

Carleton University
2015
Department of Political Science

Fall

PSCI 3603A
Strategic Thought and International Security
6:05 p.m. – 8:55 p.m. Monday
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Alex McDougall
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Office Hours: Monday, 5:15-6:00 pm
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Overview:

This course introduces students to a range of concepts, debates, and issues in the field of international security studies. In doing so, this class covers some of the enduring issues of security studies such as war, peace, and nuclear weapons, as well as some 'new' emerging issues such as the privatization of security, state failure, and nation-building.

Readings: All course readings are available through the electronic journal databases at the Carleton library, through the library's reserve system, or accessible online. Students must complete all of the required readings before coming to class. There will be between 50 and 80 pages of reading per week, including one or two full length journal articles or book chapters, selections of book chapters or articles, newspaper articles, and blog posts. I have also included material from other media sources, including podcasts, video lectures, and short reports.

Evaluation

The grading structure is as follows. Each item is described in detail below.

- **Comprehension Assignment x 2: 20%**
- Critical Review Essay: 25%
- **Final Take Home Exam: 40%**
- Participation: 15%

Comprehension assignments: Students will complete two comprehensions assignments consisting of short answer questions, in which students will apply concepts from the course material. The assignments are designed to test the student's understanding and ability to apply class material. Each answer should be 2-3 sentences long. Assignments are due one week after they are distributed. **Due Dates:** Assignment 1 will be distributed on Sep 28

and due Oct 5. Assignment 2 will be distributed on November 2, and due on November 9.
Submission method: hard copy in class

Critical Review: Students will submit one critical review essay, which evaluates and advances an argument about one of the readings for a given lecture topic. Students may choose the topic they wish to write about. (a) The review essay should make an effort to *incorporate insights and material from all of the required readings for the lecture*. (b) It is very important that the essays *make an argument*, and not simply summarize the required readings. (c) There are a variety of ways to write a review. Your critical review can dispute an argument(s) advanced in the reading, assess or concur with arguments advanced in the reading, explain and evaluate policies or historical events described in the reading; relate a case or a current event to arguments or ideas from the readings in a critical manner. (d) See the *how to write a critical review* guide on the course website for more specific instructions, guidelines, and tips. The reviews will be evaluated in terms of quality of argument, use and understanding of course materials, style/writing, and format. (e) The papers should not exceed 5 pages in length. **Due date: Dec 7**
Submission method: hard copy in class

Final Take Home Exam: On the last day of class, the instructor will distribute a final, take home exam. The exam will consist of long form essay questions. Students must answer the questions in a regular essay format, complete with citations. The exams will require students to draw on all of the required reading material and the lecture material. Therefore, students should do the readings every week, and take careful notes during class. Although not required, students may draw upon material from outside the course if they so choose, providing that they include full citations and a bibliography.

Due Date for take home exam: December 21

Submission method: email instructor; Students must attach exam as a single document, named **3603_firstname_last name.doc**

Participation and Attendance: Students should attend the lectures and make regular contributions to class discussion when required. Students also should prepare for class by completing the required reading/viewing material. The instructor will record attendance and participation. Students will be assigned a final grade based on their score. It is suggested that students also keep a record of their own participation and attendance.

Late assignments: Late assignments will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade per day (ie. A- to B+).

Class Schedule

Friday Sept 4 – Introduction to Class

- Human Security Report 2013, http://www.hsrgroup.org/docs/Publications/HSR2013/HSRP_Report_2013_14022_6_Web.pdf.
- Walt, Stephen: the Renaissance of Security Studies

Sept 14 - Lecture 2 - On the Causes of Peace and War

- Jack Snyder: *Myths of empire*, selections (Read pages 2-11).
- Stephen Van Evera, “primed for peace” in *International Security*.

Case: War and eurasian geopolitics (browse the following short readings – just to get an idea of key case details)

- King, Charles. "Five-Day War-Managing Moscow after the Georgia Crisis, The." *Foreign Aff.* 87 (2008):
- Rajan Menon and Eugene Rumer, 2014, *Conflict in Ukraine* (selections)

Sept 21, 28 - Week 3 and 4– More will be Better? Nuclear Proliferation and International security.

- Fog of War: 11 Lessons in the Life of Robert McNamera (introduction)
- Kenneth Waltz, “More maybe better” Scott Sagan, “More will be worse” in *The Spread of Nuclear Weapons: a Debate Revisited*, (New York: Norton, 2003).
- Matt Kroenig, “The case for attacking Iran,” in *Foreign Policy*, 2012. Watch Kroenig present his argument: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OmtSUC-R_XQ
- Dr. Strangelove, Film

IMPORTANT: Assignment 1 distributed in class. Due on Oct 5.

Oct 5, 19 - Week 5,6: Civil war and Armed Groups

Ethnic wars

- Chaim Kauffman, “Possible and impossible solutions to ethnic conflict,” in *International Security* 20(4) (Spring, 1996), pp. 136-175.

rebels

- Ted Gurr, “Relative Deprivation and the Impetus to Violence” in *Why Men Rebel* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1970), pp. 19-40.

Criminals

- Paul Collier, “Economic Causes of Civil Conflict and their Implications for Policy” Chester A. Crocker, Fen Osler Hampson, and Pamela Aall (eds), *Leashing the Dogs of*

War: Conflict Management in a Divided World. (Washington, D.C.: United States Institute of Peace Press, 2007), pp: 197-219.

Short blog posts for class discussion:

- Brad Plumer, 2013, "this graph shows why Egypt is falling apart", in the Washington Post, (1 page)
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/wonkblog/wp/2013/07/08/this-graph-shows-why-egypt-is-falling-apart/>.
- "Isis Uses Mafia Tactics to fund operations" in *Foreign Policy Magazine*. (1 page)
http://complex.foreignpolicy.com/posts/2014/06/16/isis_uses_mafia_tactics_to_fund_its_own_operations_without_help_from_persian_gulf_d

IMPORTANT: Assignment 1 Due

October 12: no class

Oct 19 - Week 6 – Civil war and Armed groups continued

- See week 5 readings

October 26: fall break, no class.

Nov 2 - Week 7 - Nation building, Reconstruction, Iraq

- Samuel Huntington, 1968. *Political Order in Changing Societies*, pages 78-92
- Paris, Roland. "Peacebuilding and the limits of liberal internationalism." *International security* 22.2 (1997): 54-89.
- Barbara Walter, "the critical barrier to civil war settlement", in *International Security*.
- 16 things you need to know about Isis in Iraq, July 2014. *Vox*.
<http://www.vox.com/cards/things-about-isis-you-need-to-know/what-is-isis>
- Watch: Iraq – Frontline Documentary

Recommended:

- Podcast: Paul Collier, economist, talks about Democracy and Violence:
http://www.econtalk.org/archives/2009/07/collier_on_demo.html
- George W. Bush, *Expanding the Circle of Democracy*, National Security Strategy of the United States of America, 2002.

IMPORTANT: Assignment 2 Distributed in class, **due Nov 9.**

November 9 - Week 8 – Private military firms (focus on sub-Saharan Africa)

- Peter Singer, “Why has Security been privatized?” in *Corporate Warriors: the Rise of the Privatized Military Industry* (Cornell, 2003), pp, 49-73. Singer’s work is perhaps the academic gold standard on the this topic.
- Scott Fitzsimmons, “A Private Solution to a Humanitarian Catastrophe,” *Vanguard* (August-September 2006): 18-20. Makes a compelling case, but are you convinced?
- Bates, *When things Fell Apart (selections)*.

IMPORTANT – assignment 2 due

November 16 - Week 9 – Counterinsurgency, Afghanistan, and Armed Groups

Guest speaker:

- Seth Jones, “Insurgency in Afghanistan” in *International Security*
- David Kilcullen, *Counterinsurgency* (Selections)

Nov 23 – Week 10 – The military, economy, society

- Guest Speaker, readings TBA

Nov 30: Week 11: Civil-military relations

- Guest speaker: Readings TBA

Dec 7: Week 12: The Future of International Security

- Peter Singer, “Wired for War” (selections).
- Samuel Huntington, 1996. “Clash of Civilizations” in *Foreign Affairs*.
- Francis Fukuyama, “the end of history”, in *National Interest*

Academic Accommodations

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 for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your **Letter of Accommodation** 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*). 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*).

For Religious Observance: Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance (www.carleton.ca/equity).

For Pregnancy: Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

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 include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

Oral Examination: At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

Submission and Return of Term Work: Papers must be handed directly to the instructor 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. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

Grading: Assignments and exams will be graded with a percentage grade. To convert this to a letter grade or to the university 12-point system, please refer to the following table.

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

Grades: Final grades are derived from the completion of course assignments. Failure to write the final exam will result in the grade ABS. Deferred final exams are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.

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. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, 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 numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit <http://facebook.com/CarletonPoliticalScienceSociety> or come to our office in Loeb D688.

Official Course Outline: The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.