



**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
FACULTY OF ARTS**

**Political Science 519.01  
Interpretation and War  
Fall, 2020**

INSTRUCTOR: Barry Cooper  
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EMAIL: bcooper@ucalgary.ca  
OFFICE HOURS: Tues. Thurs., 1400 by phone or email.  
COURSE DAY/TIME: Wednesday, 1200-1500  
DELIVERY METHOD: Web-based  
COURSE PRE-REQUISITES: None

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course will be conducted in the format of a seminar. There are weekly assigned texts to be read by all participants in the class; each week two or more participants will be responsible for a presentation and analysis of the assigned texts. This presentation will serve as the basis for subsequent conversation about them. Within a week or two, the individuals presenting that week will be expected to produce a written report not to exceed 10 to 12 pages.

The topics are indicated in the reading list attached. The meaning of the title of the course will become clear in detail as we proceed through the readings. In principle, we begin with the assumption that war is a natural human activity and, as with all such activities, has a variegated historical, political, and cultural significance. The focus is more on the experience of battle than on the political and strategic and thus political significance of war. Because of the linguistic limitations of the course director, the discussion of war and its interpretation is confined to the West, which means no Sun Tzu or discussion of Mongol tactics.

These reports can be submitted to a dedicated drop-box.

Because this class is held as a joint course, Poli 519/619, different requirements are to be specified for undergraduates and for graduate students. Apart from expecting somewhat more professional work from graduate students, they will also be required to submit three short reports whereas undergraduates are required to submit two such reports.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES & LEARNING OUTCOMES:** There are two main objectives to this course, one dealing with the subject-matter, the second with the analytical approach to it that political science typically employs.

1. Regarding the subject-matter, namely war and interpretation, students who successfully complete the course will have a good grasp of how the direct experience of battle has remained in some respects fundamentally the same throughout Western history. In addition, by considering the prehistorical and even biological foundations of war and the importance of war as a game, students will be able to locate the different expressions of the experience of battle in a coherent theoretical context.
2. The organization of the course as a seminar provides students with the opportunity to engage their intellects with several distinct perspectives on a major expression of one of the constant attributes of human nature. Participants will be able to use both verbal and written skills and to receive a critical appraisal from their peers.
3. Because of the necessity of delivering this course online via Zoom, students will have to have reliable access to the Internet, a computer with an operating system that is supported by the University, and have the capacity to download Zoom so as to be able to take part in the (virtual) seminar in real time.

**REQUIRED TEXTBOOK(S):** The following textbooks are available in the bookstore:

- L.H. Keeley, WAR BEFORE CIVILIZATION
- J. Huizinga, HOMO LUDENS
- V.D. Hanson WESTERN WAY OF WAR
- W. Shakespeare, HENRY V
- E. Jünger, STORM OF STEEL
- G. Gray, THE WARRIORS
- George M. Fraser, QUARTERED WELL OUT HERE
- J. Shaw, ACHILLES IN VIETNAM
- M. Bowden BLACK HAWK DOWN
- S. Junger, WAR

**COURSE COMPONENT WEIGHTS AND DUE DATES:**

COMPONENT	WEIGHTING	DUE DATES
Class participation	20%	9 December, 2020
Written assignments	60% (30% x 2)	12 December, 2020 @ 11:59 pm
Oral presentation	20%	9 December, 2020
Total	100%	

If a student misses a required course component, please get in touch the instructor as soon as possible.

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

DATE	TOPIC	READINGS	Presenter	Back-up
Sept 9	Introduction			
Sept 16	Apes and prehistory	Keeley and Goodall (D2L)		
Sept 23	Play	Huizinga and Cooper (D2L)		
Sept 30	Greeks	Hanson		
Oct 7	Medieval	Henry V+ Keegan+ Merton (D2L)		
Oct 14	Indian war	Lear (D2L)		
Oct 21	WW I	E Jünger		
Oct 28	WW II	Gray		
Nov 4	Pacific war	Fraser		
Nov 11	Reading week			
Nov 18	Vietnam	Shaw		
Nov 25	Small Wars	Bowden, Cooper (D2L)		
Dec 2	Afghanistan	S. Junger		
Dec 9	Conclusion(s)			

Writing Statement:

Written assignments are often required in Political Science courses, including this one, 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>.

ASSIGNMENT(S)/ESSAYS/PAPERS

Within a reasonable period of time (two weeks or so) students are to hand in via drop-box a revised version of their oral presentation of their assignment described above in the course description, if you think that revisions are needed. Usually it is prudent to take into account the discussion of the book by the rest of the class. Length: 8 pages minimum, 12 pages maximum.

PARTICIPATION

Students are expected to read all assigned texts and to be capable of engaging in a discussion of them for each class. For classes when a student is assigned to lead the discussion, not only familiarity with the text is expected but the student is also expected to show they have thought about the text and have formulated a number of questions that he or she anticipates will be of interest and importance to the class. The number of formal presentations will depend on the numbers of students enrolled. Usually it is two or three. There is no right or wrong interpretation of this material; there is only more or less insightful interpretation so you can do as much research as you wish.

## MID-TERM EXAMINATION

There is no mid-term exam.

## FINAL EXAMINATION

There is no final exam.

GRADE SCALE: The following grading scale will be used:

A+ (91-100)	B+ (77-79)	C+ (67-69)	D+ (55-59)
A (85-90)	B (73-76)	C (63-66)	D (50-54)
A- (80-84)	B- (70-72)	C- (60-62)	F (0-49)

## LATE PENALTIES

Unless students have a rational explanation such as a medical problem or a genuine emergency, the late penalty for handing in the essay/research paper is 5% a week. Three weeks is more than sufficient time to write a short paper. The paper for the last class is due December 12.

## INSTRUCTOR GUIDELINES

Students requiring assistance are encouraged to speak to the instructor during class or during 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. All meetings will be held virtually.

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, to be held virtually.

## 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>

### **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.

### **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).

### **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>.

### **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.

### **Required Access to Technology**

Please see the University's resource page at [https://ucalgary.service-now.com/it?id=kb\\_article&sys\\_id=86e7438013753ac06f3afbb2e144b031](https://ucalgary.service-now.com/it?id=kb_article&sys_id=86e7438013753ac06f3afbb2e144b031)

### **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-electronic-resources-and-information-policy.pdf> and <https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>

### **Instructor Intellectual Property**

Course materials created by instructors (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the instructor. These materials may NOT be reproduced, redistributed or copied without the explicit consent of the instructor. The posting of course materials to third party websites such as note-sharing sites without permission is prohibited. Sharing of extracts of these course materials with other students enrolled in the course at the same time may be allowed under fair dealing.

### **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.

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

For program planning and advice, please consult with the Arts Students' Centre by calling 403-220-3580 or by email at [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].

### **Important Contact Information**

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**

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through the following resources:

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

*Student Wellness Services:*

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellness-services/services/mental-health-services>

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