

The conduct of contemporary warfare

Instructor

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This class aims at giving students an understanding of the conduct of contemporary military operations. The class introduces key concepts of the use of ground power, naval power and air power, and discusses contemporary challenges such as joint operations, multinational military interventions, hybrid warfare, etc. Throughout the class, a special attention will be given to the connection between the use of military means, and the achievement of political objectives. This class should be of particular interest for MA students with a background in international relations willing to understand the relationship between military power and politics, and to journalism and/or MOISL students willing to better grasp the ways military operations are conducted, and thus the potential (but also the limits) of military power. At the end of this class, they should be able to make informed judgments about contemporary debates on the use of military power. Each class will be divided as follows: a one-hour lecture by the instructor, followed by two one-hour group student presentations (30 minutes of presentation, followed by Q&As).

At the end of this class, students should be able to:

- Understand the main concepts governing the use of military force
- Have an understanding of how military force is related to the achievement of political objectives
- Discuss and assess the relevance of past military and strategic decisions through an in-depth analysis.
- Develop research, presentation and military analysis skills
- Offer informed advices on contemporary debates related to defense and strategic issues.

Course structure: One lecture per week, 14:00-17:00 Tuesday. Classes will involve a combination of lecturing designed to clarify key aspects of theories and interactive class discussion that applies these theories to examples to assess their utility. For each session, there will be two presentations on an assigned topic by a group of students. Each presentation will last for about 30 minutes, followed by a 15 minutes discussion. **Presentations are an exam condition (pass/fail) so you have to make a presentation if you want to take the final exam.**

Assessment: A research paper (or an outline of a BA thesis) on a previously agreed-upon topic with the instructor. The paper must be maximum 10 pages (each with 2400 strokes incl. spacing, appendix

and notes included, but table of content and bibliography excluded.) and in English or Danish. This page limit does not include title page and reference list.

Equity and Disability Policies: The University of Southern Denmark and I are committed to providing a supportive learning environment. I will not accept disparaging comments and disruptive behavior. If you are facing medical, emotional or personal circumstances that will affect your attendance and performance, please see me.

Plagiarism: Plagiarism will not be tolerated and could result in a grade of zero for the course or expulsion from the University. Please see the University's plagiarism policies.

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General resources

The following books constitute useful complements to the class.

Rupert Smith, *The Utility of Force* (Penguin: 2006, paperback edition)

International Institute for Strategic Studies, *The Military Balance*, Routledge (yearly edition).

Colin S. Gray, *Modern Strategy*, (Oxford UP, 1999)

Two novels give a good sense of how contemporary conflicts could unfold. They are entertaining reads (if you're into thrillers), and I strongly recommend them considering their excellent use of military affairs.

For a Cold-War type conflict, see Tom Clancy, *Red Storm Rising* (1986).

For a contemporary conflict, see P. W. Singer and August Cole, *Ghost Fleet* (2015).

Mandatory readings

There are two compulsory books for purchase, available from the bookstore.

James F. Dunnigan, *How to Make War*, Harper Collins, 2003.

Jan Angstrom and J.J. Widen, *Contemporary Military Theory*, Routledge, 2015.

Session 1: Introduction

Stephen Walt, "The Renaissance of Security Studies", *International Studies Quarterly*, 35/2 (1991).

Richard K. Betts, "Should Strategic Studies Survive?", *World Politics*, 50/1 (1997).

Hew Strachan, "The Lost Meaning of Strategy", *Survival*, 47/3 (2005).

Session 2: Land operations

Angstrom and Widen, chapter 7, pp. 110-128.

Dunnigan, part one, pp. 15-139.

Presentation 1: The Eastern Front in World War 2

Presentation 2: The Irak invasion (2003)

Session 3: Naval Warfare

Angstrom and Widen, chapter 8, pp. 129-146.

Dunnigan, part 3, pp. 219-284.

Presentation 1: The battle of Midway

Presentation 2: Contemporary military challenges in the South China Sea

Session 4: Air power

Angstrom and Widen, chapter 9, pp. 147-167.

Dunnigan, part 2, pp. 143-215.

Presentation 1: The battle of Britain

Presentation 2: The NATO intervention in Libya

Session 5: Coalition Warfare (21 March)

This session will be held on March 21st, simultaneously with the “New Wars and Conflicts” class.

Rynning, Sten and Olivier Schmitt. “Alliances”. In *Oxford Handbook of Security Studies*, edited by Alexandra Gheciu and William Wholforth. Oxford: Oxford University Press, forthcoming (to be circulated).

Bensahel, Nora. “International Alliances and Military Effectiveness: Fighting Alongside Allies and Partners.” In *Creating Military Power*, edited by Risa. A. Brooks and Elizabeth. A. Stanley, 186-206. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2007.

McInnis, Kathleen J. “Review Article. Lessons in Coalition Warfare: Past, Present, and Implications for the Future.” *International Politics Review* 1/2 (2013).

Presentation 1: Inter-allied coordination in World War II

Presentation 2: NATO in Afghanistan

Session 6: Drone wars

Jacqueline Hazelton, “Drones: What are they Good for?”, *Parameters*, 42/4 (2013)

Stephanie Carvin, “Getting Drones Wrong”. *The International Journal of Human Rights*, 19/2 (2015).

Patrick Johnston and Anoop Sarbahi, “The Impact of US Drones Strikes on Terrorism in Pakistan”, *International Studies Quarterly*, advanced online publication, (2016)

Presentation 1: Targeted killing and counter-terrorism

Presentation 2: Drones proliferation

Session 7: Towards hybrid warfare?

Frank Hoffman, *Conflict in the 21st Century. The Rise of Hybrid Wars*, Potomac Institute for Policy Studies, 2007.

Available here:

http://www.potomacinstitute.org/images/stories/publications/potomac_hybridwar_0108.pdf

David E. Johnson, *Military Capabilities for Hybrid War. Insights from the IDF in Lebanon and Gaza*, RAND occasional papers, 2010.

Available here:

http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/occasional_papers/2010/RAND_OP285.pdf

Nadia Schadlow, “The Trouble with Hybrid Warfare”, *War on the Rocks*, 2 April 2015. Available here: <http://warontherocks.com/2015/04/the-problem-with-hybrid-warfare/>

Presentation 1: The Israel-Hezbollah war (2006)

Presentation 2: Russia in Ukraine: a case of hybrid warfare?

Session 8 : Challenges to Western military power

Stephen Biddle and Ivan Oelrich, “Future Warfare in the Western Pacific. Chinese Antiaccess/area denial, U.S. Airsea Battle and Command of the Commons in East Asia”, *International Security*, 41/1 (2016).

Stephan Frühling and Guillaume Lasconjarias, “NATO, A2/AD and the Kaliningrad Challenge”, *Survival*, 58/2 (2016).

Daniel Fiott, “A Revolution too far? US Defence Innovation, Europe and NATO’s Military-Technological Gap”, *Journal of Strategic Studies*, advanced publication (2016).

Presentation 1: The future of aircraft carriers

Presentation 2: The Russian military challenge to Europe

Session 9 : A practitioner’s perspective

Conference by a senior military commander to be announced.

Session 10 : Simulation game