

**DSS 5320 – Future Warfare**  
**UTEP/National Security**  
**Studies Institute**

**Spring 2022**

**Instructor:**

Dr. Joe Bassi, PhD (Lt Colonel, US Air Force, Retired)

Tel: 571-338-1328

Email: [jpbassi@utep.edu](mailto:jpbassi@utep.edu)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This online (*7 week*) course explores the development of warfare in the twenty-first century, with a particular focus on the defense and security challenges facing the United States in the future. It examines pressing strategic issues facing strategists and decision-makers as they try to prepare for future military deployments. The course is conceptually driven and puts an emphasis on the methodological challenges encountered when studying futures. Equal consideration is paid to technological and socio-political factors and their impact on future warfare. The course then moves on to the types, forms and dimensions of war in the future. The two last weeks seek to ground the debates and make them more policy-relevant via scenario building and defense planning.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

This is a graduate class in which students are expected to independently research the topics and to form their own opinion. The course uses a conceptual approach to the study of future warfare to enable students to think critically about it.

On completion of the course, students should be able to:

- Discuss critically some of the new trends in the application of force in international relations
- Understand how the Geo-political environment is changing with the rise of multiple “near peer” competitors to US interests
- Analyze the role and limits of the use of force to counter future threats
- Outline the contours of the debate related to US military transformation and its consequences
- Evaluate the efficacy of emerging technologies and their impact on future warfare
- Assess the impact of socio-political factors on future warfare
- Demonstrate understanding of the various forms future warfare could take

- Critically assess the use of scenario to complement strategic thinking - Discuss some of the key challenges of defense planning

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## TEXTBOOKS & READINGS

There are two **texts** required for this course:

1. *The Future of War: A History*. Lawrence Freedman (New York, Public Affairs Press), 2017  
ISBN-13: 978-1610393058  
ISBN-10: 1610393058

2. *The Kill Chain: Defending America in the Future of High-Tech Warfare*. Christian Brose (Hatchette Books), 2020  
ISBN: 9780316533539 (Hardcover)  
ISBN: 9780316533362 (ebook)

Students should obtain these books and read the relevant sections as assigned every week. Most of the weekly readings are based on this textbook together with additional articles from academic journals and other relevant sources. Some of the textbook chapters are not part of the weekly readings, but student are encouraged to read the whole book. Additional articles will be accessible via blackboard. If you have trouble accessing some journal articles, please contact the instructor. **Doing the readings and demonstrating that you have understood them is a requirement to pass this course.**

## ASSIGNMENTS

You will be assessed on a weekly basis and will receive feedback online. Here is an outline of the main assignments for this course. More information on the assignments will be provided each week.

- **Instructor questions** will test your understanding of the weekly readings. These questions will typically require short and concise answers (a handful of sentences), or brief definitions. You will not get extra credit for lengthy answers. Your answers to these questions will only be visible to the instructor who will grade them each week. You are expected to reply to these instructor questions **by the end of Thursday each week**.
- **Discussion questions** will test your understanding of the key concepts and your ability to discuss them coherently and convincingly. These questions will tend to be more open-ended, and aim to generate discussion among students. These questions will require longer, more

structured answers (a few paragraphs, about 400-500 words). You are expected to reply to these instructor questions **by Thu night each week.**

- **Weekly comments:** Students must also post a minimum of two comments weekly before Saturday night. These comments should be related to other students' answers to the discussion questions, and preferably be helpful and constructive. You are encouraged to

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question assumptions or related issues and make pertinent comments that may encourage further discussion or debate.

***Weekly Assignment Grading Rubric (indicative)***

<b>Low grade (below 80%)</b>	<b>Medium grade (80-90%)</b>	<b>High grade (90-100%)</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Responds partially to questions or not at all</li> <li>▪ Grammatical or spelling errors detract heavily</li> <li>▪ Postings don't reflect other readings at all or inadequately</li> <li>▪ Does not present ideas clearly</li> <li>▪ Facts are incorrect</li> <li>▪ Readings were poorly understood</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Responds adequately to questions asked</li> <li>▪ Some grammar or spelling errors</li> <li>▪ Postings tie in other readings to support answer</li> <li>▪ Presents ideas adequately</li> <li>▪ Facts are correct but with minor errors</li> <li>▪ Satisfactory grasp of readings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Responds fully, concisely, and thoroughly to questions</li> <li>▪ Writing is free or almost free of errors</li> <li>▪ Postings incorporate other readings very well</li> <li>▪ Presents ideas clearly and persuasively</li> <li>▪ Facts are detailed and correct</li> <li>▪ Readings fully understood</li> </ul>

**In week 6, Select one of Krepinivich’s scenarios and summarize its most important aspects and assess its quality using your own criteria.** The scenario review should be about 1000 words (ie about 4 pages, double space, 12 pt), excluding bibliography and bibliographical footnotes. The review must be of a suitable scholarly standard, with all quotations/citations **properly referenced**. Students should use the APA or [Chicago referencing style](#). A full **bibliography** must also be included at the end of the scenario review listing all sources used in alphabetical order; you are expected to use sources beyond the scenario itself to support your analysis. Email directly to Dr Bassi.

**In week 7, present a short analytical paper: “ Planning for the future” (Week 7):** Write a briefing paper emphasizing the key capabilities the US military will need to successfully fulfill its missions in the *near* future, ie, next 10-15 years. To help you focus and narrow the topic, PICK ONLY *ONE* SERVICE to analyze and discuss (Air Force, Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard). **Make sure to consider possible futures (and related threats, challenges, etc.).** Your paper should focus on force planning and make good use of the weekly readings. Feel free to use more resources. This is not an essay, but an analytical report. The briefing paper should be about 3000 words long (excluding the bibliography). It must be typed, double-spaced, 12 font, Arial or Times New Roman and posted on the week’s discussion board. The paper must be of a suitable scholarly standard, with all quotations/citations **properly referenced**. Students should use either Chicago/Turabian or APA formats. A full **bibliography** must also be included at the end of the scenario review listing all sources used in alphabetical order.

Students looking for help to find additional readings/sources in order to prepare for their assignments are welcome to contact the instructor by [e-mail](#).

**You must ask for extensions to avoid significant grade penalties for late work.**

<b>Grading Criteria for the scenario review and the analytical paper</b>	
<i>Criterion</i>	<i>Extent to which criterion is met</i>
Argument	Stated in introduction? Clear? Convincing?
Analysis	Critical discussion/evaluation of facts? Conclusions logical?
Coherence	Line of argumentation? Contradictions? Terms used consistently?
Structure	Is the paper structured? Logical structure? Systematic approach?
Research	Enough relevant sources? Quality of sources? Primary sources?
Language and form	Grammar/punctuation? Page numbers? Paragraphs? Referencing? Bibliography? Respecting the word-count?

**GRADES**

<b>Grading Scale</b>		
<b>%</b>	<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Grade Point</b>
90 - 100	A	4.0
80 - 89	B	3.0
70 - 79	C	2.0
60 - 69	D	1.0
0 - 59	F	0

<b>Types of assignment</b>	<b>Unit 1</b>	<b>Unit 2</b>	<b>Unit 3</b>	<b>Unit 4</b>	<b>Unit 5</b>	<b>Unit 6</b>	<b>Unit 7</b>
Tasks	10 pts						
Instructor questions	30 pts	30 pts	30 pts	30 pts	30 pts		
Discussion questions	20 pts	20 pts	20 pts	20 pts	20 pts	20 pts	20 pts
Comments (discussion questions)	10 pts	10 pts	10 pts	10 pts	10 pts	10 pts	10 pts
Scenario review						240	
Analytical paper			10 pts	25 pts			350 pts
Course evaluation							20 pts
<b>Total</b>	<b>70 pts</b>	<b>60 pts</b>	<b>75 pts</b>	<b>70 pts</b>	<b>60 pts</b>	<b>270 pts</b>	<b>395 pts</b>

**800NOTE: 1000 8 (80(88 pts total**

## **Plagiarism and Academic Dishonesty Statement**

Cheating is unethical and not acceptable. Plagiarism is using information or original wording in a paper without giving credit to the source of that information or wording: it is also not acceptable. Do not submit work under your name that you did not do yourself. You may not submit work for this class that you did for another class. If you are found to be cheating or plagiarizing, you will be subject to disciplinary action, per UTEP catalog policy. Refer to: <http://www.utep.edu/dos/academic.htm> for further information.

## **Disabilities Statement**

If you have a documented disability and require specific accommodations, you will need to contact the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) in the East Union Bldg., Room 106 within the first two weeks of classes. CASS can also be reached in the following ways:

Web: <http://sa.utep.edu/cass/>

Phone: (915) 745- 5148 voice or TTY

Fax: (915) 747- 8712

Email: [cass@utep.edu](mailto:cass@utep.edu)

