



UNSW

UNSW Course Outline

ZGEN2222 Introduction to Strategic Studies - 2024

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General Course Information

Course Code : ZGEN2222

Year : 2024

Term : Semester 2

Teaching Period : Z2

Is a multi-term course? : No

Faculty : UNSW Canberra

Academic Unit : UC School of Humanities and Social Sciences

Delivery Mode : In Person

Delivery Format : Standard

Delivery Location : UNSW Canberra at ADFA

Campus : UNSW Canberra

Study Level : Undergraduate

Units of Credit : 6

Useful Links

[Handbook Class Timetable](#)

Course Details & Outcomes

Course Description

Introduction to Strategic Studies introduces students to the role of military force in international affairs in both its policy and operational dimensions. It is an interdisciplinary field concerned with the causes, conduct, and consequences of war. This course introduces students to the concepts

and issues that are central to the field. It will develop awareness of the choices and constraints facing political leaders and military planners in times of crisis, provide an insight into the dynamics of war, and clarify the key contemporary debates about the role and utility of force in international affairs. The course covers the foundations of modern strategic thought and warfare in the twentieth century before focusing on the new challenges presented by the complexity and uncertainty of the post-Cold War world, including the return of great power competition and contemporary Australian strategy. Particular attention is paid to developing an awareness of the changing nature of war and the key trends shaping the future development and employment of military capabilities.

Course Aims

The course aims to provide students with an introduction to the role of military force in international affairs in both its policy and operational dimensions. It introduces students to the evolution of strategic thought, from antiquity to the present, and to how strategic ideas were applied to war and peace in the twentieth century. It concludes with examination of the implications of the recurrence of great power competition particularly as it relates to Australia in the twenty-first century.

Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes
CLO1 : Understand the evolution of strategic thought and the historical development of strategy
CLO2 : Analyse the writings of leading strategic thinkers and apply their ideas to historical and contemporary situations
CLO3 : Evaluate arguments and debates about strategy
CLO4 : Construct and communicate sophisticated arguments in written form

Course Learning Outcomes	Assessment Item
CLO1 : Understand the evolution of strategic thought and the historical development of strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tutorial paper• Essay• Examination
CLO2 : Analyse the writings of leading strategic thinkers and apply their ideas to historical and contemporary situations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tutorial paper• Essay• Examination
CLO3 : Evaluate arguments and debates about strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tutorial paper• Essay• Examination
CLO4 : Construct and communicate sophisticated arguments in written form	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tutorial paper• Essay• Examination

Learning and Teaching Technologies

Moodle - Learning Management System

Learning and Teaching in this course

Moodle is the Learning Management System used at UNSW Canberra.

All courses have a Moodle site which will become available to students at least one week before the start of semester. Please find all help and documentation (including Blackboard Collaborate) at the [Moodle Support](#) page.

UNSW Moodle supports the following web browsers:

- Google Chrome 50+
- Safari 10+
- Internet Explorer is not recommended

- Addons and Toolbars can affect any browser's performance.

Operating systems recommended are:

Windows 7, 10, Mac OSX Sierra, iPad IOS10

For further details about system requirements click [here](#).

Log in to Moodle [here](#).

Additional Course Information

CRICOS Provider No. 0009G

The University of New South Wales Canberra

Assessments

Assessment Structure

Assessment Item	Weight	Relevant Dates
Tutorial paper Assessment Format: Individual	20%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 08/08/2024 12:00 AM Post Date: 22/08/2000 12:00 AM
Essay Assessment Format: Individual	40%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: 27/09/2024 12:00 AM Post Date: 11/10/2024 12:00 AM
Examination Assessment Format: Individual	40%	Start Date: Not Applicable Due Date: To be held in examination week

Assessment Details

Tutorial paper

Assessment Overview

Short tutorial paper on early concepts

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Understand the evolution of strategic thought and the historical development of strategy
- CLO2 : Analyse the writings of leading strategic thinkers and apply their ideas to historical and contemporary situations
- CLO3 : Evaluate arguments and debates about strategy
- CLO4 : Construct and communicate sophisticated arguments in written form

Detailed Assessment Description

The first assessment of the course is a tutorial paper that requires students to reflect on concepts of strategy.

Assessment Length

500 words

Submission notes

Typewritten in word and submitted via Turnitin.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Essay

Assessment Overview

Major essay on substantive section of course

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Understand the evolution of strategic thought and the historical development of strategy
- CLO2 : Analyse the writings of leading strategic thinkers and apply their ideas to historical and contemporary situations
- CLO3 : Evaluate arguments and debates about strategy
- CLO4 : Construct and communicate sophisticated arguments in written form

Detailed Assessment Description

The second assessment requires students to submit an essay drawn from optional questions based on lectures, tutorials and recommended readings about the historical evolution of strategy.

Assessment Length

2000 words (exclusive of notes and bibliography)

Submission notes

Essay to be typewritten in Word.

Assessment information

Not applicable

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity

reports.

Examination

Assessment Overview

Exam

Course Learning Outcomes

- CLO1 : Understand the evolution of strategic thought and the historical development of strategy
- CLO2 : Analyse the writings of leading strategic thinkers and apply their ideas to historical and contemporary situations
- CLO3 : Evaluate arguments and debates about strategy
- CLO4 : Construct and communicate sophisticated arguments in written form

Detailed Assessment Description

The third assessment is a final examination of two hours' duration consisting of two questions.

Assessment Length

1500 words equivalent.

Submission notes

Essay to be typewritten on lap-top computer.

Assignment submission Turnitin type

This is not a Turnitin assignment

General Assessment Information

Late Submission of Assessment

Unless prior arrangement is made with the lecturer or a formal application for special consideration is submitted, a penalty of 5% of the total available mark for the assessment will apply for each day that an assessment item is late up to a maximum of 5 days (120 hours) after which an assessment can no longer be submitted and a grade of 0 will be applied.

Students are expected to manage their time to meet deadlines and to request extensions as early as possible before the deadline.

Electronic submission of assessment

Except where the nature of an assessment task precludes its electronic submission, all

assessments must be submitted to an electronic repository, approved by UNSW or the Faculty, for archiving and subsequent marking and analysis.

Release of final mark

All marks obtained for assessment items during the session are provisional. The final mark as published by the university following the assessment review group meeting is the only official mark.

Guidance on AI

It is prohibited to use any software or service to search for or generate information or answers. If such use is detected, it will be regarded as serious academic misconduct and subject to the standard penalties, which may include 00FL, suspension and exclusion

Grading Basis

Standard

Requirements to pass course

Students must achieve an overall pass mark of 50% or higher, and submit all assessments, in order to pass.

Course Schedule

Teaching Week/Module	Activity Type	Content
Week 1 : 15 July - 19 July	Lecture	Lecture 1.1 15 July 2024 What is Strategy? Lecture 2.2 16 July 2024 Assessment Brief/Strategy to the 19th Century
	Tutorial	No tutorials
Week 2 : 22 July - 26 July	Lecture	Lecture 2.1 22 July 2024 Strategy and the Napoleonic Wars Lecture 2.2 23 July 2024 Clausewitz
	Tutorial	What is Strategy?
Week 3 : 29 July - 2 August	Lecture	3.1 29 July 2024 Mahan, Corbett and Mackinder 3.2 30 July 2024 Industrialisation and the long nineteenth century
	Tutorial	Clausewitz
Week 4 : 5 August - 9 August	Lecture	4.1 5 August 2024 Strategy in the First World War 4.2 6 August 2024 Interwar Strategic Thought
	Tutorial	Mahan and Corbett
Week 5 : 12 August - 16 August	Lecture	5.1 12 August 2024 The Second World War in Europe: totalitarian and liberal states 5.2 No Lecture 13 August 2024 Friday's timetable
	Tutorial	No tutorials
Week 6 : 19 August - 23 August	Lecture	6.1 19 August 2024 US and Japanese Strategies in the Pacific War 6.2 20 August 2024 The Advent of the Nuclear Age
	Tutorial	Interwar Strategic Thought
Week 7 : 9 September - 13 September	Lecture	7.1 9 September 2024 The Nuclear Strategists 7.2 Strategy and Limited War: the Korean War and Alliances
	Tutorial	The Second World War
Week 8 : 16 September - 20 September	Lecture	8.1 16 September 2024 Revolutionary War 8.2 17 September 2024 Why did big nations lose small wars?
	Tutorial	No tutorials
Week 9 : 23 September - 27 September	Lecture	9.1 23 September 2024 Strategic Ideas after the Vietnam War 9.2 US Strategy in the 1990s and 2000s
	Tutorial	Nuclear deterrence
Week 10 : 30 September - 4 October	Lecture	10.1 30 September 2024 Terrorism 10.2 1 October 2024 Israel and its Enemies
	Tutorial	Revolutionary War and COIN
Week 11 : 7 October - 11 October	Lecture	11.1 7 October 2024 No Lecture Public Holiday 11.2 8 October 2024 Chinese Strategy
	Tutorial	
	Tutorial	Terrorism
Week 12 : 14 October - 18 October	Lecture	12.1 14 October 2024 Australian Strategy, 1901 - 2000s 12.2 AUKUS and the debate over contemporary Australian strategy
	Tutorial	Chinese Grand Strategy
Week 13 : 21 October - 25 October	Lecture	13.1 21 October 2024 The Russo-Ukraine War 13.2 22 October 2024 Exam brief
	Tutorial	Australian strategy and examination brief

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

Course Resources

Prescribed Resources

There are no prescribed resources. Digitised readings are available on the Moodle site

Recommended Resources

The following resources are excellent introductions.

Baylis, John, James J. Wirtz & Colin S. Gray (eds), *Strategy in the Contemporary World: An Introduction to Strategic Studies*, (5th ed), Oxford University Press, Oxford and New York, 2016.

Thomas G. Mahnken & Joseph Maiolo (eds), *Strategic Studies: A Reader* (2nd ed.), Routledge, New York, 2014.

Lawrence Freedman, *Strategy: A History*, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2015.

Additional Costs

Not applicable

Course Evaluation and Development

One of the key priorities in the 2025 Strategy for UNSW is a drive for academic excellence in education. One of the ways of determining how well UNSW is progressing towards this goal is by listening to our own students. Students will be asked to complete the myExperience survey towards the end of this course.

Students can also provide feedback during the semester via: direct contact with the lecturer, the “On-going Student Feedback” link in Moodle, Student-Staff Liaison Committee meetings in schools, informal feedback conducted by staff, and focus groups. Student opinions really do make a difference. Refer to the Moodle site for this course to see how the feedback from previous students has contributed to the course development.

Important note: Students are reminded that any feedback provided should be constructive and professional and that they are bound by the Student Code of Conduct Policy

<https://www.gs.unsw.edu.au/policy/documents/studentcodepolicy.pdf>

Staff Details

Position	Name	Email	Location	Phone	Availability	Equitable Learning Services Contact	Primary Contact
Convenor	David Lee		Building 28 Room 205	0251145068	Available for consultation during work hours via Teams, Zoom or Collaborate Ultra. Please phone or email to make an appointment.	No	Yes