

**PSCI 3603A**

**International Security**

Monday and Wednesday 6:05-8:55

**Instructor: Alex McDougall**

**Office: B641 Loeb**

**Office Hours:** by appointment (online only).

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- **Course description**

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. The course will also explore specific cases in some detail, including security issues stemming from conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan, Colombia, Ukraine, and Central Africa.

- **Method of Delivery**

This is blended course. There are six course weeks. Each continues 2 hours of pre-recorded lectures, and 1.5 hours of live discussion over zoom. The real-time sessions will be oriented around discussion of the pre-recorded lecture material and readings, with an emphasis on student participation (see Discussion Groups)

- **Reading Material**

The reading material will be available online through Brightspace (the course webpage) and the library's electronic resources.

- **Discussion Groups**

Discussion Groups will take place through Zoom. Students will be divided into two groups: Group A – Wednesdays, 6:05-7:25 Surname (last name) starts with the letter A-L. Group B – Wednesdays, 7:30-8:55 Surname (last name) starts with the letter M-Z.

- **Evaluation**

<i>Item</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Due Date</i>	<i>% of</i>
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			total
<i>Participation</i>	Students should be prepared to participate in the discussion sessions, which will take place live on Zoom once per week throughout the semester. Grading will be based on the quantity and quality of participation. To earn discussion points, students should a) take part in the live discussion (camera optional); and b) post one question per group (relating to the subject matter – not administration and grading) in the “chat” when asked.	Continuous through the semester	15
<i>Critical Analysis</i>	A three-page (750 word) writing assignment on the following question: Summarize and evaluate Pinker’s thesis that violence has declined. The analysis should have a thesis statement outlining the position taken in the paper, and a summary of Pinker’s argument and evidence used.	May 27	10%
<i>Comprehension Assignment</i>	Comprehension assignments consist of short answer questions in which students must apply concepts from the course material. The assignments are designed to test comprehension and ability to apply concepts to specific questions or settings. Each answer should be 2-3 sentences long. Assignments are due one week after they are distributed.	June 14	40%
<i>Take home exam</i>	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.	June 27	35

- **Other issues**

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

- **Schedule**

Date	Method	Topic	Course Material
May 10	Brief live intro + pre-recorded	Introduction and Trends in International Security	Watch: <a href="#">The Surprising Decline in Violence</a> (Steven Pinker (TED, 2007)
May 12	Discussion Group (live)		Read: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brad Thayer, “evolutionary origins of realist theory”, in <i>international security</i></li> <li>• Democratic Peace theory</li> </ul>
May 17	Pre-recorded	The Security Dilemma and War	Watch <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">The Thucydides Trap</a>, Graham Allison (TED, 2019)</li> <li>• Mearsheimer <a href="#">Ukraine is the West’s Fault</a>. (2020)</li> </ul>
May 19	Discussion		

	Group (live)		<p>Read</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• John Ikenberry. "Racing toward tragedy?: China's rise, military competition in the Asia Pacific, and the security dilemma." <i>International Security</i> 39.2 (2014): 52-91.</li> <li>• Kauffman, possible and impossible solutions to ethnic conflict. <i>International Security</i> 34.3 (1999).</li> </ul>
May 24	Pre-recorded	Deterrence and arms control	<p>Read</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waltz – More may be better</li> <li>• Sagan – More may be worse</li> <li>• Michael Krepon, "<a href="#">the holy grail of deterrence stability</a>"</li> </ul> <p>Watch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Robert MacNamera – The Fog of War (watch the first 25 minutes or so)</li> <li>• (optional) Stanley Kubrick – Dr. Strangelove: How I learned to stop worrying and love the bomb</li> </ul>
May 26	Live		
May 31	Pre-recorded	Armed Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pg. 1-10 of Td Gurr, <i>why men rebel</i></li> <li>• Selections – Gambetta, <i>Engineers of Jihad</i></li> <li>• Collier and Hoeffler, <i>economic causes of conflict</i></li> </ul> <p>Listen</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gary Shiffman on the Economics of Violence</li> </ul> <p>Watch</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Violence in Civil wars</a> (Kalyvas, 2018)</li> </ul>
June 2	Live discussion		
June 7	Pre-recorded	Armed Group case studies: ISIS, Drug Gangs, and militias	<p>Watch: <a href="#">The Secret History of ISIS</a> (PBS 2016)</p> <p>Read:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 3, 5, 6 of Gary Shiffman, <i>The economics of Violence'</i></li> <li>• Part III - Bates, Robert H. <i>When things fell apart</i>. Cambridge University Press, 2015.</li> </ul>
June 9	Live discussion		
June 14	Pre-recorded	Counter Insurgency and Private military companies and	<p>Read</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chapter 4 and chapter 7: Peter Singer, <i>Corporate Warriors</i></li> </ul> <p>Watch: <a href="#">Shadow Company</a> (Documentary)</p>
June 16	Live discussion		

			<p>Read</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hazelton, Jacqueline L. "The "hearts and minds" fallacy: Violence, coercion, and success in counterinsurgency warfare." <i>International Security</i> 42.1 (2017): 80-113.</li> </ul> <p>Watch: Thomas Barnett – <a href="#">Rethinking America's military strategy</a></p>
June 18 (Friday)	Live	Climate Change	Hendrix, Cullen S. "A comment on "climate change and the Syrian civil war revisited"." <i>Political Geography</i> 60 (2017): 251-252.

### Accommodations during COVID

Due to COVID, instructors will not request or require a doctor's note when students seek accommodation for missed term work or exams due to illness. Instead, students will be asked to complete the self-declaration form available here: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/wp-content/uploads/self-declaration.pdf>

### Academic Accommodations

#### Pregnancy

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)

#### 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.

#### 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 is 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](http://carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support)

#### 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.

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).