

DSS 5301 – STRATEGIC THEORY AND MODERN WARFARE (FALL 2018)

Instructor Dr. Mike McGee

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Office Hours: By appointment

Meeting Times & Location: Mondays, 1700-2000 hrs, Sergeants Major Academy, Rm 304

Description: An advanced theoretical survey of classical strategy from Clausewitz to Mao and the application of strategy to warfare in the modern age. Strategic thinking on conventional warfare, irregular warfare, nuclear warfare, and cyber warfare will be introduced. The course finishes with a discussion on the contemporary constraints on modern warfare.

Required Reading:

1. *U.S. Army War College Guide to National Security Issues, Vol. 1, Theory of War and Strategy* (Bartholomees, ed.)

Various readings on PDF will be provided by the course instructor.

Course Requirements:

1. Midterm Paper – individual assignment, expository, 4-6 pp., 1.5 spacing, fully annotated (25%)
2. Final Paper – individual assignment, expository, 8-10 pp., 1.5 spacing, fully annotated (50%)
3. Class Participation – 25%

Paper Guidelines:

Student papers will be fully research and annotated using footnotes and a bibliography based upon APA (American Psychological Association) style.¹ Sources should come largely from recognized published material such as academic monographs (books), peer-reviewed journals, professional magazines, and leading newspapers and other media sources. Primary/official documentation from U.S. Government sources will be most welcome.

Student papers will be judged on the research quality and content(40%), the thesis/argument (50%), and the overall quality of the writing (10%).

Midterm Paper Questions – Select one of the following:

1. Is industrialized war between major powers becoming obsolete in the post-9/11 world?
2. In what ways do the “new wars” of the post-9/11 period differ from earlier forms of war?
3. In what ways is strategy an art? A science?

Final Paper Questions – Select one of the following:

1. To what extent does naval power matter today in developing strategy?
2. To what extent is air power the dominant military tool for the application of force?
3. Are nuclear weapons (tactical or strategic) relevant to strategy today?
4. To what extent is irregular warfare governed by the principles of war or does it have its own principles?
5. Is there such a thing as cyber war? Or is it better classified using a different term?

¹ See information at <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>

Important Dates and Deadlines:

1. Midterm Paper – (Due: September 17 by 1700 hrs – email to instructor)
2. Final Paper – (Due: October 08 by 1700 hrs - email to instructor)

Grading: 100-90 (A), 89-80 (B), 79-70 (C), 69-60 (D), 59 & below (F)

Course Schedule:

1. Monday, August 20
 - Introduction to the Course
2. Monday, August 27
 - Lecture: What is Strategy?
 - Reading: Bartholomees, Ch. 1 and “The Dimensions of Strategy” *
3. Monday, September 3
 - No Class – Holiday
 - Reading: Bartholomees, Ch. 2
4. Monday, September 10
 - Lecture: Evolution of Modern Warfare
 - Reading: Bartholomees, Ch. 6
5. Monday, September 17
 - Lecture: Strategic Theory and Conventional Warfare
 - Reading: Bartholomees, Chs. 20 & 22
 - Assignment: Mid-term Paper Due
6. Monday, September 24
 - Lecture: Nuclear Warfare
 - Reading: “Nuclear Weapons, More May Be Better” *
7. Monday, October 1
 - Lecture: Irregular Warfare
 - Reading: “After Smart Weapons, Smart Soldiers” *
8. Monday, October 8
 - Lecture: Cyber Warfare
 - Reading: Bartholomees, Ch. 23
 - Assignment: Final Paper Due

Bibliography:

Books

War in the Shadows, Vol. 1&2 (Asprey)
The Art of War in World History (Chaliand)
Makers of Nuclear Strategy (Baylis & Garnett)
The Pursuit of Victory (Bond)
Strategy in the Missile Age (Brodie)
War (Codevilla & Seabury)
Makers of Modern Strategy (Earle)
The Evolution of Nuclear Strategy (Freedman)
Strategy (Freedman)
War (Freedman)
A History of Military Thought (Gat)
Another Bloody Century (Gray)
Clausewitz (Handel)
Clausewitz and Modern Strategy (Handel)
Masters of War (Handel)
The Art of War in the Western World (Jones)
Strategy (Liddell Hart)
Strategy (Luttwak)
Clausewitz and the State (Paret)
Makers of Modern Strategy (Paret)
War in the Modern World (Ropp)
The Strategy of Conflict (Schelling)
Cybersecurity and Cyberwar (Singer and Friedman)
The Direction of War (Strachan)
European Armies and the Conduct of War (Strachan)
History & Strategy (Trachtenberg)
Technology and War (Van Crevald)
The Transformation of War (Van Crevald)

Periodicals

Armed Forces & Society
Comparative Strategy
Defense & Security Analysis
International Security
Journal of Military History
Journal of Strategic Studies
Naval War College Review
Parameters
Small Wars & Insurgencies
Strategic Analysis
Strategic Comments
Strategic Studies Quarterly
War in History
War & Society

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/acadintg.htm> for further information.

Disabilities Statement:

The course instructor will make any reasonable accommodations for students with limitations due to disabilities, including learning disabilities. Please see me personally before or after class in the first two weeks or make an appointment, to discuss any special needs you might have. 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. The CASS Office can also be reached in the following ways:

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

Phone: (915) 747-5148 voice or TTY

Fax: (915) 747-8712

E-Mail: cass@utep.edu