WAR AND STRATEGY

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Course Description

The goal of this course is to examine the nature and use of military power in the international system and the challenge of devising strategies to achieve one's ends while avoiding wars if possible and winning wars if they become necessary. In essence, this course looks at how strategy is used to link military means to political goals.

This course will not directly or primarily focus on the questions of war and peace in the international system but will examine how strategic decision-making affects them. Similarly, although this course will often draw on current policy debates it is not a current events course.

Students taking this course are expected to have taken Political Science 115 and 282 and it is unlikely that you will do well in this course if you do not have a familiarity with important concepts in international relations such as anarchy, the balance of power, security dilemma, etc.

Course Requirements

Do the assigned readings! It is essential that you complete the reading before the class meeting for which they were assigned. Without this you will not get as much out of the lectures. Similarly, you should attend all or most of the class meetings. Being frequently absent from and unprepared for class will be reflected in your work and will affect your grade.

Given the size of the class it is unlikely that we will be able to have regular class discussion. However, whenever possible students will be encouraged to share their opinions on competing arguments.

The grade for the course will consist of four assignments:

Two Short Briefs on the assigned readings (each 15%)
Due: at the beginning of the class for which the reading was assigned
These should be 2-4 pages long, double-spaced. For each brief, pick a reading and then analyze it as follows:
1. What is the author’s main argument?
2. What theoretical and/or empirical support does the author give for his/her argument?
3. Critically assess the argument being made: Did you find the argument convincing? And more importantly: Why or why not?
Students should email me by September 9 with at least four topics they are interested in writing a brief for. Students will then be assigned two topics (every effort will be made to give students their top choices) and students will then be free to pick any assigned reading from these two topics to write a brief on.

**Take-home Midterm (30%)**  
**Due:** Beginning of class Thursday **October 28**  
You will be given a list of two to three questions a week before the midterm is due. You will pick one of these questions and address it in a 5-7 page double-spaced paper. More details about the midterm will be given as the due date approaches.

**Final Paper (40%)**  
**Due:** Beginning of class **December 9**  
For the paper you should pick a suitable topic related to the materials covered in the class and write a 10-12 page that discusses an important empirical puzzle or policy question. Students should submit their proposed topic to the instructor for approval on or before **October 21.** More details about the final paper will be given as the due date approaches.

**Late penalty**  
All assignments are due at the beginning of class. Except in the case if a valid and documented medical or family emergency, students will lose a third of a grade fore each day that their assignment is late. Thus if you hand in an assignment a day late and you get an A- on it your grade will be a B+.

Student must submit all assignment in hard copy form. I will not accept assignments in the form of an email attachment.

**Course Materials:**

**Recommended Books**  
Students are encouraged to purchase the following, as they are not mandatory they have not been ordered from the Hunter College Bookstore however they are available form either Barnes&Noble.com or Amazon.com:


A course package is also being prepared at Whole Sale Copies. I will email the class once this is ready for purchase.
Course readings not included in the assigned books may be accessed at the Hunter College Library reserve desk and/or by and downloading available articles with a college proxy access account. Some materials may also be posted on the Course Web page on Blackboard.

**Course Schedule:**

Note: *Lectures may depart from strict adherence to this schedule. Additional reading may be assigned but only with at least one week’s advance notice.*

I. **Introduction: Sound Strategy and the Realities of War**  
(September 9 and 13)


Carl von Clausewitz, *On War*, Michael Howard and Peter Paret, eds. and trans. (Princeton University Press, 1976), Book I, chaps. 1, 2, 7. (Read only this translation.)


II. **Concepts: Uses of Force, Strategy and Military Doctrine**  
(September 20 and 23)


III. **Explaining Strategic Outcomes**  
(September 27 and 30)


IV. Integrating Political Ends and Military Means: Technology, Doctrine, and Socioeconomic Factors  
(October 4, 7 and 14)

Niccolo Machiavelli, “Money is Not the Sinews of War, although it is Generally so Considered” in Betts, Conflict After the Cold War.

V. Deterrence, Crisis Bargaining, and Reputation  
(October 18 and 21)


VI. Coercion, Coercive Air Power and Economic Sanctions  
(October 25 and 28)

Thomas Schelling, Arms and Influence (Yale University Press, 1966), chaps. 2 - 4.  

VII. Alliances: the Logic of External Balancing  
(October 1 and 4)


**VIII. Weapons of Mass Destruction: Nature, Use and Deterrence Theory**
(November 8, 11 and 15)


**IX. Modern War and the Revolution in Warfare**
(November 16 and 17)


**X. Civil Wars and (Humanitarian) Intervention**
(November 22 and 29)

Richard Betts, "Delusions of Impartiality," *Foreign Affairs*, vol.73 no.6 (November/December 1994), pp. 20-32. (Excerpt in Betts *Conflict After the Cold War*)
Chaim Kaufmann, “See No Evil: Why America Doesn’t Stop Genocide,” *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 81, no. 4 (July/August 2002), pp. 142-149. (Excerpt in Art and Jervis International Politics)
Edward Luttwak, “Give War a Chance.” *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 81, no. 4 (July/August 1999), pp. 142-149.

**XI. Asymmetrical Conflict and Terrorism**
(December 2 and 6)

Martha Crenshaw, “The Globalization of Terror” Current History vol. 100 no. 65 (December 2001), pp. 425-432. (in Betts Conflict After the Cold War)
Martha Crenshaw, “The Effectiveness of Terrorism in the Algerian War” in Martha Crenshaw, ed. Terrorism in Context (University Park: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 1995)

XII. Just and Unjust War?
(December 9 and 13)

Michael Walzer, Just and Unjust Wars (Basic Books, 1977), chaps. TBA.
Paul Fussell, "Thank God for the Atom Bomb," in Fussell, Thank God for the Atom Bomb and Other Essays (Summit Books, 1988).
"An Exchange of Views" (rebuttal by Michael Walzer and surrebuttal by Fussell) in Fussell, Thank God for the Atom Bomb and Other Essays.