

**Course Syllabus
Political Science 274
Nature of War
Spring 2011**

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Meeting Time: 0910-1140 W
Location: 117 Memorial

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Course Description

Those who study international relations oftentimes neglect the changing nature of warfare. Instead, scholars have tended to focus on the causes of war and how to prevent war. This course pries open the “black box” of war by examining the evolution of the nature of war with emphasis on conflict in the modern era. Much like our understanding of democratic governance is enhanced by studying democratic political theory and democratic institutions; the study of war and peace is enhanced by studying military theory, military strategy, and military institutions. The first half of the course examines traditional concepts of warfare and their impact on the conduct of war by the United States. Selected topics include the evolution of U.S. military strategy, U.S. national security organizations, the politics of war, and the impact of technology. The second half of the course looks at selected contemporary issues. This semester the course will examine warfare in Afghanistan from the perspective of the ordinary people who live in Afghanistan as well as the perspective of the Soviet Army during the 1980’s and the mujahideen who fought the Soviet Army. This course is focused on reading, research, and discussion. While there are no exams in the course, students will spend a significant amount of time researching and presenting their findings to the class. There are two substantial research papers. For the first research paper, students will research and assess military strategies and tactics used by the mujahideen or Soviet Army during the Soviet Union’s war in Afghanistan. For the second research paper students will interview a war veteran and analyze the nature of war from the veteran’s perspective. Minor changes to the syllabus may occur mainly due to guest speaker availability and changing current events.

Course Requirements and Grading

Summary of Requirements:

- 20% Research paper 1: Intelligence Report (due 4pm, Friday, 18 February)
- 10% Group Presentation of Intelligence Reports to the class (Wednesday, 2 March)
- 25% Research paper 2: Veteran Interview (due 4pm, Friday, 8 April)
- 10% Presentation of Veteran Interview to the class (Wednesday, 13 and 20 April)
- 20% Weekly quizzes
- 5% International Relations Colloquium
- 10% Instructor prerogative (includes participation in class discussions, attendance, courteous behavior in class, and taking responsibility for your conduct and work)

1. **Research Paper 1 (20%) Intelligence Report** – The class will be broken into two groups; one representing mujahideen fighters and the other representing Soviet Army intelligence analysts. Each group will provide an intelligence assessment of the strategy and tactics used by the other side (i.e. your adversary). Your analysis will be based on one of the two books: *The Bear Went Over the Mountain: Soviet Combat Tactics in Afghanistan* (for the mujahideen fighters) or *The Other Side of the Mountain: Mujahideen Tactics in the Soviet-Afghan War* (for the Soviet Army group). Each book has numerous vignettes describing military operations. You may, of course, use both books if you wish. Each student is responsible for writing their own research paper, but presentation of the research will be done as a group in class. Your paper should be approximately 8-12 pages in length (not including title page and references). Please use the political science required format for your paper – this is posted on our website. You must include a bibliography that lists all of the sources that you read for your analysis. We will discuss this assignment in more detail in class. A hardcopy of this paper is due on later than 4pm on Friday, 18 February. Late turn-in will result in a deduction of a full letter grade for each 24 hour period that the paper is late (see below for more details).

2. **Research Paper 2 (25%) Interview with a Military Veteran** – Students will research how war is remembered and portrayed by a military veteran. Each student will do primary source research by interviewing a combat soldier or war veteran. For the paper you will research the period of the war in which your veteran or soldier took part. What is the context within which your veteran's experience took place? Describe the background events. Describe your interviewee's perspective on events. What did you learn from the interview that you didn't know from reading books/articles or watching films? What is remarkable about your veteran? Better papers will have a thesis (central point that you want to make). This could be some aspect of warfare that interests you or that comes up in the interview— maybe treatment of minorities, maybe quality of leadership, maybe nature of strategy and objectives, maybe support from those back home, etc. These are just “starter” ideas that might help you find an area that can serve as the focus of your in-class presentation. We will discuss this further in class.

This paper should be 10-15 pages in length (not including title page and references). Please use the political science required format for your paper – this is posted on our website. You must include a bibliography that lists all of the sources that you read for your analysis as well as a separate single page with basic biographical information on your interviewee. As a class we will decide what information to include on this page. A hardcopy of this paper is due no later than 4pm on Friday, 8 April. You'll present your research to the class during the last two weeks of the course. Late turn-in will result in a deduction of a full letter grade for each 24 hour period that the paper is late (see below for more details).

3. **Quizzes (20%)** - There will be *at least* 5 unannounced quizzes; worth roughly 25 points each (point value may vary). The quizzes will be straight forward (they are not designed to be tricky) to motivate everyone to keep up-to-date with the reading. Your points earned on the quizzes will be accumulated throughout the semester and graded on a curve at the end of the semester. Quizzes will focus on assigned readings, but may include material from lectures and class discussions. There will be no make-ups for unexcused absences, and you will receive a grade of zero for the quiz. If you have an excused absence, there will be no make-up; your next quiz will count double; if you miss the last quiz, then your previous quiz will count double. If you are excused by the Dean's Office for a prolonged absence (two or more consecutive weeks), the make-up will be an oral final exam with the professor that will count for the percentage of the quizzes that you missed.

4. **International Relations Colloquium (5%)** - Each semester the international relations faculty in the political science department hosts several guest speakers from other universities who come to talk about their research. Please plan to attend one of these talks. (You are invited to attend as many as you wish, but you must attend at least one.) After attending write a 1-2 page double-spaced evaluation of the

speaker's presentation and turn it at the beginning of our next class. All talks will be held in 109 Calhoun from 4:30pm to 6:00pm. The topics and speakers for this semester are:

1. February 2nd (Weds)
 - Topic: Compliance with Territorial Agreements
 - Speaker: Professor Kenneth Schultz from Stanford University
2. March 3rd (Thurs)
 - Topic: Public Attitudes Toward Western Muslims
 - Speaker: Professor Abdulkader Sino from Indiana University
3. April 11th (Mon)
 - Topic: How Democratic Strategies of Restraint Escalate the Costs of Conflict
 - Speaker: Professor Sarah Kreps from Cornell University

Research Assistance

Mr. Larry Romans is the research librarian for political science. He is located in government documents section in the Central Library. He is always happy to help students with research related issues. You are encouraged to contact him at: larry.romans@vanderbilt.edu or 322-2838 if you need help with on-line databases or finding research materials.

Americans with Disabilities Act

Vanderbilt University is committed to providing equal educational opportunities for qualified students with disabilities in accordance with state and federal laws and regulations. The Opportunity Development Center's Disability Services staff is responsible for coordinating services for students with disabilities. Decisions about accommodations for students with disabilities are made on an individual basis by ODC. *It is the student's responsibility to contact the Office of the Dean and/or Disability Service staff to request accommodation as early as possible.* Written documentation for approved accommodations must be provided to your professor at the earliest possible time in the semester. The Opportunity Development Center is located in the Baker building at the corner of 21st Avenue South and Terrace Place.

Make-up Requirements

Acceptable excuses, meaning medical or family emergencies and official university-related business, must be provided to me in person, in writing, or by phone BEFORE an absence, and in writing afterwards. *Excuses from graded events must be verified in writing by the Dean's Office; it is the student's responsibility to provide written documentation from the Dean's Office.* A note stating that you visited a doctor or Student Health Services is NOT sufficient. **There will be NO make-up assignments for unexcused absences.** There will be no make-up quizzes. If you are excused by the Dean's Office from two or more quizzes, the make-up will be an oral final exam given during the first week of final exams. This exam will count for the percentage of quizzes that you missed.

Late Turn-in Penalties

Any requirement turned in past the due date/time will face full letter grade penalty for each 24 hour period within which the assignment is late. For example, if an assignment is due on 8 April at 4pm and it is turned in on 8 April at 4:01pm, then a full letter grade will be deducted from the final grade for the assignment. Late turn-in penalties are substantial, so please plan ahead. Computer crash will not be an acceptable reason for late turn-in of your papers -- so please make sure you save your paper as you work on it on a back-up source (cloud, flashdrive, email, etc.) and do not wait until the last minute to write it.

Policy on Academic Ethics and Honesty

Papers, exams, and presentations given in this course are expected to be the original work of each student. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in both administrative action and a failing grade for the course. *You should expect that your papers will be checked for originality using plagiarism detection software.* Students are encouraged to critique and assisted their fellow students, however all such assistance should be appropriately documented. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting, or collaboration, consult your professor.

Handwrite the honor pledge on the cover of all of your papers:

“I pledge on my honor that I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid on this assignment.”

Papers that do not have the pledge written on them will not be graded and you will receive no credit for it.

Required Texts:

Боевые действия советских войск в Республике Афганистан (Combat Actions of Soviet Forces in the Republic of Afghanistan). 1991. Москва: Фрунзе издание академии (Moscow: The Frunze Academy Press). REPRINTED AS: Grau, Lester W. (Editor). 1998. *The Bear Went Over The Mountain: Soviet Combat Tactics in Afghanistan*. Portland, Oregon: Frank Cass Publishers. [ISBN 0714644137]

Jalali, Ahmed Ali and Lester W. Grau. 1995. *The Other Side of the Mountain: Mujahideen Tactics in the Soviet-Afghan War*. Quantico, VA: United States Marine Corps Studies and Analysis Division. REPRINTED AS: Jalali, Ahmed Ali and Lester W. Grau. 2002. *Afghan Guerrilla Warfare: In the Words of the Mujahideen Fighters*. St. Paul, MN: MBI Publishing Company [ISBN 0760313229]

Mueller, John. 2007. *The Remnants of War*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press. [ISBN 080147387X]

Stewart, Rory. 2004. *The Places In Between*. London: Pan Macmillan Ltd. [ISBN 9780156031561]

Recommended Texts:

Clausewitz, Carl von. 1832. *On War*. Edited and translated by Michael Howard and Peter Paret. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1976. [ISBN 0691018545]

Sun Tzu, *The Art of War*, Samuel B. Griffith translation, London: Oxford University Press, 1963. Although other translations are available, this one contains excellent commentary and historical background material, thus it is highly recommended. [ISBN 0-19-501476-6]

Texts on-Line:

U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command. 2010. *The United States Army Operating Concept 2016-2028*. TRADOC Pam 525-3-1. 19 August 2010.
Available at: <http://www.dtic.mil/futurejointwarfare/references.htm>

U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. 2009. *Doctrine for the Armed Forces of the United States*. Joint Publication 1. 02 May 2007 incorporating Change 1 of 20 March 2009.

Available at: http://www.dtic.mil/doctrine/new_pubs/jointpub_capstone.htm

U.S. Department of Defense. 2010. *Quadrennial Defense Review Report*.
Available at: <http://www.dtic.mil/futurejointwarfare/references.htm>

U.S. Department of Defense. 2006. *The Armed Forces Officer*.
Available at: <http://www.dtic.mil/doctrine/education/armedforcesofficer.pdf>

U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, J-7. 2010. *Joint Officer Handbook*.
Available at: http://www.dtic.mil/doctrine/training/joh_aug2010.pdf

U.S. Secretary of Defense. 2008. *National Defense Strategy*.
Available at: <http://www.dtic.mil/futurejointwarfare/references.htm>

U.S. White House. 2010. *National Security Strategy*.
Available at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/defense>

Reference Texts:

U.S. Department of Defense. 2010. *Dictionary of Military Terms*.
Available at: http://www.dtic.mil/doctrine/dod_dictionary/index.html

Syllabus

WEEK 1 (12 JANUARY): INTRODUCTION / ORIGINS OF MODERN WARFARE

Read entire syllabus.

Parsons, Christi. 2009. "War Plays a Role in Peace, Obama Says at Nobel Ceremony." *Los Angeles Times*, December 11, 2009. Available on-line at: latimes.com/news/nation-and-world/la-fg-obama-nobel11-2009dec11,0,3952920.story [posted on OAK]

Mueller, John. 2007. *The Remnants of War*. Chapter 1 ("Criminal and Disciplined Warfare") and chapter 2 ("The Control of War and the Rise of War Aversion"), pages 8-23.

WEEK 2 (19 JANUARY): THE LEGACY OF CLAUSEWITZ

Clausewitz, Carl von. 1832. *On War*. Edited and translated by Michael Howard and Peter Paret. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1976. Page numbers refer to this edition.

In Book One: Chapter 1 ("What is War"), Chapter 2 ("Purpose and Means of War"), Chapter 3 ("On Military Genius"), Chapter 4 (On Danger in War"), Chapter 5 ("On Physical Effort in War"), Chapter 6 ("Intelligence in War"), Chapter 7 ("Friction in War"), and Chapter 8 ("Concluding Observations on Book One"). Pages 75-123.

In Book Two: Chapter 1 ("Classifications of the Art of War"), Chapter 2 ("On The Theory of War"), and Chapter 3 ("Art of War or Science of War"). Pages 127-150.

In Book Eight: Chapter 2 ("Absolute War and Real War"), Chapter 4 ("Closer Definition of the Military Objective: The Defeat of the Enemy"), and Chapter 6 ("The Effect of the Political Aim on the Military Objective"). Pages 579-581, 595-610.

Peter Paret. 1986. "Clausewitz," in *Makers of Modern Strategy from Machiavelli to the Nuclear Age*, Ed. Peter Paret (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1986), 186-213. [posted on OAK]

U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. 2009. *Joint Publication 1: Doctrine for the Armed Forces of the United States*. Pages I-1 to I-5 (Chapter 1 Foundations, Section 1 Fundamentals, particularly note paragraph b on page I-1). Available at: http://www.dtic.mil/doctrine/new_pubs/jointpub_capstone.htm

WEEK 3 (26 JANUARY): STRATEGIC CULTURE AND THE AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

Mead, Margaret. 1942. *And Keep Your Powder Dry: An Anthropologist Looks at America*. New York: William Morrow & Co. Chapter II ("Clearing the Air") and Chapter X ("Fighting the War American Style"), pages 15-26 and 158-175. [posted on OAK]

U.S. White House. 2009. *Remarks by the President at the Acceptance of the Nobel Peace Prize*. Available at: www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/remarks-president-acceptance-nobel-peace-prize

U.S. White House. 2006. *National Security Strategy of the United States of America*. Available at: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/nsc/nss/2006/>. Read Introduction signed by the President (2 pages).

U.S. White House. 2010. *National Security Strategy*. Available at:
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/defense>. Read Introduction signed by the President (3 pages).

Shy, John. 1971. "The American Military Experience: History and Learning." *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 1: 2 (Winter), pages 205-228. [posted on OAK]

Gray, Colin S. 1981. "National Style in Strategy: The American Example." *International Security* 6: 2 (Autumn), pages 21-47. [posted on OAK]

WEEK 4 (2 FEBRUARY) THE QUEST FOR DECISIVENESS AND THE AMERICAN WAY OF WAR

Meilinger, Phillip S. 2007. "American Military Culture and Strategy." *Joint Forces Quarterly* 46: 3, pages 80-86. Available on-line at: <http://www.ndu.edu/press/index.html>

Eikmeier, Dale C. 2010. "Redefining the Center of Gravity." *Joint Forces Quarterly* 59:4, pages 156-158. Available on-line at: <http://www.ndu.edu/press/index.html>

Vego, Milan. 2010. "Is the Conduct of War a Business?" *Joint Forces Quarterly* 59:4, pages 57-65. Available on-line at: <http://www.ndu.edu/press/index.html>

"Airpower: An Enduring Illusion," *The Economist*, 26 August 2006. [Posted on OAK]

Mueller, John. 2007. *The Remnants of War*. Chapter 3 ("World War I as a Watershed Event") and chapter 4 ("World War II as a Reinforcing Event"), pages 39-65.

WEEK 5 (9 FEBRUARY): U.S. ORGANIZATION FOR WAR

U.S. White House. 2010. *National Security Strategy*. Available at:
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/defense> Read all.

U.S. Secretary of Defense. 2008. *National Defense Strategy United States of America*. Available at:
<http://www.defense.gov/news/2008%20national%20defense%20strategy.pdf> Read all.

U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, J-7. 2010. *Joint Officer Handbook*. Available at:
http://www.dtic.mil/doctrine/training/joh_aug2010.pdf.

Read: Section 3.1.1 *Organization for National Security*, pages 89-99; Section 3.1.5 *A Traditional Combatant Command Joint Staff Organization*, pages 116-117; and Section 3.4 *Understanding the Organizations and Missions of the 10 Combatant Commands*, pages 133-134.

Skim: Section 5 *The Unified Combatant Commands*, pages 138-215. Skim through these pages to get a good idea of the responsibilities and missions of the 10 combatant commands.

WEEK 6 (16 FEBRUARY): SUN TZU AND THE INDIRECT APPROACH

Sun Tzu. circa 500 BCE. *The Art of War*. Samuel B. Griffith translation, London: Oxford University Press, 1963, pages 63-149.

Research Paper #1 Due: 4pm, Friday, 18 February – Please drop a hardcopy in the box labeled for our class turn-in of papers in the Political Science main office (301 Calhoun) no later than 4pm.

WEEK 7 (23 FEBRUARY): AN INTRODUCTION TO AFGHANISTAN

Stattel, Victoria. 2010. *The Nights in Kabul are Beautiful*
<http://americanwomenveterans.org/home/2010/11/the-nights-in-kabul-are-beautiful/>

Stewart, Rory. 2004. *The Places in Between*. London: Picador. Read parts 1 thru 4, pages 1-203.

Etzioni, Amitai. 2011. “Whose COIN?” *Joint Force Quarterly* issue 60:1, pages 19-25.
Available at: <http://www.ndu.edu/press/jfq-60.html>

WEEK 8 (2 MARCH): SOVIET EXPERIENCE IN AFGHANISTAN
Group presentations of reports on mujahideen and Soviet tactics

WEEK 9 (9 MARCH): SPRING BREAK!

WEEK 10 (16 MARCH): RESEARCH DAY (NO CLASS)

Professor Atkinson will be away at the International Studies Association annual conference.

WEEK 11 (23 MARCH) - CYBERWAR

The *Wall Street Journal* is running an investigative series called “What They Know” on information security. Here are two articles from the series; you can also link to the complete series:

Thurm, Scott and Yukari Iwatani Kane. 2010. “Your Apps Are Watching You,” *Wall Street Journal*, December 17, 2010. From the series “What They Know.” [Posted on OAK]

Steel, Emily. 2010. “A Web Pioneer Profiles Users by Name,” *Wall Street Journal*, October 25, 2010. From the series “What They Know.” [Posted on OAK]

Drew, Christopher. 2010. “Military Intelligence Taps Social Networking Skills.” *New York Times*, June 7, 2010. Available on-line at:
<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/06/08/technology/08homefront.html?nl=&emc=aua1>

Thornburgh, Nathan. 2005. “The Invasion of the Chinese Cyberspies (And the Man Who Tried to Stop Them).” *Time*. Available on-line at:
<http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1098961,00.html>

Barnes, Julian E. 2008. “Pentagon debates development of offensive cyberspace capabilities.” *LA Times*. Available on-line at: <http://www.latimes.com/news/la-na-cyber8-2008sep08,0,4537844.story?track=ntothtml>

“The Militarisation of Space: Disharmony in the Spheres.” 2008. *The Economist*, 17 January 2008. [Posted on OAK]

WEEK 12 (30 MARCH): COMP TIME

There is no class today; this is compensation time for attending the International Relations Colloquium.

WEEK 13 (6 APRIL): COUNTERINSURGENCY OPERATIONS IN IRAQ

Guest Speaker: Mr. Paul Janeway

Bush, George W. 2010. *Decision Points*. New York: Crown Publishers. Read chapter 8 “Iraq,” pages 223-271. [posted on OAK]

Record, Jeffrey. 2008. “Why the Bush Administration Invaded Iraq: Making Strategy after 9/11.” *Strategic Studies Quarterly* 2:2, pages 63-92. Available on-line at: <http://www.au.af.mil/au/ssq/summer08.asp>

Fallows, James. 2004. “Blind Into Baghdad.” *Atlantic Monthly* 293:1, pages 52-71. Available in e-journals in ProQuest (for best results use Text+Graphics link).

Lyll, Jason and Isaiah Wilson III. 2009. “Rage Against the Machines: Explaining Outcomes in Counterinsurgency Wars.” *International Organization* 63, Winter, pages 67-106. [posted on OAK]

WEEK 14 (13 APRIL) VETERANS’ PERSPECTIVES

Presentations

WEEK 15 (20 APRIL) VETERANS’ PERSPECTIVES

Presentations