

# Political Science 3704

## National Security Strategy

### Spring 2016

## Course Info

**Instructor:** Steven Wilson

**Place:** McBryde 321

**Time:** Mondays and Wednesdays 4:00PM - 5:15PM

**Office Hours:** by appointment in Major Williams 119A

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## Course Objectives

This course introduces the students to the fundamentals of strategic theory. Topics under examination include the evolution of warfare; law, politics and the use of force; the causes of war and the conditions of peace; strategic theory; deterrence; arms control and disarmament; terrorism and asymmetrical warfare; technology and warfare; humanitarian intervention and peace operations; and weapons of mass destruction.

## Textbooks

The course has four required text books:

- Baylis, Wirtz, and Gray: *Strategy in the Contemporary World, 4th Edition*
- Luttwak: *Strategy: The Logic of War and Peace*
- Collins: *Military Strategy: Principles, Practices, and Historical Perspectives*
- Jarmon: *The New Era in U.S. National Security*

## Assignments & Grading

Reading will be assigned for each class. Students should come to class having read the assigned material and being ready to discuss it. Lectures will be designed to supplement the material covered in the readings. Please come to office hours (or schedule a meeting with me if you have a conflict) if you have any trouble understanding the material, or if you have any questions about the course at all as the semester progresses.

Students will be evaluated on the basis of two short essays, a research paper that will be completed in stages (called “research briefings”) throughout the semester, a midterm exam, and a final exam. The proportion each of these is worth to the final grade is listed below:

- Short Essays (20%) (Two, due on 2/26 and 4/8)
- Midterm Exam (20%) (In class, Wednesday 3/2)
- Research Briefs (20%) (throughout semester)
- Final Exam (20%) (In class, Wednesday 5/4)
- Final Paper (20%) (due Tuesday, 5/10 by 5pm)

## Short Essays

These two short essays (1000 words each) are each on a predetermined topic. For the first essay (the ‘theoretical’ essay), each student will select a classic text on strategy from the list of works provided below. They will be responsible for reading the text, and comprehensively summarizing and critiquing it. For the second essay (the ‘practical’ essay), each student will write a comparative analysis of two of America’s officially published *National Security Strategy* from different years. These documents will be provided on the course’s Scholar website.

When grading these essays, if a student writes less than the minimum length, the paper will be graded out of the percent of the assignment that was written. For example, an 800 word paper will be graded out of 80%.

## Classic Text Options for Theoretical Essay

- Sun-tzu, *On War*
- Kautilya, *Arthashastra*
- Thucydides, *The Peloponnesian War*
- Julius Caesar, *The Civil War*
- Prokopius, *History of Wars*

- Henri Jomini, *The Art of War*
- Carl von Clausewitz, *On War*
- Alfred Mahan, *Naval Strategy*
- Julian Corbett, *Some Principles of Maritime Strategy*
- Ferdinand Foch, *The Principles of War*
- Mikhail Tukhachevsky, *The Guerilla Reader*
- Nicholas Spykman, *The Geography of Peace*
- Basil Liddell Hart, *Strategy*
- Thomas Schelling, *Arms and Influence*
- P. Gallois, *The Balance of Terror*
- J.F. C. Fuller, *A Military History of the Western World*
- Michael Howard, *The Lessons of History*
- Richard Betts, *Surprise Attack*
- Lawrence Friedman, *The Evolution of Nuclear Strategy*
- Morton Halperin, *Limited War in the Nuclear Age*
- Michael Handel, *Intelligence and Strategic Operations*
- Mao Ze-Dong, *Selected Military Writings*
- Che Guevara, *Guerilla Warfare*

## Final Papers and Research Briefs

The final papers will be written in stages over the course of the semester. In the first two weeks of the semester, students will identify a research question they want to answer appropriate to the course's subject matter, turn in a summary of the question and their approach to it, and generate a reading list for the semester. Over the course of the semester, students will write a single page on each of their sources, summarizing the arguments of each and how they help answer the student's research question (these assignments are labeled "research briefs"). This work will be used as the body of evidence for the final paper, which will be 2500 words in length and due by 5pm on Tuesday, 5/10.

When grading the final paper, if a student writes less than the minimum length, the paper will be graded out of the percent of the assignment that was written. For example, a 2000 word paper will be graded out of 80%.

# Course Schedule

The schedule for the semester is listed below, along with the assigned chapters to read for each class.

**Wed, 20 Jan: Course Introduction & Syllabus Review**  
NO READING

**Mon, 25 Jan: What is National Security?**

*Jarmon:* Chapter 2

*Collins:* Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4

**Wed, 27 Jan: What is Strategy?**

*Luttwak:* Chapters 1, 2, 3, and 4

*Baylis:* Chapters 3 and 4

**Mon, 1 Feb: Causes of War, Conditions of Peace**

*Baylis:* Introduction, and Chapter 1

**Wed, 3 Feb: Evolution of Modern Warfare**

*Collins:* Chapters 8 and 9

*Baylis:* Chapter 2

**Mon, 8 Feb: The Levels of Strategy**

*Luttwak:* Chapters 5, 6, and 7

*Collins:* Chapter 6

**Wed, 10 Feb: Theater Strategy**

*Luttwak:* Chapters 8, 9, and 10

**Mon, 15 Feb: Grand Strategy**

*Luttwak:* Chapters 13, 14, and 15

*Baylis:* Chapter 19

**Wed, 17 Feb: Conventional Power**

*Collins:* Chapter 14

*Baylis:* Chapter 12

**Mon, 22 Feb: Non-lethal Strategy**

*Collins:* Chapters 7 and 19

**Wed, 24 Feb: Naval & Maritime Power**

*Luttwak:* Chapter 11

*Jarmon:* Chapter 5

**Mon, 29 Feb: Air Power**

*Luttwak:* Chapter 12

**Wed, 2 Mar: Midterm Exam**  
MIDTERM EXAM, NO READING

**Mon, 7 Mar: Spring Break**

**Wed, 9 Mar: Spring Break**

**Mon, 14 Mar: Policy & Bureaucracy**  
*Jarmon:* Chapters 1 and 14  
*Collins:* Chapter 5

**Wed, 16 Mar: Nuclear Weapons**  
*Jarmon:* Chapter 13  
*Collins:* Chapter 12  
*Baylis:* Chapter 10

**Mon, 21 Mar: Chemical Weapons**  
*Jarmon:* Chapter 11  
*Collins:* Chapter 11  
*Baylis:* Chapter 11

**Wed, 23 Mar: Biological Weapons**  
*Jarmon:* Chapter 12  
*Collins:* Chapter 13

**Mon, 28 Mar: Irregular Warfare**  
*Jarmon:* Chapter 4  
*Collins:* Chapters 15 and 16  
*Baylis:* Chapter 9

**Wed, 30 Mar: Terrorism**  
*Jarmon:* Chapters 6 and 9  
*Collins:* Chapters 17 and 18  
*Baylis:* Chapter 14

**Mon, 4 Apr: Geography & Strategy**  
*Baylis:* Chapter 6

**Wed, 6 Apr: International Law**  
*Baylis:* Chapter 5

**Mon, 11 Apr: Technology & Strategy**  
*Baylis:* Chapter 7

**Wed, 13 Apr: Intelligence**  
*Baylis:* Chapter 8

**Mon, 18 Apr: Arms Control**

*Collins: Chapter 10*

**Wed, 20 Apr: Humanitarianism and Peacekeeping**

*Collins: Chapter 20*

*Baylis: Chapter 15*

**Mon, 25 Apr: Cybersecurity**

*Jarmon: Chapters 3, 7, and 8*

*Baylis: Chapter 16*

**Wed, 27 Apr: Non-traditional Strategy**

*Baylis: Chapters 17 and 18*

**Mon, 2 May: The Future of Strategy**

*Luttwak: Chapter 16*

*Baylis: Chapter 20*

**Wed, 4 May: Final Exam**

FINAL EXAM, NO READINGS