

**PSCI 3607A**

**North American Security and Defence Policy**

*Please confirm schedule and location on Carleton Central*

**Instructor:** Alex McDougall

**Office Hours:** By appointment

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**Course description**

This course surveys topics in defence and security policy in a North American context. It begins with the national security policy frameworks and institutions in Canada and the U.S., and the institutions of bilateral cooperation. The second part of the course explores emerging and current defence and security policy issues, such as force generation, procurement, missile defence, climate change, and space.

By the end of this course, students will be able to critically examine the frameworks, institutions, and policies shaping defense and security affairs in Canada and the United States. They will understand how national interests, strategic geography, and international cooperation efforts influence policy decisions and outcomes. Students will develop analytical skills to evaluate emerging security challenges—ranging from procurement and force generation to climate-related vulnerabilities and space-based threats—and will learn to contextualize these issues within broader strategic, economic, and societal dimensions. Ultimately, students will be equipped to engage thoughtfully with policy debates, support their arguments with evidence, and communicate their analyses effectively in both written and oral formats.

This course will be delivered primarily through lectures. In addition, there will be asynchronous materials made available for students to review at their own pace, such as recorded lectures, supplementary videos, and directed readings. These resources are designed to reinforce key concepts introduced during lectures, provide deeper background on emerging issues, and accommodate different learning styles and schedules. Students are expected to use this combination of synchronous and asynchronous activities to build their understanding progressively, come prepared for discussion, and stay actively engaged throughout the term.

The use of artificial intelligence/ChatGPT for work in this course is not permitted. Students are expected to complete all assigned readings themselves, in their entirety, and to write in their own words. Written work that does not demonstrate a full understanding of required reading, which shows insufficient attention to detail or which does not cite sources appropriately, will receive a failing mark,

**Reading Material:**

The required reading materials are available through Brightspace and the library's electronic resources.

**Evaluation**

Item	Description	Due Date	% of Total Grade
Participation and Attendance	Ongoing engagement in classes	Ongoing	15%
Essay	<p>1250-word essay on Canadian defence policy</p> <p>RK Nossal (2020) states that a ‘Lack of seriousness on the part of elected officials [regarding Canadian defence policy] reflects the lack of seriousness of the populace as a whole, and that lack of seriousness, in turn, flows inexorably from the essential safety that Canada’s strategic geography provides”. What does he mean? Is he right?</p> <p>Answer these questions in the form of an essay. You should draw upon the readings from the course, including chapters from the Canadian Defence Policy book and Strong, Secure, Engaged, as well as other relevant literature as needed. As you consider Nossal's statement, it will be important to think about the various factors that shape Canadian defence policy and the broader political and social context in which it operates.</p> <p>Your essay should be structured around a clear thesis that addresses the question of whether or not you believe Nossal's statement to be true. In order to support your thesis, you should make well-reasoned and supported arguments that draw upon the relevant course material and literature. Overall, a strong essay will demonstrate a strong understanding of the concepts and literatures related to Canadian defence policy and the various factors that shape it. It will also show a careful consideration of the arguments being made and a willingness to engage with and critically evaluate the material.</p> <p>Your essay should be approximately 1250 words in length. As with any written assignment, be sure to proofread your work for spelling and grammar errors before submitting.</p>	January 30	25%
Reading Response	For this assignment, you are required to submit weekly summaries of the assigned readings. These	Due Sunday	10%

	<p>summaries should be written in your own words and should cover the key ideas from at least one required reading each week. In addition to summarizing the main points, your response should identify one element that you found unclear, confusing, or problematic. There is no strict word limit, but students should aim for a minimum of 250 words per assignment.</p> <p>Summaries must be submitted via Brightspace by 6:00 pm on the evening before class. Since the goal of this assignment is to ensure you are prepared for class, no extensions will be granted. However, legitimate absences can be accommodated and prorated with appropriate documentation.</p> <p>To complete this assignment successfully, you should carefully read and understand the week's required readings. Take notes to identify main points and key ideas. When writing your summary, focus on clearly and concisely communicating these ideas in your own words.</p> <p>This assignment is an important part of your coursework and will help you engage with the material, as well as prepare for class discussions. It is also an opportunity to practice summarizing and synthesizing complex ideas.</p>	<p>evening before class</p>	
<p>Policy Briefing Note</p>	<p>Canada has committed to NATO to spend 2% of GDP on Defence, however, as of this date, it still falls well-short of this goal. Write a briefing note to the Prime Minister on this issue. The briefing note should follow the template posted on Brightspace. It should outline the current situation, existing government policy (research from Budgets, throne speeches, policy documents), and the international situation (e.g. other countries in NATO and their spending). The note should also recommend a course of action, either to meet the 2% goal (and how) or to not. This course of action should be supported by key policy considerations, including the strategic environment, diplomatic considerations, budgetary considerations, and public views, among others. You are to do your own research, although some of the course material will certainly be relevant. Use the template posted on Brightspace.</p>	<p>March 6</p>	<p>25%</p>

Take Home Exam	Students will answer essay question(s) based on course material. The exam is distributed on the last day of class and due on the last day of exams.	April 26	25%
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*Lateness Policy:* Late assignments penalized 3% per day.

### Schedule for PSCI 3607A - Winter 2025

Date (Mondays)	Topic	Reading
Jan. 9	Introduction to class	Introduction - Juneau, Thomas, and Philippe Lagassé, eds. <i>Canadian Defence Policy in Theory and Practice, Volume 2</i> . Springer Nature, 2023. (pp 1-7)
Jan. 16	U.S. security and defence policy	Mearsheimer, John J., and Stephen M. Walt. "The Case for Offshore Balancing: A Superior US Grand Strategy." <i>Foreign Aff.</i> 95 (2016): 70.  Brands, Hal. "The unexceptional superpower: American grand strategy in the age of Trump." <i>Survival</i> 59.6. Routledge, 2023. 7-39.  Lawless, Scott. "American grand strategy for an emerging world order." <i>Strategic Studies Quarterly</i> 14.2 (2020): 127-147.
Jan. 23	Canadian security and defence policy	"The making of defence policy in Canada" Juneau, Thomas, and Philippe Lagassé, eds. <i>Canadian Defence Policy in Theory and Practice, Volume 2</i> . Springer Nature, 2023. (pp 151-170)  "Canada's defence policy trade-offs" in Juneau, Thomas, and Philippe Lagassé, eds. <i>Canadian Defence Policy in Theory and Practice, Volume 2</i> . Springer Nature, 2023 (pp 97- 132)
Jan 30	Defence cooperation	"Norad modernization" in Juneau, Thomas, and Philippe Lagassé, eds. <i>Canadian Defence Policy in Theory and Practice, Volume 2</i> . Springer Nature, 2023. (Pp 75-95)  Jockel, Joseph T., and Joel J. Sokolsky. <i>Canada in NATO, 1949–2019</i> . Vol. 5. McGill-Queen's Press-MQUP, 2021.  Solomon, Binyam, and Ross Fetterly. "Canada and the NORAD: Economics and Burden Sharing." <i>Defence and Peace Economics</i> (2023): 1-15.

Feb. 6	The defence budget in Canada and other political economy issues	<p>“The Defence budget,” Juneau, Thomas, and Philippe Lagassé, eds. <i>Canadian Defence Policy in Theory and Practice, Volume 2</i>. Springer Nature, 2023. (pp. 113-132)</p> <p>“Defence policy and procurement costs,” Juneau, Thomas, and Philippe Lagassé, eds. <i>Canadian Defence Policy in Theory and Practice, Volume 2</i>. Springer Nature, 2023. (pp 133-150)</p>
Feb. 13	Defense spending politics in the U.S.	Thorpe, Rebecca U. <i>The American warfare state: The domestic politics of military spending</i> . University of Chicago Press, 2020 (chapter 3, 4)
Feb. 20	Reading week: no class	
Feb. 27	The Military and society in Canada and the U.S.	<p>“Sexual misconduct and the crisis of defence culture” in Juneau, Thomas, and Philippe Lagassé, eds. <i>Canadian Defence Policy in Theory and Practice, Volume 2</i>. Springer Nature, 2023. (pp 9-28*)</p> <p>Jones, Seth G., et al. <i>The military, police, and the rise of terrorism in the United States</i>. Center for Strategic &amp; International Studies, 2021.</p> <p>“Canadian armed forces reconstitution” in Juneau, Thomas, and Philippe Lagassé, eds. <i>Canadian Defence Policy in Theory and Practice, Volume 2</i>. Springer Nature, 2023, pp 29-50</p>
Mar. 6	Defence policy and information	Guest speaker: Jordan Miller (RMC)
Mar. 13	Afghanistan – Canada and the U.S.	<p>Stein, Janice Gross, and J. Eugene Lang. <i>The unexpected war: Canada in Kandahar</i>. Toronto: Viking Canada, 2007 (pp. 1-35)</p> <p>Whitlock, Craig. <i>The Afghanistan papers: A secret history of the war</i>. Simon and Schuster, 2021. (pp. 1-55)</p>
Mar. 20	Missile defense and deterrence	<p>Karako, Thomas. "The missile defense review." <i>Strategic Studies Quarterly</i> 13.2 (2019): 3-15.</p> <p>Collins, Jeffrey F. <i>Should Canada Participate in Ballistic Missile Defence?</i>. Macdonald-Laurier Institute for Public Policy, 2018.</p> <p>McCall, Stephen M., and Congressional Research Service Washington United States. "Defense Primer:</p>

		Ballistic Missile Defense." <i>Congressional Research Service, October 9 (2019).</i>
Mar. 27	Climate and the arctic	"Climate insecurity and Canadian defence" in Juneau, Thomas, and Philippe Lagassé, eds. <i>Canadian Defence Policy in Theory and Practice, Volume 2.</i> Springer Nature, 2023. (pp 51-73)
Apr. 3	Conclusion – Canada's new policy	National Defence Canada (2023). <a href="#">Defence policy update.</a>  <a href="#">Standing Senate Committee on National Security, Defence and Veterans Affairs (SECD) - Arctic Security - April 24, 2023 - Canada.ca</a>  Rudolph, Alexander. "When Empty Promises are Literally Empty: Canadian Cyber-Defence Policy by Ad-Hoc." (2022).

All readings and materials will be accessible via Brightspace.

## Political Science Course Outline Appendix

### 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:

#### 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/>

ood2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>

The Walk-In Counselling Clinic:

<https://walkincounselling.com>

#### **Academic consideration for medical or other extenuating circumstances:**

Students must contact the instructor(s) of their absence or inability to complete the academic deliverable within the predetermined timeframe due to medical or other extenuating circumstances. For a range of medical or other extenuating circumstances, students may use the online self-declaration form and where appropriate, the use of medical documentation. This policy regards the accommodation of extenuating circumstances for both short-term and long-term periods and extends to all students enrolled at Carleton University. Students should also consult the [Course Outline Information on Academic Accommodations](#) for more information. Detailed information about the procedure for requesting academic consideration can be found [here](#).

**Pregnancy:** 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, please contact Equity and Inclusive Communities (EIC) at [equity@carleton.ca](mailto:equity@carleton.ca) or by calling (613) 520-5622 to speak to an Equity Advisor.

**Religious obligation:** 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](#).

#### **Academic Accommodations for Students with**

**Disabilities:** The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, please request your accommodations for this course through the [Ventus Student Portal](#) at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). Requests made within two weeks will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. For final exams, the deadlines to request accommodations are published in the [University Academic Calendars](#). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally scheduled exam (if applicable).

**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:

<https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>.

**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 will be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Write to me 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.

### PETITIONS TO DEFER

Students unable to write a final examination because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control may apply within **three working days** to the Registrar's Office for permission to write a deferred examination. The request must be fully supported by the appropriate documentation. Only deferral petitions submitted to the Registrar's Office will be considered. [See Undergraduate Calendar, Article 4.3](#)

### 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). Permissibility of submitting substantially the same piece of work more than once for academic credit. If group or collaborative work is expected or allowed, provide a clear and specific description of how and to what extent you consider collaboration to be acceptable or appropriate, especially in the completion of written assignments.

### WITHDRAWAL WITHOUT ACADEMIC PENALTY

The last day to withdraw from full fall term and fall/winter courses with a full fee adjustment is **September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024**. The last day for a fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter term courses or the winter portion of two-term courses is **January 31, 2025**. The last day for academic withdrawal from full fall and late fall courses is **November 15, 2024**. The last day for academic withdrawal from full winter, late winter, and fall/winter courses is **March 15, 2025**.

**WDN:** For students who withdraw after the full fee adjustment date in each term the term WDN will be a permanent notation that appears on their official transcript.

### OFFICIAL FINAL EXAMINATION PERIOD

Fall courses: **December 9-21, 2024**. Winter and Fall/Winter courses: **April 11-26, 2025** (may include evenings & Saturdays or Sundays)

**For more information on the important dates and deadlines of the academic year, consult the [Carleton 2024-2025 Calendar](#).**

### GRADING SYSTEM

The grading system is described in the Undergraduate Calendar section [5.4](#).

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity is an essential element of a productive and successful career as a student. Students are required to familiarize themselves with the university's [Academic Integrity Policy](#).

### 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:

- any submission prepared in whole or in part, by someone else, including the unauthorized use of generative AI tools (e.g., ChatGPT);
- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, 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 that cannot be resolved directly by the course’s instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts 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 can include a final grade of “F” for the course.

### RESOURCES (613-520-2600, phone ext.)

Department of Political Science (2777)	B640
Loeb	
Registrar's Office (3500)	300 Tory
Centre for Student Academic Success (3822)	4 <sup>th</sup> floor
Library	
Academic Advising Centre (7850)	302 Tory
Paul Menton Centre (6608)	501
Nideyinàn	
Career Services (6611)	401 Tory