

POE 317: Introduction to Contemporary Strategic Studies

Winter Term 2021

Instructor: Dr J.R. McKay

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Class times & locations:

Fridays, 1340-1630, Loc TBC

Office Hours:

TBC

Appointments are preferred and available on other days of the week.

General

Course Objectives

This course examines the central problem of strategic studies, namely how actors conceive of, and employ force to achieve political objectives, specifically how competition can lead to violence. Students will gain a deeper understanding of the application of International Relations theory, with emphasis on the realist approach to the utility and employment of force. Using a variety of analytical techniques, students will interpret contemporary events and trends.

Learning Objectives

1. **Compare** explanations for violent conflict.
2. **Employ** qualitative and quantitative methods to understand contemporary events and trends.
3. **Formulate** explanations using key concepts.
4. **Contrast** competing realist theories.

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 Monday prior to the Monday and 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*, 3rd Edition, (New York: Routledge, 2018), ISBN: 0415784905

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 (Take Home)	30%
Assignment 1 – Paper	40%
Assignment 2 – Short Paper	20%
Participation/Readings	10%

Assignments (60% overall)

Assignment 1 – Paper (40%)

How do we know a state is powerful or not? Explore and develop the best possible model for measuring the power of any given state. Lecture 2C contains lots of ways to think about this but start researching as soon as you can.

Length: 3000 words (+/- 10% flexibility)

Due: No Later Than **DATE**

Assignment 2 – Short Paper (20%)

Based on the model you assessed as the best possible, examine how powerful is one of the following:

- Canada
- Spain
- Japan

Length: 2000 words (+/- 10% flexibility), less annexes

Due: No Later Than **DATE**

For both papers, the citation style is the Chicago Manual of Style (https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide.html), **In text Author Date** system.

Final Exam (30%)

The Final Examination will be a takehome issued on the last day of class and due two weeks later. It will be a short paper to answer one of a small range of questions. 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.

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.

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. Humour is welcome, but if it weakens the cohesion of that team, it is not acceptable.
4. Do not force me to hunt you if I ask for something. If I don’t get a response quickly, I tend to go up the chain of command. Even the wildest of characters get found eventually! Forcing others to expend effort finding you just irritates everyone and is not in your interest.
5. Readings aren’t optional and should be done in advance (including the first week). I reserve the right to impose quizzes to test reading completion if I get the impression that readings are not being completed with effects on your participation marks.

Classes & Readings

Friday, 15 January 2021

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]

1C – Classical Realism

Readings: Graham Allison, *Destined for War: Can America and China Escape Thucydides' Trap?*, (New York: Houghton-Mifflin, 2017), 27-41. [MOODLE]

Friday, 22 January 2021

2A – Neorealism

Reading: Williams, Chapter 2 [TEXTBOOK]

2B – Neoclassical Realism

Reading: Nil

2C – Power & Security

Readings:

Hans Morgenthau, *Politics Among Nations*, 7th Edition, (New York: McGraw-Hill, 2006), 122-163 [MOODLE].

Michael Beckley, "The Power of Nations: Measuring What Matters", *International Security*, Vol. 43, No. 2 (Fall 2018), pp. 7–44 [MOODLE].

Friday, 29 January 2021

3A – Ends/Ways/Means

Reading: Nil

3B – Of Gambits & Stratagems

3C – Preparing for War (Force Generation and Mobilization)

Friday, 5 February 2021

4A – Alliances and Coalitions

Reading: Williams, Chapter 23 [TEXTBOOK]

4B - 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, (2018): 1-54.[MOODLE]

4C – Causes of violent conflict?

Reading: Jack Levy, "The Causes of War and the Conditions of Peace", *Annual Review of Political Science* (1998): 139-165. [MOODLE]

Reading: Williams, Chapter 13, Baylis et al, Chapter 1 [TEXTBOOK]

Friday, 12 February 2021

5A - Causes of violent conflict?

5B - The Phenomenon of Warfare since 1992

Reading: Tanisha Fazal, "Dead Wrong? Battle Deaths, Military Medicine, and Exaggerated Reports of War's Demise", *International Security* (2014): 95-125 [MOODLE]

5C – Constraints on state behavior

Reading : Baylis et al, Chapter 5 [TEXTBOOK]

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Friday, 26 February 2021

6A – Review of Assignment 1

6B - Signals & Indices

6B – Economic Sanctions

Friday, 5 March 2021

7A – Coercion

Readings: Williams, Chapter 14 [TEXTBOOK]

7B - Warfare on Land: Near-Peer Competitors

Reading: Baylis et al, Chapter 6 [TEXTBOOK]

7C - Warfare on Land: Near-Peer Competitors

Reading: Baylis et al, Chapter 6 [TEXTBOOK]

Friday, 12 March 2021

8A – Warfare in the Air

8B – War at Sea

8C – Warfare, combined and joint

Friday, 19 March 2021

9A – WMD

Reading: Baylis et al, Chapter 10 [TEXTBOOK]

9B – Arms: Races & Control

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

9C – Terrorism & Insurgency

Readings: Baylis et al, Chapter 9 [TEXTBOOK], Williams, Chapter 31 [TEXTBOOK]

PAPER 21 DUE BY 19 2359 MAR 21

Friday, 26 March 2021

10A – Information & Propaganda

Reading: Alexander Lanoszka, "Disinformation in International Politics" [MOODLE]

10B - Securitization

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

10C – Cyberwarfare

Reading: Baylis et al, Chapter 16 [TEXTBOOK]

Friday, 2 April 2021

11ABC – Ending Conflict

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

Friday, 9 April 2021

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

Reading: Williams, Chapter 35 [TEXTBOOK]

12B – Pandemics

12C – Review of Assignment 2

Monday, 16 April 2021

13A – Review. Take-home Exam Release.