

Carleton University  
Summer 2019  
Department of Political Science

**PSCI 3603A**

**Strategic Thought and International Security**

6:05 p.m. - 8:55 p.m. Monday and Wednesday

Please confirm location on Carleton Central

**Instructor:**

**Office: B641 Loeb**

**Office Hours:** By Appointment

**Email:** [alex.mcdougall@carleton.ca](mailto:alex.mcdougall@carleton.ca)

**Teaching Assistant: Heather Toycen**

**Email:** [heathertoycen@cmail.carleton.ca](mailto:heathertoycen@cmail.carleton.ca)

- **Course description**

This course introduces students to a range of international security issues, including the study of war, terrorism, insurgency, private military companies, and cyberwarfare through a mixed lecture/seminar format whereby lectures are interspersed with class discussion.

- **Reading Material**

Course reading material will be available online through Culearn and the library's electronic journal and book resource page.

- **Evaluation**

80%      critical review papers (x5)

Students will complete four short critical review essays (approx. 4 pages/1000 words each). The assignments require students to answer specific questions based on the required readings. Each essay should have a thesis (a core argument), advance the thesis throughout the paper, and show a strong understanding of the course materials. in a constrained writing space.

Assignments will be submitted online through the Culearn dropbox. Writing assignments will be graded in terms of the quality of the thesis/argument/analysis (40%), the quality of the use of the course material (40%), and writing, format and style (10%).

Each paper is worth 20%. Students have the option to write all 5, in which case the lowest mark will be discarded.

*Response Paper Topics and Due Dates*

1. Pick one of the following theories: classical realism (B. Thayer); democratic peace theory (Gleditch); offensive realism (Mearsheimer). How well does your chosen theory explain the trends in violence described by Pinker (week 1). DUE: July 10
2. Taking the perspective of Kenneth Waltz on nuclear proliferation and strategy (week 5), what would be the consequences for international security should Iran acquire nuclear capability? Due: July 17
3. Which factors have scholars identified as possible factors that could lead to the emergence of armed groups? According to your analysis, which of these factors seems to be the most important when explaining the rise of the Islamic State? In your answer, describe the origins of the Islamic State and draw on the readings from July 22, 24, and 29. Due: July 29
4. Did the private military company, Executive Outcomes, provide effective security services for the country of Sierra Leone in the mid 1990s? Based on your assessment, should the international community consider private security companies for peacebuilding or humanitarian intervention missions in other countries? Due: August 7
5. Drawing on Scott Sagan's essay from week 6, what caused deterrence to fail in the movie *Dr. Strangelove*? Due: August 16

20%: Attendance/Participation

Students should attend class and participate when required. Students should also bring the required readings to class for reference purposes. The instructor will track both attendance and participation. Students can earn 10 marks for attendance and 10 marks for participation (max 2 per class, excluding week 1).

• **Other issues**

- o *Lateness policy*: late assignments will be penalized by 1/3 of a letter grade per day (i.e. A reduced to A-).

• **Schedule**

July 3 - Introduction	Pinker, Steven. 2011. <i>The Better Angels of Our Nature: Why Violence Has Declined</i> . Penguin Books: New York.
July 8 - "grand" theories of conflict	Brad Thayer, "bringing Darwin in: the evolutionary origins of realist thought".  Gleditch, Nils Petr. "Democratic peace theory".
July 10 - offensive realism and strategy	John Mearsheimer, Ch 2 and 6 of <i>the tragedy of great power politics</i> .  "Why the Ukraine Crisis Is the West's Fault." <i>Foreign Affairs</i> (2014).
July 15 - Nuclear Strategy I	Waltz, "More would be better" Sagan, "why states build nuclear weapons"
July 17 - Nuclear Strategy II	Sagan, "More would be worse" McNamara, Robert "the fog of war" (focus on the Cuban Missile

	Crisis)
July 22 - intra-state security issues (failed states and civil wars)	Byman and Van Evera (1997), "Hypotheses on the Causes of Deadly Conflict".  Chaim Kauffman, "possible and impossible solutions to ethnic wars"
July 24 - armed groups	Collier, "economic causes of conflict" Chapter 1 of Gurr, <i>why men rebel</i>
July 29 - Iraq and the rise of the Islamic State	Readings TBD  Watch the PBS Frontline Documentary, "the Rise of ISIS"
July 31 - counterinsurgency	Watch: Battle of Algiers  Kaufman, Michael T. "What Does the Pentagon See in 'Battle of Algiers'." New York Times 7 (2003).
August 5	CIVIC HOLIDAY NO CLASS, NO READINGS
Aug 7 - New security issues: Mercenaries and Private Military Companies	Skim book, but focus on <b>Chapter 5</b> : Scott Fitzsimmons. <i>Mercenaries and Asymmetric Conflict</i> . Cambridge University Press (2013).  <b>Chapter 1</b> : Scott Fitzsimmons. <i>Private Security Companies During the Iraq War</i> . Routledge. (2016)
Aug 12 - strategy and film	Watch: Dr. Strangelove  Stephen Walt. "the Renaissance of Security Studies"
Aug 14 - Wrap-up	No required readings

## Academic Accommodations

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### 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 obligation

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](http://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)

#### Religious obligation

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](http://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf)

### Academic 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](mailto: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, meet with your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. [carleton.ca/pmc](http://carleton.ca/pmc)

## **Survivors of Sexual Violence**

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and its 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](https://carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support)

## **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 compete or perform 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](https://students.carleton.ca/course-outline)

## **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 can include:

- 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;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

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. 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 and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at **4 p.m.**, stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in

class please attach a **stamped, self-addressed envelope** if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

### 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

### Approval of final grades

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 cuLearn. As important course and University information is distributed this way, it is the student's responsibility to monitor their Carleton and cuLearn accounts.

### 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/> and our website <https://carletonpss.com/>, or stop by our office in Loeb D688!"

### Official Course Outline

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