

Todd R. Lowery
Lecturer

This class is an introduction to the study of war, strategy, and national security policy. Such study does not fit neatly into a single discipline; if one wishes to gain an appreciation of warfare, one must draw from multiple disciplines to include political science, history, sociology, economics, and literature. The readings (see below) are intended to provide a survey of key topics in the study of war and strategy.

Grading:

In addition to reading all of the assigned materials each week, students also will be asked to write two short review essays (600-750 words) on the readings for a particular week (these essays, of course, are due at the beginning of the class for which the readings have been assigned.) These papers are to be critical reviews of the readings for a particular week in which the students identifies and analyzes a key theme. Nota Bene: These papers are to be informative, analytical, and well written; they are not simply summaries of the readings.

Students also will be asked to write a policy-focused paper (1000-1200 words) and present it to the class in 5-7 minutes. This paper will relate themes of the course to a prominent current national security issue and should be written as a decision memorandum for a senior policy-maker. Therefore, you must identify an issue worthy of consideration by a senior official, analyze the various points of view on the issue, and formulate a recommendation.

There also will be a cumulative final examination. The overall grade for the course will be comprised of the final exam, the two reviews, the policy paper/presentation, and intelligent participation. The breakdown is as follows:

Policy paper: 35%; Review Papers 25%; Final: 30%; Participation: 10%

(Note: participation grade will also include occasional pop quizzes and other assignments to be given by the instructor)

Academic Integrity:

As stated in the “Academic Honor Policy” of the Hillsdale College Catalog, all students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. While I encourage you to discuss the readings with your classmates, colleagues, and friends, all work submitted must be your own and must have been prepared exclusively for this course.

It is essential to academic and intellectual inquiry to learn from others. In preparing your writing assignments you will draw upon the work of others. Nevertheless, you must give credit where credit is due. Failure to give proper attribution to words, concepts, and evidence borrowed from others constitutes plagiarism, which is a serious academic offense. If you have questions about proper attribution, please consult the instructor prior to turning in academic work.

Course Schedule:

Week 1: Introduction

Film: Saving Private Ryan

Readings: Paul Fussell, Thank God for the Atom Bomb

William James, The Moral Equivalent of War

Week 2: What is Strategy?

Readings: Michael Howard, The Forgotten Dimensions of Strategy
Grimley and Murray, Introduction to Making of Strategy
Bernard Brodie, "Vital Interests" in War and Politics

Week 3: Clausewitz

Readings: Carl Von Clausewitz, (selections)

Week 4: Alternatives to Clausewitz; Strategic Culture

Readings: Sun Tzu, The Art of War
Case Study on China: Johnston, Strategic Realism

Week 5: Civil-Military Relations

Readings: Samuel Huntington, Soldier and the State (selections)
Eliot Cohen, "Normal Theory of Civil-Military Relations" Annex in
Supreme Command
Robert Heinlein, Starship Troopers (selection)

Week 6: Military Organizations

Readings: Carl Builder, Masks of War

Week 7: Technology, War, and Innovation

Readings: McNeill, Pursuit of Power (selections)
Alex Roland, War and Technology
Krepinevich, From Calvary to Computer

Week 8: Intelligence and War

Readings: Shulsky and Schmitt, Silent Warfare (selections)
Wohlstetter, Pearl Harbor (selections)
Case study: 9/11 Commission

Week 9: Nuclear Strategy

Readings: Nuclear Weapons: A Primer
Keith Payne, The Great American Gamble (selections)

Week 10: Nuclear Proliferation/Proliferation of other technologies

Readings: Paul Bracken, The Second Nuclear Age
Stephen Rosen, After Proliferation
Fred Iklé, The Next Lenin

Week 11: THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week 12: Irregular Warfare

Readings: Robert Taber, War of the Flea (selections)
T.E. Lawrence, On the Science of Guerilla Warfare
David Kilcullen, Counterinsurgency Redux
Movie: The Battle of Algiers

Week 13: Irregular Warfare

Readings:

Stealing al Qaeda's Playbook

Mark Sageman, Leaderless Jihad

Final Exam will be scheduled toward the end of semester

Nota Bene: The Instructor reserves the right to change the syllabus.