Strategic Studies
Ronald HATTO

Syllabus

Course Description and Objectives
The course examines the theories and concepts that form the basis of strategic studies as a distinct subfield of international relations (IR). The course presents the key ideas and themes of strategic studies, which deals with the preparation and use of military power to serve the ends of politics but also what are the means to avoid the use of force. Please note that the course is NOT directly interested in ethical and normative problems linked to the use of force. To adopt Robert Cox’s terminology, the lecture is much more Problem-Solving than Critical. That is why we do not really address notions like just wars or democratic peace. The course aims to guide students through a wide-ranging survey of theoretical and practical aspects of strategic studies. It will include sections on the uses of strategic theory, instruments of war - land, sea, and air power - and their evolution, nuclear strategy, limited war, small wars and counter-insurgency, arms control, and war termination. The course tries to strike a balance between theoretical works and case studies. The goal is thus to link the study of strategy with the realities of modern politics. The ultimate aim is to help students practice the skills that are critical to success in public service as well as the private sector—deep intellectual knowledge of the core issues of our time; analytical thinking and effective writing skills. Students are also expected to engage the readings fully and actively participate in seminar discussions and debates in the limits of the format of a lecture.

Course validation

1) A Midterm Take-Home Exam (50%)
2) A Final Take-Home Exam (50%)
1. **Introduction**: The importance of the use of force and coercive diplomacy in world politics + What are Strategic Studies?


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**Part. 1 Evolution and Types of Warfare**

2. **Land Warfare**


3. **Naval Warfare**


4. **Air Warfare**


5. **Weapons of Mass Destruction/Unconventional Weapons**


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**Part. 2 Strategic Issues of the 21st Century**

6. **Asymmetric Wars and Counterinsurgency**


7. **Nuclear Deterrence and Proliferation**

8. Arms Control and Disarmament


10. The Revolution in Military Affairs (RMA) and Communication Technology


Part. 3 Conclusions

11. The New Agenda for Strategic Studies


12. What Future for Strategy and Strategic Studies?

Bibliography

Please note that some journals are available online and the following links can also be useful:

http://www.carlisle.army.mil/usawc/Parameters/
http://www.iiss.org/
http://www.defencetalk.com/
http://merln.ndu.edu/whitepapers.html
http://www.combat.ws/S4/MILTERMS/INDEX.HTM
http://www.internationalpeacekeeping.org/links.html
http://www.ndu.edu/inss/mcnair/mcnair.html
http://www.nps.edu/Academics/Centers/CCC/Publications/index.html
http://www.armscontrolcenter.org/policy/missiledefense/


DAVID, Charles-Philippe (dir.) (1989) Les études stratégiques. Approches et concepts, Montréal, Méridien/CQRI/FEDN.


