Russia-Ukraine War—What Can Quantitative Conflict Research Tell Us?." <i>What Do We Know about War?</i> (2024): 343.
15-Jul-24	Asynchronous	Deterrence I	How do nuclear weapons inform strategy? What are their implications for international security? Waltz has a controversial answer to these questions.	Waltz, Kenneth N. "The spread of nuclear weapons: More may be better." <i>Conflict After the Cold War</i> . Routledge, 2015. 475-486; Sagan, Scott D. "The causes of nuclear weapons proliferation." <i>Annual Review of Political Science</i> 14 (2011): 225-244.
17-Jul-24	Live	Deterrence II	Sagan's work can be viewed as a rebuttal to Waltz. Which perspective do you	Sagan, Scott D. "The perils of proliferation: Organization theory, deterrence theory, and the spread of nuclear weapons." <i>International Security</i> 18.4 (1994): 66-107;

			think better explains what happens in Dr. Strangelove?	Watch: <i>Dr. Strangelove, or How I learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb</i> .
22-Jul-24	Asynchronous	intra-state conflict I	Most conflicts are within states and involve armed groups. What causes ethnic conflicts and why are they sometimes so violent?	Kauffmann, Chaim. "Possible and Impossible Solutions to Ethnic Conflict." <u>International Security</u> 20.4 (1996). Chapter 1 and 2: Biddle, Stephen. <i>Nonstate warfare: the military methods of guerillas, warlords, and militias</i> . Princeton University Press, 2022.
24-Jul-24	Live	intra-state conflict II	Why do armed groups form in some countries?	Collier, Paul, and Anke Hoeffler. "Greed and grievance in civil war." <u>Oxford economic papers</u> 56.4 (2004): 563-595; <i>Chapter 1 of Ted Gurr, why men rebel</i> Staniland, Paul. "Armed politics and the study of intrastate conflict." <i>Journal of Peace Research</i> 54.4 (2017): 459-467.
29-Jul-24	Asynchronous	Counterinsurgency	what is the theory of counterinsurgency, and how has it been applied in recent cases, such as Iraq?	Chapter 1 and conclusion of Malkasian, Carter. <i>Illusions of victory: The Anbar awakening and the rise of the Islamic State</i> . Oxford University Press, 2017; Hazelton, Jacqueline L. "The "hearts and minds" fallacy: Violence, coercion, and success in counterinsurgency warfare." <i>International Security</i> 42.1 (2017): 80-113.
31-Jul-24	live	Case studies: subsaharan Africa	Armed groups and modern warfare in Africa. Apply lessons from conflict literatures.	Chapter 1 of Reno, William. <i>Warfare in independent Africa</i> . Vol. 5. Cambridge University Press, 2011; Ch 1, (4, 5 optional) of: Turner, Thomas. <i>The Congo wars: conflict, myth and reality</i> . Zed Books, 2007.
05-Aug-24		Civic Holiday	no class/readings.	
07-Aug-24	Live	PMCs	How is international security being shaped by the privatization of military force? We look at armed groups in Subsaharan Africa and the use of PMCs by the U.S. in Iraq, as	Fitzsimmons, Scott. "When few stood against many: Explaining executive outcomes' victory in the sierra leonean civil war." <u>Defence Studies</u> 13.2 (2013): 245-269; Tkach, Benjamin. "Private military and security companies, corporate structure, and levels of violence in Iraq." <u>International Interactions</u> 46.4 (2020): 499-525.

			well as Russia's Wagner group.	Chao, Phillip. "Secret Warfare: Wagner Group and the Clandestine Projection of State Power." (2023).
12-Aug-24	Asynchronous	military power and technology	what factors explain battlefield victories? How is technology affecting outcomes? What does Russia/Ukraine tell us?	Ch 1 and 2 - Biddle, Stephen. "Military power: <i>Explaining victory and defeat in modern battle.</i> " (2010). Robinson, Paul. "The Russia-Ukraine Conflict and the (Un) Changing Character of War." <i>Journal of Military and Strategic Studies</i> 22.2 (2022).
14-Aug-24	Live	Future trends in international security	Forecasting trends in conflict.	Braumoeller, Bear F. <i>Only the dead: the persistence of war in the modern age.</i> Oxford University Press, 2019.

Appendix

Student Mental Health

As a university student, you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you. Here is a list that may be helpful:

Emergency Resources (on and off campus): <https://carleton.ca/health/emergencies-and-crisis/emergency-numbers/>

- **Carleton Resources:**

- Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>
- Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>
- Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>
- Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>
- Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>
- Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

- **Off Campus Resources:**

- Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: (613) 238-3311 or TEXT: 343-306-5550, <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
- Mental Health Crisis Service: (613) 722-6914, 1-866-996-0991, <http://www.crisisline.ca/>
- Empower Me: 1-844-741-6389, <https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/>
- Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>

- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: <https://walkincounselling.com>

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 accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, you must complete the Pregnancy Accommodation Form ([click here](#)).

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 [click here](#).

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 details, [click here](#).

Accommodation for student activities: Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and to the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom. Reasonable accommodation will 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. For more information, please [click here](#).

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.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is an essential element of a productive and successful career as a student. Carleton's [Academic Integrity Policy](#) addresses academic integrity violations, including plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, misrepresentation, impersonation, withholding of records, obstruction/interference, disruption of instruction or examinations, improper access to and/or dissemination of information, or violation of test and examination rules. Students are required to familiarize themselves with the university's academic integrity rules.

Plagiarism

The Academic Integrity Policy 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, websites, 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.

Use of Artificial Intelligence

Unless explicitly permitted by the instructor in a particular course, any use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools to produce assessed content (e.g., text, code, equations, image, summary, video, etc.) is considered a violation of academic integrity standards.

Procedures in Cases of Suspected Violations

Violations of the Academic Integrity Policy are serious offences which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. When an instructor suspects a violation of

the Academic Integrity Policy, the Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student. Penalties are not trivial. They may include a mark of zero for the assignment/exam in question 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. 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.