

İhsan Doğramacı Bilkent University
Department of International Relations
Spring 2020

IR 488 - Security and Strategy

Course Outline

Instructor: Dr. Çağlar Kurç

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Office Hours: Monday 10:40 – 11:40 & Wednesday 13:40 – 15:30 or by appointment

Lecture Hours: Monday 9:40 – 10:30, Wednesday 10:40 – 12:30 @A231

Office: A307

Course Description:

The Strategic Studies sits between the Security Studies and the Military Science. In most simple terms, the Strategic Studies is the study of the use of military power and other coercive instruments to reach political ends. Yet, as Richard Betts argues, what the military power and other coercive instruments can accomplish in a given situation does not directly drawn from international relations theories or rational choice models but the answer depends on the military technology, organization, and doctrine, and how these fit into political and geographical circumstances. This makes the study of strategy an inter-disciplinary field that is comprised of a wide range of methodologies and theories.

This course, therefore, is designed to equip students with the necessary conceptual tools, theories and technical knowledge for an adequate understanding of armed conflicts, international security and strategic implications of systemic transformations. The course will begin with the theoretical and conceptual examination of strategy and security. Departing from the theoretical foundations, the course will move on to military side of the analysis, thus focus on rather practical issues; such as weapon recognition, military technology, arms production, military doctrines and conduct of contemporary warfare.

Course Objectives:

Beyond contributing to the general development of students' intellectual maturity and abilities, on completion of this course, students will;

1. Demonstrate an understanding of different weapons systems and able to compare basic characteristics;
2. Critically evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of different approaches to the study of strategy;
3. Identify core assumptions in the policy discourses and evaluate the possible outcomes of security policies;
4. Critically evaluate the connection between the military operations and the expected outcomes.

Course Requirements:

Students are expected to do the required reading prior to class and be prepared for the discussions during the lecture. The assessment will be based on class participation, quizzes, mid-term exam, the final exam, which will cover all the topics since the beginning of the semester, and overall improvement of the student throughout the course.

Grading:

Assignment	% of grade	Dates
Midterm Exam	30	11 March 2020
Final Exam	40	TBD
Quiz	15	26 February, 8 April, 6 May
Participation	15	Updated weekly

Participation (15%):

Students are expected to participate actively in class discussions throughout the semester. During the lecture, we will have discussions concerning the primary debates on the week's theme. Students will take and defend positions, based on the concepts they have been learning as well as on evidence from the course material and real life events. The aim of these discussions is: 1) improving students' argumentation skills; 2) reviewing the concepts presented in class; 3) encouraging students to critically assess and make connections between concepts and real events in world affairs. You are encouraged to speak your mind and ask questions. Please be polite to and respectful of the other students. Harassment and rude behavior will not be tolerated. You will earn points when you ask questions, make comments and/or take part in the discussions.

In addition to the discussion, we will also have role-playing simulations. For some of the simulations, we will use TripleA software. I recommend you to download the software and familiarize yourself with the game play of various game modes (such as Napoleonic Empires, Diplomacy: FFA V3 Rules and Total World War December 1941). You can download the game from here: <https://triplea-game.org/> Students will earn participation points by taking active role in these simulations as well as participating in the follow-up discussions (both in-class and at Moodle).

Simulation dates are; **4 March 2020 and 29 April 2020**

Mid-term (30%) & Final examinations (40%)

The questions in both mid-term and final examinations aim to test student's comprehension of concepts and issues that are discussed during the lectures and required readings. While providing an answer, therefore, students are expected to refer to/provide the core arguments and concepts. The questions would require the explanation of the core reasoning behind a position/concept (why or how). Consequently, a full point will be given to the answers that directly engage what we have discussed in the class and what is written in the required readings. Final exam will cover all the topics since the beginning of the semester.

Quiz (15%)

There will be three quizzes throughout the semester. The quizzes will involve scenarios and students are asked to provide a policy recommendation. A full point will be given to the answer that considers at least two options, discusses their strengths and weaknesses, and makes a good argument why the selected option should be followed. Note that there is no goldilocks option. Every recommendation has its own strengths and weaknesses. Therefore, students are expected to recommend an option that has fewer weaknesses. Since many strategic decisions are given in short period of time and under stress, quizzes aim to simulate the pressure on the decision makers as well as people, who provide policy recommendations.

Final Exam Visa and FZ Grade

In order to qualify for the final examination, a student must **have taken the mid-term examination and all three quizzes**. Students, who do not qualify for the final examination based on these requirements will receive an FZ grade when the classes are over. Note that the final examination visa requirements will be strictly observed for every single student.

Weekly Schedule* :

Week 1 (3 & 5 February): Introduction

5 February 2020: TripleA demo

Week 2 (10 & 12 February): The Foundations of Security Studies, Strategic Studies and Military Science

Required Reading:

Edward A. Kolodziej, *Security and International Relations* (Cambridge University Press, 2004), pp. 11-47

John Baylis, James Wirtz, Eliot Cohen and Colin Gray, *Strategy in the Contemporary World*, (Oxford University Press, 2003): "Introduction", pp. 1-14

Week 3 (17 & 19 February): The Nature and Functions of War

Required Reading:

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

Week 4 (24 & 26 February): Integrating Political Ends and Military Means

Required Reading:

Clausewitz, *On War*, Book I, chap. 7; Book II, chap. 3; Book III, chap. 1; Book VI, chaps. 1, 3, 5

Week 5 (2 & 4 March): Ends and Means in Wars

Required Reading:

Clausewitz, *On War*, Book VII, chap. 22; Book VIII, chaps. 1-3, 6

Week 6 (11 March): Mid-Term Exam

Week 7 (16 & 18 March): Spring Break

* *All required readings are available in the Moodle.*

Week 8 (23 & 25 March): Critique of Clausewitz

Required Reading:

Kaldor, Mary. *New and Old Wars: Organized Violence in a Global Era* (Polity, 1999), chaps. 2-3

Week 9 (30 March & 1 April): Understanding the Military Technology - Basic

Concepts

Required Reading:

John Baylis, James Wirtz, Eliot Cohen and Colin Gray, *Strategy in the Contemporary World*, (Oxford University Press, 2003): “Technology and Warfare”, pp. 121-136

Week 10 (6 & 8 April): Procurement, Defence Industries and Military Capabilities

Required Reading:

Çağlar Kurç & Stephanie G. Neuman (2017) Defence industries in the 21st century: a comparative analysis, *Defence Studies*, 17:3, 219-227.

Stephanie G. Neuman & Çağlar Kurç (2017) Conclusion: the need for continuous in-depth and comparative study, *Defence Studies*, 17:3, 317-325

Week 11 (13 & 15 April): The Diffusion of Military Technology and Military Power

Required Reading:

Michael Horowitz, *The Diffusion of Military Power: Causes and Consequences for International Politics* (Princeton University Press, 2010), Ch. 1

Andrea Gilli & Mauro Gilli. (2016). The Diffusion of Drone Warfare? Industrial, Organizational, and Infrastructural Constraints. *Security Studies*, 25(1), 50–84.

<http://doi.org/10.1080/09636412.2016.1134189>

Week 12 (20 & 22 April): The relationship between Military Technology and War

Required Reading:

Stephen Biddle, *Military Power* (Princeton University Press, 2004), Chapter 10

Week 13 (27 & 29 April): Conduct of Contemporary War

Required Reading:

John Baylis, James Wirtz, Eliot Cohen and Colin Gray, *Strategy in the Contemporary World*, (Oxford University Press, 2003): “Theory and Practice of Continental Warfare”, pp. 247-264

Week 14 (4 & 6 May): Unconventional Warfare

Required Reading:

Richard K. Betts, ed., *Conflict After the Cold War*, 3d Edition (Pearson-Longman, 2008): T. E. Lawrence, “Science of Guerrilla Warfare” , Mao Tse-tung, “On Guerrilla Warfare”, Martha Crenshaw, “The Strategic Logic of Terrorism”

Week 15 (11 & 13 May): Society, Polity, and Culture

Required Reading:

Caitlin Talmadge, *The Dictator’s Army: Battlefield Effectiveness in Authoritarian Regimes* (Cornell UP, 2015), Chapter 1: “A Framework for Explaining Battlefield Effectiveness”

Recommended Readings:

If you would like to learn more about the covered issues:

Adamsky, Dima *The Culture of Military Innovation: The Impact of Cultural Factors on the Revolution in Military Affairs in Russia, the US, and Israel* (Stanford University Press, 2010)

Brauer, Jurgen and Dunne, J. Paul. (eds.) *Arming the South: The Economics of Military Expenditure, Arms Production and Arms Trade in Developing Countries* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2002)

Brooks, Stephen G. *Producing Security: Multinational Corporations, Globalizations and the Changing Calculus of Conflict* (Princeton University Press, 2007)

Farrell, Theo and Terriff, Terry (eds). *The Sources of Military Change: Culture, Politics and Technology* (Lynne Rienner, 2002)

Freedman, Lawrence. *Strategy: A History* (Oxford University Press, 2013)

Gray, Colin S. *Modern Strategy* (Oxford University Press, 1999)

Gray, Colin S. *The Future of Strategy* (Polity Press, 2015)

Imlay, Talbot C. and Toft, Monica Duffy. *The Fog of Peace and War Planning: Military and Strategic Planning under Uncertainty* (Routledge, 2006)

Knox, MacGregor and Murray, Williamson. *The Dynamics of Military Revolution 1300-2050* (Cambridge University Press, 2001)

Krause, Keith. *Arms and the State: Patterns of Military Production and Trade* (Cambridge University Press, 1992)

Luttwak, Edward N. *Strategy: The Logic of War and Peace*, Revised and Enlarged Ed. (Harvard University Press, 2003)

Mitchell, Paul T. *Network Centric Warfare and Coalition Operations: The New Military Operating System* (Routledge, 2009)

O'Hanlon, Michael E. *The Science of War* (Princeton University Press, 2009)

Pape, Robert A. *Bombing to Win* (Cornell University Press, 1996)

Posen, Barry R. *The Sources of Military Doctrine: France, Britain, and Germany Between the World Wars* (Cornell University Press, 1984)

Schelling, Thomas C. *The Strategy of Conflict* (Harvard University, 1960)

Shaw, Martin. *Dialectics of War: An Essay on the Social Theory of Total War and Peace* (Pluto Press, 1988)

Singer, P. W., *Wired for War: The Robotics Revolution and Conflict in the 21st Century* (Penguin, 2009)

Smith, Rupert. *The Utility of Force: The Art of War in the Modern World* (Penguin, 2006)

Sondhaus, Lawrence *Strategic Culture and Ways of War* (Routledge, 2006)

Van Creveld, Martin. *The Transformation of War* (The Free Press, 1991)

Wyn Jones, Richard. *Security, Strategy, and Critical Theory* (Lynne Reinner, 1999)

General Rules:

- I do not advise the use of electronic devices during the lecture. Looking at your phone, even if you are skimming through the relevant sources, will negatively affect your concentration and you would not be absorbing what I am saying. If you think that you can multitask, there is scientific evidence that discredits the practices of juggling intellectual engagement with related activities or attempting to perform two intellectual functions at once; studies have discovered measurable degradation of

perception and performance when multitasking¹. As John Horgan puts it (“So Many Links, So Little Time,” Wall Street Journal, June 4, 2010):

“We skim web pages and skip quickly from one to another. We read in what is called an “F” pattern: After taking in the first two lines of a text, we zip right down the rest of the page. We lose the ability to transfer knowledge from short-term “working” memory to long-term memory.... Students who net-surf during class, even if their searches are related to the professor’s lecture, remember less than unconnected students.... Verbal SAT scores – which measure reading and writing aptitude – have dropped over the past decade as Internet usage has skyrocketed. What we gain from the Internet in breadth of knowledge – or rather, access to knowledge – we lose in depth.”

Therefore, to ingest and assimilate the material in this course sufficiently you must concentrate, and concentrate on one thing at a time.

- Beverages are allowed, however food is not.
- The inquiries will be answered within three business days. If not answered, please assume that your email has been marked as spam. In this case, please inform the lecturer after the class. Depending on the urgency, the response time could be shorter.
- **Please do not send any emails after 10:00 PM** and expect a quick answer. I will probably see your email in the morning.
- If you are late to the class less than or equal to 15 mins, please do not hesitate to enter. However, please be polite and try not to disturb the ones in the class.
- If you are late more than 15 mins, please wait until the break.
- If you would like to leave the class early, please wait until the break unless it is an urgent matter.
- If you have any problems or questions concerning the course, please do not hesitate to contact the lecturer.
- Make-ups will be arranged for students who are ill at the time of an examination. In order to get a make-up, students must provide a valid medical report for the day of the

¹ Eyal Ophir, Clifford Nass, and Anthony D. Wagner, "Cognitive Control in Multitaskers," Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, vol. 106, no. 3 (April 1, 2009), Ruth Pennebaker, "The Mediocre Multitasker," New York Times Week in Review, August 30, 2009 (a journalist's more readable and humorous summary of the above academic study), Joshua S. Rubinstein, David E. Meyer, and Jeffrey Evans, "Executive Control of Cognitive Processes in Task Switching," Journal of Experimental Psychology: Human Perception and Performance, vol. 27, no. 4 (2001), Christine Rosen, "The Myth of Multitasking," The New Atlantis (Spring 2008).

examination. The report must be approved by the Bilkent Health Centre, and submitted to the faculty in accordance with formal procedures. Note that make-ups will be given as soon as possible after the original examination.

- You are responsible for all the topics covered, even if you are absent in the lectures.
- Please read the required readings and be prepared for the discussion.
- It is your responsibility to **check emails** regularly. When course announcements are sent via email, I assume that you read it.
- You must bring **(a) pen(s)** to all exams.

Grading System:

Letter Grade	Quality-point equivalents	Number Grade Range
A / A+	4.00	95 - 100
A -	3.70	90 - 94
B +	3.30	85 - 89
B	3.00	80 - 84
B -	2.70	75 - 79
C +	2.30	70 - 74
C	2.00	65 - 69
C -	1.70	60 - 64
D +	1.30	55 - 59
D -	1.00	50 - 54
F	0.00	0 – 49
FX	0.00	
FZ	0.00	

FX grade rule: If the student acquires visa for the final exam but chooses not to take it, FX grade will be given for those who are below 50%