



**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
FACULTY OF ARTS**

**POLI SCI 439 - L01  
Strategic Studies  
Course Outline**

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<b>OFFICE HOURS:</b>	Monday 11-12:00 or by appointment
<b>COURSE DAY/TIME:</b>	Mon/Wed/Fri 9:00-9:50 PM
<b>COURSE LOCATION:</b>	EDC 280
<b>COURSE PRE-REQUISITES:</b>	Poli 381

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to a range of concepts and topics that are representative of the field of inquiry entitled strategic studies. Specifically, it will critically assess the meaning of security, conflict and war. It will do so by examining the study of the threat, use and control of military force, asking:

- 1) What are the conditions that make the use of force more or less likely?
- 2) What is the impact of the use of force on individuals; societies; states; and the international system?
- 3) What are the specific policies that states adopt to prepare, prevent or engage in war?

The course will include a consideration of a board range of theoretical approaches to the study of strategic studies. This will include the examination of both a traditional and broadened definition of security. Furthermore, events since September 11, 2001 have given new meaning to many of the issues now confronting international peace/war and security/insecurity. It is therefore inevitable that this course will also focus on current events as they pertain to international security.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

The overall course objective is to provide the student with the opportunity to develop the skills and abilities necessary to critically assess the field of strategic studies. This will include an examination of the main concepts of the field as well the main issue areas within the field. A related objective of the course is to provide students with the opportunity to further develop their research, writing and oral skills.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK:**

**Text** - John Baylis, James Wirth and Colin Gray, (eds) *Strategy in the Contemporary World: An Introduction to Strategic Studies* 6th edition. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019).

**Journals** - The following list provides the names of some (but by no means all) of the principle journals in the field of Strategic Studies. Students should develop the habit of staying current in their debates.

*Canadian Military Journal, Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, International Affairs, International Journal, International Organization, International Security, International Studies Quarterly, Jane's, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Journal of Military and Strategic Studies, Journal of Peace Research, Strategic Review, Survival and World Politics*

**Newspapers and New Agencies -**

Al Jazeera	<a href="http://english.aljazeera.net/HomePage">http://english.aljazeera.net/HomePage</a>
BBC World Service	<a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/index.htm">www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice/index.htm</a>
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace	<a href="http://www.ceip.org/">www.ceip.org/</a>
CNN	<a href="http://www.cnn.com">www.cnn.com</a>
Dar Al Hayat	<a href="http://www.english.daralhayat.com">www.english.daralhayat.com</a>
Department of Defense	<a href="http://www.defenselink.mil/">www.defenselink.mil/</a>
Interfax News Agency	<a href="http://www.interfax-news.com">www.interfax-news.com</a>
Itar-Tass News Agency	<a href="http://www.itar-tass.com">www.itar-tass.com</a>
National Public Radio	<a href="http://www.npr.org">www.npr.org</a>
The American Enterprise Institute	<a href="http://www.aei.org">www.aei.org</a>
The Brookings Institution	<a href="http://www.brookings.org">www.brookings.org</a>
<i>The Economist</i>	<a href="http://www.economist.com">www.economist.com</a>
<i>The Financial Times</i>	<a href="http://www.ft.com">www.ft.com</a>
<i>The Guardian</i>	<a href="http://www.guardian.co.uk">www.guardian.co.uk</a>
<i>The Moscow Times</i>	<a href="http://www.moscowtimes.ru">www.moscowtimes.ru</a>
<i>The New York Times</i>	<a href="http://www.nytimes.com">www.nytimes.com</a>
<i>The Times of India</i>	<a href="http://www.timesofindia.com">www.timesofindia.com</a>
The United Nations	<a href="http://www.un.org">www.un.org</a>
The Washington Post	<a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com">www.washingtonpost.com</a>
The White House	<a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/">www.whitehouse.gov/</a>
US Central Intelligence Agency	<a href="http://www.cia.gov/index/html">www.cia.gov/index/html</a>
US Department of State	<a href="http://www.state.gov">www.state.gov</a>

**Library Search Engines** - One of the most important electronic aids to research offered by the library can be found on their Research Databases. These pages lists numerous databases that include several that focus on international relations and strategic studies.

Political Science [[http://libguides.ucalgary.ca/sb.php?subject\\_id=52647](http://libguides.ucalgary.ca/sb.php?subject_id=52647)]

Strategic Studies [[http://libguides.ucalgary.ca/sb.php?subject\\_id=52657](http://libguides.ucalgary.ca/sb.php?subject_id=52657)]

**COURSE COMPONENT WEIGHTS AND DUE DATES:**

<b>ASSIGNMENT</b>	<b>MARK</b>	<b>DUE DATES</b>
Research Proposal	20%	Oct 11
Research Paper	40%	Nov 22
Simulation	10%	Nov 27, 29, Dec 2,4
Final Exam	30%	TBA
Total	100%	

**PAPER PROPOSAL**

A paper proposal must be submitted in class on October 11 at the beginning of class. The proposal (3-4 pages) must include a clear identification of the question to be addressed in the paper, the methodology to be utilized, and a preliminary list of sources. The overall evaluation will consider both the content and writing of the assignment. Proposals submitted late will be penalized .5 of a mark per day. (eg. if the assignment is late and it receives an 18/20 it will be marked down to 17.5/20. If it is late, a second day it will be given a 17/20 and so forth).

**RESEARCH PAPER**

Students will be required to write one major research essay on a subject of their own choosing (suggestions will be provided) and is **due at the beginning of class on November 22 to be submitted in class**. This paper (15 pages) is to provide an analytical study of an aspect of strategic studies. Students will be given potential paper topics but are encouraged to develop their own ideas. The overall evaluation will consider both the content and writing of the assignment. Papers submitted late will be penalized 1 mark out of 40 per day. (e.g. if the assignment is one day late and it receives a 30/40 it will be marked down to 29/40. If it is two days late, it will be given a 28/40).

**SIMULATION EXERCISE**

This will be held at the end of the term. This exercise will be designed to allow students to "make" their own security policy in regards to a specific international issue. Each student will be assigned as a decision-maker in a state and then must engage in either conflictive or cooperative behaviour. They are then required to represent that role using the knowledge acquired during the term. Students will be evaluated on their level of preparedness and participation in this exercise. It is scheduled for **November 27, 29 December 2, 4. Students missing the exercise will lose all marks for the day(s) missed.**

**WRITING STATEMENT**

Written assignments are required in this course and the quality of writing skills, including but not limited to such elements as grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, clarity, citation, and organization, will be taken into account in the determination of grades. Students are encouraged to make use of the services offered through Writing Support Services in the Student Success Centre (3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library) or at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>.

**CLASS PARTICIPATION**

There is no mark for class participation, but students will be expected to come to class prepared for discussion. This means staying up with the readings and current affairs as it may concern the subject of the course. Students must also be prepared to be called upon to offer their assessment of the issues being discussed.

**FINAL EXAMINATION**

The last assignment is the final exam. It will consist of 3 long-answer questions and will be a two hour exam. This is a closed book exam and aids except in the case of specific accommodation will not be allowed. The final exam is scheduled by the Office of the Registrar between December 9-19, 2019.

**GRADE SCALE**

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 75-78	C+ = 65-68	D+ = 55-58
A = 80-89	B = 70-74	C = 60-64	D = 50-54
A- = 79	B- = 69	C- = 59	F = 0-49

**COURSE SCHEDULE & TOPICS:** The schedule is tentative and may change as the need arises.

DATE	TOPIC
<b>Sept 6-11</b>	<b>Introduction</b>
<b>Sept 13-25</b>	<b>Understanding the Nature of the Field</b>
<b>Sept 27-Oct 4</b>	<b>Understanding Security, Conflict And War</b>
<b>Oct 7-Nov 4</b>	<b>Understanding the Use of Force – State Actors</b>
<b>Nov 6-8</b>	<b>Understanding the Use of Force – Non State Actors</b>
<b>Nov 11-15</b>	<b>Mid-term Break</b>
<b>Nov 18-25</b>	<b>Understanding the Use of Force – Non State Actors (continue)</b>
<b>Nov 27, 29 Dec 2, 4</b>	<b>Simulation</b>
<b>Dec 6</b>	<b>Exam Review</b>

**COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS — additional readings may be assigned.**

It should be noted that guest speakers sometime become available at short notice. Also international events such as the outbreak of conflict will also require attention in class. This means for some years not all elements of the outline have been covered. If this happens, students will not be responsible on the final exam for the material not covered in class. There are also times in which the instructor may be absent due to research requirements. In such instances the lecture will be pre-taped and played for viewing.

1. **INTRODUCTION:** These lectures will outline the major elements of the course. Included will be a discussion of the modes of evaluations and other housekeeping requirements. Following this, a general overview of some of the main elements of strategic studies will be presented.

**Core Issue: How can we *critically think* about strategic studies?**

- i) Overview and objectives of the course;
- ii) Understanding strategic studies as a social science;
- iii) Engaging in research in strategic studies.

2. **UNDERSTANDING THE NATURE OF FIELD** — The main focus of this lecture will be to provide the student with an overview of the nature of the field. Until the end of the Cold War there had been considerable agreement as to what constitutes the field of "strategic studies". However, since then, this agreement has been challenged first by the collapse of the bi-polar system and then by the events following the attacks of September 11, 2001 and the aftermath. Thus, our main focus will be on understanding the traditional meaning of strategic studies followed by an examination of the new approaches to the field.

**Core Issue: What are the strengths and weaknesses of the foundations of the study of Strategic Studies?**

- i) Development of the Field of Study – why is this important?
- ii) Nature of the Field – why should we care?

Text Readings:

John Baylis and James Wirtz, "Introduction"; Beatrice Heuser, "The History of the Practise of Strategy from Antiquity to Napoleon,"; Thomas Mahnken, "Strategic Theory,"; James Wirtz, "A New Agenda for Security and Strategy,"; Columba Peoples, "Strategic Studies and its Critics,"; Colin Gray and Jeannie Johnson, "The Practise of Strategy,"; and Lawrence Freedman "Does Strategic Studies have a Future?" in Baylis *et al*, *Strategy*.

Reserve Readings:

Stephen Walt, "The Renaissance of Security Studies" *International Studies Quarterly* 35 (1991):211-239, [<http://www.jstor.org/stable/2600471>].

3. **UNDERSTANDING SECURITY, CONFLICT AND WAR IN THE POST-COLD WAR WORLD** — The main challenge to the field of strategic studies has come in our understanding of the key concepts of security, conflict and war. When we talk of security, whose security are we talking of? What is the nature of this security? And how can it best be attained? How do we understand what is conflict and war? Has the end of the Cold War changed the nature of conflict and war? A key objective of this section will be to undertake a critical evaluation and comparison of the different theoretical approaches to the understanding of these concepts

**Core Issue: How do we understand Security, Conflict and War?**

- i) Theoretical Debates;
- ii) Types of Security – Traditional; Human; Environmental;
- iii) War and Conflict.

Text Readings:

John Garnett, "The Causes of War and the Conditions of Peace,"; Michael Sheehan, "The Evolution of Modern Warfare,"; Amitav Acharya and Jiajie He, "Strategic Studies: The West and Rest," in Baylis *et al*, *Strategy*.

Reserve Readings:

Pettersson, Therése, and Peter Wallensteen. "Armed Conflicts, 1946–2014." *Journal of Peace Research* 52, no. 4 (2015): 536-50. [<http://www.jstor.org/stable/24557437>].

D2L

David Mutimer: *Critical Studies: A Schismatic History*,; Caroline Kennedy-Pipe, "Gender and Security,"; Randolph Persaud, "Human Security,"; Jon Barnett and Geoff Dabelko, "Environmental Security," in Alan Collins (ed.). *Contemporary Security Studies* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019).

**4. UNDERSTANDING THE USE OF FORCE – STATE ACTORS:** The employment or threat of employment of deadly force is the ultimate action of a state. Throughout the Cold War, the *threat* of the use of nuclear weapons was the core security policy of the superpowers and their allies. Studied as deterrence theory, the main question was how to avoid a nuclear war in a bipolar world of opposing systems. The end of the Cold War has reduced the threat of nuclear war. However, the nuclear programmes of countries such as North Korea, India and Pakistan show that many states still see utility in nuclear weapons. It has also become clear that the use of non-nuclear military force has not diminished. Some would argue has actually increased. One the core issues that is now facing western states is the use of force to intervene. Some of these interventions are made on the grounds of humanitarian motives while other actions have been based on the concept of pre-emption. How can we understand these actions? In addition, many of the most powerful states in the system – US, UK, Russia still use war as means to achieve policy objectives. How is modern war to be understood?

**Core Issue: How can we understand the use (actual/potential) of force by states?**

- i) The use of Force;
- ii) Deterrence Theory;
- iii) The role of Nuclear Weapons in international security/insecurity;
- iv) Military Intervention;
- v) Modern War – Iraq, Afghanistan, Georgia, Ukraine;
- vi) Hybrid War.

Text Readings:

Eliot Cohen, "Technology and Warfare,"; Roger George, "Intelligence and Strategy, Colin Gray, "Strategy and Defence Planning,"; C. Dale Walton, "The Second Nuclear Age: Nuclear Weapons in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century,"; John Baylis, "The Control of Weapons of Mass Destruction,"; John Ferris, "Conventional Power and Contemporary Warfare,"; Daniel Moran, "Geography and Strategy," Sheena Chestnut Greitens, "Humanitarian Intervention and Peace Operations,"; John Sheldon, "The Rise of Cyberpower,"; Stefanie Ortmann and Nick Whittaker, "Geopolitics and Grand Strategy," all in Baylis *et al*, *Strategy*.

**5. UNDERSTANDING THE USE OF FORCE – NON-STATE ACTORS: INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM:** One of the leading issues of concern in the current international system is international terrorism and the response to it. This section will examine the nature of international terrorism and terrorists. What causes terrorism? How dangerous is it? What has been the response to it?

**Core Issue: What is the threat(s) posed by international terrorism?**

Text Readings:

James Kiras, “Irregular Warfare: Terrorism and Insurgency,” in Baylis *et al*, *Strategy*.

**6. SIMULATION:** Our last classes will be based on a simulation exercise in which students will have the opportunity to apply some of the knowledge that they have gained throughout the course. It is designed to familiarize students with the difficulties involved in the protection of their security in the international system.

**INSTRUCTOR GUIDELINES**

Students requiring assistance are encouraged to speak to the instructor during class or their office hours. Should you wish to meet outside of office hours, please telephone or email to make an appointment. It is to the student’s advantage to keep such appointments.

Email is a common form of communication but it is not always the most effective way of answering student questions. If you cannot make office hours, please request a one on one meeting outside of these hours.

Students are welcome to use laptops and other electronic note-taking devices in this course. Please be considerate of others and switch off all cell-phones when you enter the classroom. Sending/receiving texts and browsing the Web is extremely disruptive to others and will not be tolerated.

**CLASS PREPARATION & DESIRE2LEARN (d2l)**

Lectures focus on the material presented in the textbook and general discussion relating to the topic(s) outlined in the lecture schedule. Students are expected to read the assigned text chapters and readings before class, and be prepared for class discussion. Important information and additional readings are posted on Desire2Learn (d2l). Students should regularly check the Announcements section of Desire2Learn (d2l) for ongoing notices. It is the responsibility of the student to understand all concepts presented in the textbook and lectures. If you need clarification, please take the initiative to ask the instructor during class.

## **IMPORTANT POLICIES AND INFORMATION**

### **Supporting Documentation and the Use of a Statutory Declaration**

As stated in the University Calendar:

Students may be asked to provide supporting documentation for an exemption/special request. This may include, but is not limited to, a prolonged absence from a course where participation is required, a missed course assessment, a deferred examination, or an appeal. Students are encouraged to submit documentation that will support their situation. Supporting documentation may be dependent on the reason noted in their personal statement/explanation provided to explain their situation. This could be medical certificate/documentation, references, police reports, invitation letter, third party letter of support or a statutory declaration etc. The decision to provide supporting documentation that best suits the situation is at the discretion of the student. Students cannot be required to provide specific supporting documentation, such as a medical note.

Students can make a Statutory Declaration as their supporting documentation (available at [ucalgary.ca/registrar](http://ucalgary.ca/registrar)). This requires students to make a declaration in the presence of a Commissioner for Oaths. It demonstrates the importance of honest and accurate information provided and is a legally binding declaration. Several registered Commissioners for Oaths are available to students at no charge, on campus. For a list of locations to access a Commissioners for Oaths, visit [ucalgary.ca/registrar](http://ucalgary.ca/registrar)).

Falsification of any supporting documentation will be taken very seriously and may result in disciplinary action through the Academic Discipline regulations or the Student Non-Academic Misconduct policy. This statement is accessible at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/m-1.html>

*Please note that while the form of supporting documentation provided is at the discretion of the student, the instructor has the discretion not to accept the supporting documentation if it does not corroborate the reason(s) given for the exemption/special request.*

### **Absence From a Mid-term Examination:**

Students who are absent from a scheduled term test or quiz for legitimate reasons are responsible for contacting the instructor via email within 48 hours of the missed test to discuss alternative arrangements. A copy of this email may be requested as proof of the attempt to contact the instructor. Any student who fails to do so forfeits the right to a makeup test.



Deferral of a Final Examination:

Deferral of a final examination can be granted for reasons of illness, domestic affliction, and unforeseen circumstances, as well as to those with three (3) final exams scheduled within a 24-hour period. Deferred final exams will not be granted to those who sit the exam, who have made travel arrangements that conflict with their exam, or who have misread the examination timetable. The decision to allow a deferred final exam rests not with the instructor but with Enrolment Services. Instructors should, however, be notified if you will be absent during the examination. The Application for Deferred Final Exam, deadlines, requirements and submission instructions can be found on the Enrolment Services website at <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/exams/deferred-exams>.

Appeals:

If a student has a concern about the course or a grade they have been assigned, they must first discuss their concerns with the instructor. If this does not resolve the matter, the student then proceed with an academic appeal. The first step in an academic appeal is to set up a meeting with the Department Head. Appeals must be requested within 15 days of receipt of the graded assignment.

Student Accommodations:

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit [www.ucalgary.ca/access/](http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/).

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf>.

University Regulations:

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the University policies found in the Academic Regulations sections of the Calendar at [www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-regs.html](http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/academic-regs.html).

Plagiarism And Other Forms Of Academic Misconduct:

Academic misconduct in any form (e.g. cheating, plagiarism) is a serious academic offence that can lead to disciplinary probation, suspension or expulsion from the University. Students are expected to be familiar with the standards surrounding academic honesty; these can be found in the University of Calgary calendar at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>. Such offences will be taken seriously and reported immediately, as required by Faculty of Arts policy.

**Copyright Legislation:**

As stated in the University of Calgary Calendar, Academic Regulations, “students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright and requirements of the copyright act to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.”

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf> and <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>

**Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP):**

FOIP legislation requires that instructors maintain the confidentiality of student information. In practice, this means that student assignment and tests cannot be left for collection in any public place without the consent of the student. It also means that grades cannot be distributed via email. Final exams are kept by instructors but can be viewed by contacting them or the main office in the Department of Political Science. Any uncollected assignments and tests meant to be returned will be destroyed after six months from the end of term; final examinations are destroyed after one year.

**Evacuation Assembly Points:**

In the event of an emergency evacuation from class, students are required to gather in designated assembly points. Please check the list found at [www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints](http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints) and note the assembly point nearest to your classroom.

**Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:**

For program planning and advice, visit the Arts Students’ Centre in Social Sciences 102, call 403-220-3580 or email [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). You can also visit [arts.ucalgary.ca/advising](http://arts.ucalgary.ca/advising) for program assistance.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit their office in the MacKimmie Library Block.

**Important Contact Information:**

Campus Security and Safewalk (24 hours a day/7 days a week/365 days a year)  
Phone: 403-220-5333

Faculty of Arts Undergraduate Students’ Union Representatives  
Phone: 403-220-6551

Email: [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca)  
Students’ Union URL: [www.su.ucalgary.ca](http://www.su.ucalgary.ca)

Graduate Students' Association

Phone: 403-220-5997

Email: [askgsa@ucalgary.ca](mailto:askgsa@ucalgary.ca)

URL: [www.ucalgary.ca/gsa](http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa)

Student Ombudsman

Phone: 403-220-6420

Email: [ombuds@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ombuds@ucalgary.ca)

**Campus Mental Health Resources:**

SU Wellness Centre: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/>

Campus Mental Health Strategy: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>