

## **DRAFT SYLLABUS**

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### **Syllabus**

#### **COURSE SYLLABUS**

#### **POL 6660: Military Strategy and International Relations**

Instructor: Dr. Lawrence E. Cline

Term: 4/2004, 15 Mar – 23 May 2004

Class Time and Location: POL 6660 is an online interactive distance learning course available at the location of the student via the Internet. Students do not attend class or workshops on a Troy State University campus.

Catalog Description: Examination of the structures, motivations, and major objectives of national security policy making from a comparative perspective with particular emphasis on the politics of national defense in the United States.

Course Purpose: To familiarize the student with:

- i. The major classical theorists on military strategy and how their approaches influence current strategists.
- ii. The contemporary debates about grand strategy.
- iii. The major scholarly and practitioner literature in the field.

Course Objectives: Upon successful completion of POL 6660, the student should demonstrate an understanding of the following issues and concepts:

1. The major theoretical approaches of classical strategists.
2. The major trends in the development of strategy in the 20th century.
3. The ongoing debate as to what should be the critical elements of post-Cold War strategy.
4. Issues surrounding military strategy versus grand strategy.
5. The role of special operations in overall national strategy.

Texts: The following texts are required for the course and are available at reasonable cost through the TSU Distance Learning Center and various online retailers like Amazon and half.com.

Michael E. Brown, et al, (ed) America's Strategic Choices (revised edition), MIT Press, 2000. ISBN: 0262522748. (Please note: This revised edition is considerably different from the earlier edition with the same title. You will need to go with the 2000 edition rather than the 1996 edition.)

Peter Paret (ed), Makers of Modern Strategy, Princeton University Press, 1986. ISBN: 0691027641.

Martin Van Creveld, The Transformation of War, Free Press, 1991. ISBN: 0029331552.

A note on these readings. Paret, which is the book we will start with, provides a good survey of the writings of some of the most historically important strategists, and gives the environment in which they wrote. In the best of all possible worlds, we would read the complete works of such thinkers as Clausewitz and Jomini, but given the time constraints and costs, we will go for the condensed version. Van Creveld

presents a very different strategic picture of the world than do Clausewitzian strategists. The articles in Brown enable us to survey the major strategic issues facing the US now and in the future.  
Internet Readings: Most weeks also have required internet readings. These readings are listed in each week's assignment. Students who have problems downloading the material should contact the professor.

#### Course Requirements:

1. Read the assigned texts and supplemental articles.
2. Research and write a seminar-quality term paper (12-20 pages, exclusive of bibliography and title page) and submit it via electronic mail by the assigned deadline.
3. Interact with classmates via the course Discussion Board, to include answering questions posted by the instructor.

Method of Instruction: This is an asynchronous distance learning course taught via the Internet. Students are required to complete assigned readings and interact with their colleagues and the instructor via the class discussion boards. Our approach to the discussion board should be both mature and tolerant. You will be posting your response to discussion questions posted by me each week. These questions are a response to the week's module and readings. The aim of the questions is twofold. First, they force you to fit the readings into your busy schedule. Second, and more importantly, they are designed to elicit critical reflection of some of the major themes of the readings. So, concentrate your energies on analysis of the readings rather than restatement of them. I'll redouble my efforts at making sure the questions themselves aim in that direction.

Please remember that asynchronous means that we do not meet at specific times and that students have flexibility as to how they approach the material and when.

#### Submitting Work:

Submit all correspondence and assignments (as attachments) by e-mail to me at:

[lcline@troyst.edu](mailto:lcline@troyst.edu) Alternate e-mail: [lawcline@aol.com](mailto:lawcline@aol.com)

Please include POL 6660 in the subject line. Word is the preferred format. When submitting for papers and e-mails please include the following information (in this order).

- i) Course number and title
- ii) First and last name
- iii) Subject

It is very helpful for me if you include your name and mailing address on the cover page of your analytical essay and the Final Exam.

For discussion board responses, please post them directly to the discussion board. This makes it much easier for other students and me to respond.

E-mail Responses: I check my electronic mail on a regular basis. However, I may be away from my computer from time to time, for conferences and guest teaching. I will let all the students know when I am leaving town. In virtually all cases, I will continue to have internet access, but some countries/locations are less than ideal for their internet service. Equally, if you will be away (without internet service) for deployments or the like, please let me know so that we can work around it. Also, please use the course discussion board for all correspondence related to the course material, assignment clarifications, etc. This will prove more efficient and will increase the sense of a community of learning among the members of the class. During the period when I am grading the major assignments, I may be somewhat slower in responses.

Incomplete Work Policy: Incomplete grades are assigned at the discretion of the instructor. Students should refer to the Graduate Bulletin for policies regarding the removal of incomplete grades. I will make reasonable accommodations for students called away for military duty. Students who anticipate problems should contact me as soon as a problem arises to work out details.

Class Policies and Procedures: Americans with Disabilities Act: Any student whose disabilities fall within the ADA must inform me at the beginning of the term of any special needs or equipment necessary to accomplish the requirements for this course.

Grading, Key Dates and Assessments:

1. For grading purposes, the combined value of all requirements is 100 points, broken down as follows:

a. Discussion Board: 35 points

Term Paper: 65 points.

Details of these assignments are as follows:

1. Discussion Board: 35 points.

This in reality is basically a pass/fail requirement. If you participate on a regular basis, you will receive the 15 point credit. Please remember that you are required to:

1) Respond to all the discussion board question posted by the professor.

2) For each question respond to at least one of your colleague's responses, either answering questions asked in the post, raising your own questions, or correcting perceived errors in the post. Important:

Please remember to direct any questions on material or course procedures to the message boards, so that all can benefit. I expect all students to read all posts to the message board—especially the ones on procedure, as questions asked and answered will almost certainly be of use to multiple students.

2. Term Paper: 65 points. Due 23 May

Term Paper Guidelines:

In a paper of approximately 12-20 pages (typed, double-spaced, twelve point font), discuss one of the following two topics:

1. Select one of the major strategic theorists we discuss in the course and apply their theory to a contemporary conflict or military campaign. How well did the theory apply to the conflict or, conversely, did violation of the theory cause one side to fail?

2. Assess which approach to grand strategy makes the most sense for future US interactions with the world.

Term Paper Policies: Sources, Citations, and Lateness

1) Plagiarism:

Above all, do not plagiarize.

"Plagiarism may be defined as the use of another's ideas or words without acknowledgment. Examples of plagiarism may include: failing to use quotation marks when quoting from a source; failing to document distinctive ideas from a source; and fabricating or inventing sources."

Plagiarism will be dealt with harshly. The punishment may include sanctions ranging from a failing grade on the assignment to possible expulsion from the university. So: Provide citations to quotes and to any ideas that you use that are not your own. Any information that is not common knowledge and is taken from an outside source should be cited.

2) Citations:

Use a standard citation system. (The MLA, Chicago, or American Psychological Association style manuals are all acceptable guides. Just be consistent. If you need to cite information obtained online, give the URL of the web site.) Guides to major citation systems are available from the UBC libraries.

3) Lateness policy:

Unexcused late papers will be accepted but assessed a penalty of 5% per day. The essay is due 5 March.

The paper is worth 65% of your course grade. Spelling and grammar matter, as does the clarity and organization of your writing. The paper must have a title page and a bibliography. All pages except the title page must be numbered. The title and bibliography do not count toward the page limit.

GRADING CRITERIA:

1. Is the question answered?

2. Is there a personal argument presented in the first 10 lines and defended throughout the essay?

3. Clarity, Organization, Structure (good outline, good transitions)

#### 4. Integration of class material, facts, and readings to back up the argument

##### TYPICAL PITFALLS OBSERVED IN PAST CLASSES:

A large number of papers tended not to present a personal causal argument in response to a clearly identified question. The argument should be clearly stated within the first 2 paragraphs of the introduction, on page 1. It should be engaging and original (personal). It should present an explanation to a puzzling question.

- The introduction of many papers did not fulfill the stated requirements. Within one page, a strong introduction should introduce the question upfront, present the argument, and give a roadmap for the paper.
- Many papers were written in a descriptive way, going through a historical analysis of key phenomena. Rather, political science papers should be argumentative and clearly organized. It is important to fight against alternative explanations and to defend your position in forceful ways. Each of the clearly indicated 3 or 4 sections should be there to back up the argument. After presenting facts and evidence, it is important to extract concluding statements, stating what the facts show and how they prove your point.
- Political science is always concerned with understanding general relationships and processes that are hidden behind messy events. This is where the focus of research papers must be.
- Many papers did not integrate enough political processes and did not extract larger political lessons.

##### GRADING SCALE:

(A- to A+)

This grade is reserved for exceptional papers. An exceptional paper must demonstrate strong evidence of original thinking around a clearly articulated thesis; the paper should have a good structure and be well organized; the paper should demonstrate a capacity to analyze and synthesize; it should also demonstrate superior grasp of the subject matter with sound critical evaluations; evidence of extensive knowledge base is expected; clear and effective writing style and appropriate referencing format are also expected.

(B- to B+)

Grades in this range are given for competent papers. A competent paper will have a clear if not original thesis statement and develop the thesis with sound argumentation; a reasonably coherent structure and organization of the material is expected; the paper will show evidence of a good grasp of subject matter; some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability is expected as well as a reasonable understanding of relevant issues; although a substantial research effort may not have been made, there should be evidence of familiarity with the most relevant literature.

(D to C+)

An adequate paper will be awarded a grade in this range. Such a paper lacks or does not develop a coherent or clear thesis statement, but some effort is made to structure the paper around an argument; nevertheless, there is little attempt to develop or sustain a coherent argument throughout the paper; the paper should demonstrate an understanding of the subject matter; it should also show an ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material; normally, a paper in this range will reflect acceptable but uninspired work; it will not be seriously faulty but will lack style and vigor (especially in argumentation).

(F)

Inadequate paper. This grade is reserved for papers with little or no evidence of understanding of the subject matter; no thesis statement is made; there are weaknesses in critical and analytic skills; major errors are made in discussions of the subject matter; the literature used is limited or irrelevant; or the subject is not on list of paper topics or has not received prior approval by the instructor.

Learning Resources: TSU Library Remote Services are accessible at <http://tsulib.troyst.edu>. Assistance with library instruction is through the Public Service Librarians by discipline, which in this case would be international relations or political science. No non-library laboratories or facilities are required in this course.

Student Support: Distance Learning staff are identified at <http://www.tsulearn.net>.

Assistance is available to students who experience difficulties using technology at <http://spectrum.troyst.edu/~distance/help>. Students who are proficient with the Internet generally but having specific problems with the online course materials (e.g., finding a broken link on the page) should contact me directly at [lcline@troyst.edu](mailto:lcline@troyst.edu) or [lawcline@aol.com](mailto:lawcline@aol.com).

##### COURSE SCHEDULE

Because of a weekly structure in an asynchronous course, the course is organized topically. You can proceed in any order you like based on the books you have available and your current access to the internet. The only deadlines that matter are the assignment due dates on the syllabus. Your weekly reading assignments will be posted on the Assignments board.