

POE 317: Introduction to Contemporary Strategic Studies Winter Term 2018

Instructor: Dr J.R. McKay

Office: G417
Phone: 6643
Email: james.mckay@rmc.ca

Class times & locations:
Wednesday 1000-1150 Sawyer 3103
Thursday 1330-1430 G133

Office Hours: Tuesday 0900-1600, although appointments are preferred!

General

Course Objectives

This course introduces theories and techniques of contemporary strategic studies. Developments in the international system following the Second World War and the Cold War will provide the context for the consideration of contemporary strategic problems and solutions.

Pedagogy

This course will be taught through a combination of readings, discussions and lectures. The professor's role in this guide is to act as the guide and evaluator as opposed to the sole provider of information. Students are expected to prepare for classes by completing the readings and submitting written deliverables.

Moodle will serve as the primary means of communication and distribution of materials associated with the course. Slides without speaking notes will be uploaded to the site on the Tuesday prior to the Wednesday & Thursday lectures.

Textbooks

John Baylis, James Wirtz, Eliot Cohen and Colin S. Gray, *Strategy in the Contemporary World: An Introduction to Strategic Studies*, 4th Edition, Toronto: Oxford University Press, 2013, ISBN-13: 978-0-19-969478-5

Paul Williams, Ed., *Security Studies: An Introduction*, (New York: Routledge, 2013), ISBN-13: 978-0-415-78281-4

Course Requirements and Evaluation

Evaluation in the course will be based on a student's ability to analyze issues using concepts and techniques used in strategic studies as well as explain them coherently.

Final Exam	30%
Paper	40%
Short Paper	20%
Participation/Readings	10%

Assignments (60% overall)

Assignment 1 – Paper (40%)

Using a quantitative method (i.e. a data source subjected to a form of statistical analysis), answer the following question:

What is the nature of a state actor's power, how can we know this, and what are the implications?

The paper should be between 12-15 pages long and must use at least one reputable data source and

Due: No Later Than **15 February 2018**

Assignment 2 – Short Paper (20%)

This assignment is intended to build on the ideas developed in Assignment 1. In a short paper (4-5 pages long), answer the following question:

Who's more powerful - the United States or the People's Republic of China? - and why is this the case?

Due: No Later Than **15 March 2018**

Final Exam (30%)

The Final Examination will be held In-Hall during the College's Examinations Period. Any element covered in class or in the required reading materials may be subject to examination.

Important Note:

All course work must be completed prior to the end of the term regardless of whether it is submitted for marks or not. The following academic regulations apply:

7.4 For each course a student must complete term work and all assignments to the satisfaction of the department concerned.

10.2 The instructor may refuse a student permission to write a final examination in a course if the requirements with regard to course work have not been met.

The 'bottom line' is that unless all work is submitted by the last day of classes, I will bar students from the exam.

Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct, including plagiarism, cheating, and other violations of academic ethics, is a serious academic infraction for which penalties may range from a recorded caution to expulsion from the College. The RMCC Academic Regulations Section 23 defines plagiarism as: "Using the work of others and attempting to present it as original thought, prose or work. This includes failure to appropriately acknowledge a source, misrepresentation of cited work, and misuse of quotation marks or attribution." It also includes "the failure to acknowledge that work has been submitted for credit elsewhere." All students should consult the published statements on Academic Misconduct contained in the *Royal Military College of Canada Undergraduate Calendar*, Section 23.

Turnitin.com

Assignments in this course are subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the Royal Military College of Canada. All assignments submitted will be retained as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of ascertaining the originality of current and future assignments submitted to the system.

The Class ID is 16903886 and the Enrollment Key is Strategic.

Philosophy:

1. Plan ahead. I tend to be generous with extensions if presented well in advance and based on logic. I do not recommend coming to me with requests lacking substantiation on short notice.
2. My late policy is very simple: on time or zero unless there is a truly extenuating circumstance. Printer breakdowns, hostile acts of pets against one's work, relationship dramas, and the vagaries of College life (read as: inspections, parade practices and quarter guards) are not all that extenuating. All the due dates appear in this document. Related to this – I am happy to review material in advance and offer advice on it.

3. We are all on the same team. I do not mind humour, but if it excludes someone, this weakens the team and is not acceptable.
4. Do not force me to hunt you if I ask for something from you. If I don't get a response quickly, I tend to go up the chain of command. Face it, even the wildest of characters get found eventually! Forcing others to expend effort finding you just irritates everyone.
5. Readings aren't optional and should be done in advance (less the first week). I reserve the right to impose written quizzes to test reading completion if I get the impression that readings are not being completed with effects on your participation marks.

Classes & Readings

Wednesday, 10 January 2018

- 1A - Introduction
- 1B – Strategic Studies

Readings: Isabelle Duyvesteyn & James E. Worrall, "Global strategic studies: a manifesto", *Journal of Strategic Studies*, Vol. 40, No. 3 (2017): 347-357. [MOODLE]; Baylis et al, Chapters 18 and 20 [TEXTBOOK]

Thursday, 11 January 2018

- 1C - Exploring Literature and Sources

Come to class with a puzzle involving the contemporary world and conflict for us to use as a vehicle for the discussion, i.e. is the frequency of violent conflict increasing or decreasing?

Make sure you register for Turnitin for this course!

Wednesday, 17 January 2018

- 2A - Realism – a review
- Reading: Williams, Chapters 2 and 11 [TEXTBOOK]
- 2B – Power (Part I)

Thursday, 18 January 2018

- 2C – Power (Part II)

This lecture introduces a number of different systems to attempt to measure power. This is guaranteed to help you think about Assignment 1.

Wednesday, 24 January 2018

3A – International Relations Concept Refresher
3B – Communication through actions

Thursday, 25 January 2018

3C – Constraints on state behavior
Reading : Baylis et al, Chapter 5 [TEXTBOOK]

Wednesday, 31 January 2018

4A – Of Gambits & Stratagems

Thursday, 1 February 2018

4BC - Causes of violent conflict?
Reading for 4B: Jack Levy, “The Causes of War and the Conditions of Peace”, *Annual Review of Political Science* (1998): 139-165. [MOODLE]
Reading for 4C: Williams, Chapter 13, Baylis et al, Chapter 1 [TEXTBOOK]

Wednesday, 7 February 2018

5A – Securitization
Reading: Michael Williams, “Words, Images, Enemies: Securitization and International Politics”, *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 47 (2003), 511-531. [MOODLE]

5B – Economic Sanctions

Thursday, 8 February 2018

5C – Coercion
Readings: Williams, Chapter 14 [TEXTBOOK]

Wednesday, 14 February 2018

6A – Alliances and Coalitions
Reading: Williams, Chapter 23 [TEXTBOOK]

6B – Security Cooperation & Assistance
Reading: Stephen Biddle, Julia Macdonald and Ryan Baker, “Small footprint, small payoff: The military effectiveness of security force assistance”, *Journal of Strategic Studies*, Vol. 40, (2017): 1-54.[MOODLE]

Thursday, 15 February 2018

6C – Information & Propaganda

***** Assignment 1 due NLT 15 2359 Feb 18 *****

Wednesday, 28 February 2018

7A – Review of Assignment 1

7B - Warfare on Land

Reading: Baylis et al, Chapter 6 [TEXTBOOK]

Thursday, 1 March 2018

7C - Warfare at Sea

Wednesday, 7 March 2018

8A - Warfare in the Air

8B - Intelligence

Reading: Williams, Chapter 16 [TEXTBOOK]

Thursday, 8 March 2018

8C – WMD: Chemical Weapons / Biological Weapons

Wednesday, 14 March 2018

9A - Radiological and Nuclear Weapons

Reading: Baylis et al, Chapter 10 [TEXTBOOK]

9B - Arms: Races & Control

Readings: Williams, Chapter 29, Baylis et al, Chapter 10 [TEXTBOOK]

Thursday, 15 March 2018

9C - Cyberwarfare

Reading: Baylis et al, Chapter 16 [TEXTBOOK]

***** Assignment 2 due NLT 15 2359 Mar 18 *****

Wednesday, 21 March 2018

10A - Terrorism

Reading: Baylis et al, Chapter 9 [TEXTBOOK]

10B - Insurgency

Reading: Williams, Chapter 31 [TEXTBOOK]

Thursday, 22 March 2018

10C - Review of Assignment 2

Wednesday, 28 March 2018

11A – Ending Conflict Part I

11B – Ending Conflict Part II

Thursday, 29 March 2018

11C - Ending War: Conflict Termination

Reading: Baylis et al, Chapter 15; Williams, Chapter 26 [TEXTBOOK]

Wednesday, 4 April 2018

12A – Common Good / Collective Action Problems: Resource Competition

Reading: Williams, Chapter 35 [TEXTBOOK]

12B – Migrants: Early 21st Century Security Challenge

Reading: Williams, Chapter 34 [TEXTBOOK]

Thursday, 5 April 2018

12C – Review of Weeks 1-4

Wednesday, 11 April 2018

13AB – Review of Weeks 5-12

Thursday, 12 April 2018

13C - Review