



ECTS CARD

STUDY PROGRAMME

European Interdisciplinary Studies, Natolin campus (Advanced Academic Master)

YEAR

2022-2023

COURSE TITLE

The Changing Character of Warfare: From Antiquity to the Present Day

SEMESTER

2

COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

STODDARD Edward

ACADEMIC ASSISTANT(S)

NIZOWICZ Nicolas

COURSE TYPE

Core Course

MAJOR(S)

EPAP, EUW, EUN, EHC

ECTS CREDITS

4

TEACHING HOURS

20

INDIVIDUAL & GROUP STUDY TIME

80

TUTORIAL(S)

COEFFICIENT

1

LANGUAGE(S)

EN

COURSE OBJECTIVE

The objective of this course is to help students develop a well-grounded understanding of change and continuity in the character of war over history. Despite its horrors, war continues to plague humanity as evidenced most recently by the brutal Russian (re)invasion of Ukraine. While war across Europe's neighborhood remains, regrettably, a feature of the European strategic landscape, the proximity and scale of the war in Ukraine has raised peace and security to the very top of the European agenda and reignited debates about how to understand and prepare for contemporary warfare.

To be able to navigate this environment, students require a keen appreciation of the history of war and a strong comprehension of the concepts used to make sense of war. In this context, this course aims to provide students with a deep understanding of the character of warfare across time from antiquity up to the present day. It will equip students both with a detailed grounding in the core concepts scholars and practitioners use to understand armed conflict and a solid appreciation of the key events across history that have shaped how we evaluate war today.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

On completion of the course, students will be able to:

- 1) Discuss the differences between the enduring nature of war and historically specific characters of wars in given contexts.
- 2) Explain the strengths and weaknesses of a series of core concepts used to understand differences in the empirical manifestations of war over time.
- 3) Provide detailed analysis of contemporary manifestations of warfare.
- 4) Critically assess controversial contemporary debates about war and warfare, placing them in their modern day and historical context.

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

The introductory chapter of Strachan, Hew, and Sibylle Scheipers, eds. *The Changing Character of War*. OUP Oxford, 2011 would be a good introduction to the course.

TEACHING METHOD(S)

The course will consist of a mix of five sessions over five days (2 x 2 hours each not including breaks) incorporating mini-lectures, small group discussions, whole group discussions and simulations/student-led briefings. The aim is for engaging and highly interactive sessions with lots of opportunity for discussion and group learning.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

- Students will sit a written, open-book, digital, in-class (2 hours) exam, consisting of 4 questions from which they will have to answer one. The exam counts for 70 per cent of the overall mark.
- 30 per cent of the overall mark will be based on briefings and group debates/discussions on one of the subjects of the course.

The College of Europe reserves the right to change the delivery and assessment of the course in case of circumstances beyond the reasonable control of the College (*force majeure*). Any communication from the campus administration in this regard takes precedence over the information provided in this ECTS card.

Retake examinations, i.e. exams passed in the second examination session, will have the same format as those taken during the first exam session. The only exception concerns oral exams, which are replaced in the second exam session by written exams. When a student takes an examination during the second session, the final mark for the course is based solely on the result of the retake examination. No other element of evaluation which would have been taken into consideration in the calculation of the final mark during the first examination session will be considered in the second session.

COURSE CONTENTS

The course (20 hours over five days) will follow the programme below (timings for all sessions as day one):

Day One: The Ideas and Ethics of War (4hrs)

- 1) The Changing Ideas of War and Strategy from Antiquity to Today (2hrs)
- 2) From 'Just War' to the 'Responsibility to Protect': Ethics and War Through the Ages (2hrs)

Day Two: The Asymmetries of Warfare

- 3) 'Terrorism': From the *Sicarii* to Today's 'Violent Extremism'
- 4) War and the Breakdown of Political Order: Revolution (and War), Civil Wars and Insurgencies

Day Three: States and War

- 5) The State and Armed Violence in History
- 6) State 'Warfare' in the 21st Century: Great Power Competition, State Hybrid Warfare, Remote Warfare and 'Advanced Persistent Cyber Threats'

Day Four: From Troy to TikTok: Propaganda, Deception and Warfare

- 7) Tricked You! The Art of Deception Through Time

- 8) [Practical] Deception and Disinfo 'Lab': Why Does Disinformation Work and How do we Tackle it?

Day Five: Analysing Case Studies in Contemporary Warfare

- 9) Student briefings on contemporary conflicts (Choice of Ukraine [2014 or 2022], Armenia-Azerbaijan 2021, Iraq/Syria and ISIS 2014-, Yemen, Lake Chad Region or Sahel)

[Practical] Open-Source Investigations and the Analysis of Contemporary Armed Conflict

COURSE MATERIALS (readings and other learning resources/tools)

Students will be given a list of pre-set course materials to prepare before the classes. This will include a mix of traditional academic sources and new media such as podcasts. Students will be given optionality in several of the sessions so they can prepare work that is applicable to their individual interests.

General course preparation

Suggested Reading:

The introductory chapter of Strachan, Hew, and Sibylle Scheipers, eds. *The Changing Character of War*. OUP Oxford, 2011.

Students might also like to read:

Holmqvist-Jonsäter, Caroline, and Christopher Coker, eds. *The Character of War in the 21st Century*. Routledge, 2009 (especially the introduction by Dr Caroline Holmqvist-Jonsäter).

Keegan, John. *A History of Warfare*. Random House, 1993.

Van Creveld, Martin. *Transformation of war*. Simon and Schuster, 2009.