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The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind

School of Security and Global Studies
Course Number and Name
MILS620 Research Seminar in Future War
Credit Hours: 3
8 Weeks

Instructor Information

Instructor:
Biography:

Course Description (Catalog)

MILS620 Studies in Future War (3 hours)

This course considers the nature of future military conflict, the history of future war doctrine, and the impact of current conflict on the conceptualization of the “next war.” Students examine current, past, and future low-intensity, as well as high-intensity conflicts, and the appropriate use of military force in the power projection role to influence a diplomatic resolution to a conflict. The course examines non-state actors, rogue nations, related cultural clashes, and religious factors within the context of future war.

Course Scope

As part of the core requirement, this course introduces the student to critical elements of the discipline. Students will participate in weekly Discussion Forums that correlate to weekly readings and will write an analytical research paper.

Course Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

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CO-1: Assess the key factors and indicators with the greatest potential to influence the international and national security environments in the near future.

CO-2: Assess the existing and predicted threats to the international and national security environments.

CO-3: Analyze the existing and predicted strategies to address those threats.

CO-4: Evaluate the fundamental and functional differences, as well as similarities, between wars of the future and those of the past.

CO-5: Assimilate the doctrinal necessities for future war and evaluate them in analytical essays.

Course Delivery Method

This course, delivered via distance learning, will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course materials and access to an online learning management system will be available to each student. Online assignments are due by Sunday at 11:55 pm ET and include all written assignments, examinations, and research papers submitted for grading. Weekly Forum questions (accomplished in groups in a Forum) require an initial response by Thursday at 11:55 pm ET, with all other required responses due by Sunday at 11:55 pm ET. The assigned faculty will support the students throughout this eight-week course.

Course Materials

- Course readings consist of selected e-books and documents found in the Lessons area of the classroom.
- External websites and other assigned reading found in the Lessons area of the classroom.
- Weekly Lesson Notes and videos or audio files found in the Lessons area of the classroom.

Library Guides for courses may be found at <http://apus.libguides.com/index.php>

The AMU/APU Library Guides provide access to collections of trusted sites on the Open Web and licensed resources on the Deep Web. These are tailored specially for academic research at APUS:

- Program Portals contain topical and methodological resources to help launch general research in the degree program. To locate, search by department name or navigate by school.
- Course Lib-Guides narrow the focus to relevant resources for the corresponding course. To locate, search by class code (e.g., SOCI111) or class name.

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If a guide you need is not available, please let us know by emailing the APUS Library: librarian@apus.edu

References List for Required Readings

- Stephen J. Blank, *Arms Control and Proliferation Challenges to the Reset Policy*, Strategic Studies Institute Monograph (Carlisle Barracks, PA: U.S. Army War College Strategic Studies Institute, 2011).
- Ryan Clarke, *Chinese Energy Security: The Myth of the PLAN's Frontline Status*, Letort Papers (Carlisle Barracks, PA: U.S. Army War College Strategic Studies Institute, 2010).
- Antulio J. Eschevarria II, *Preparing for One War and Getting Another?* Advancing Strategic Thought Series (Carlisle Barracks, PA: U.S. Army War College Strategic Studies Institute, 2010).
- Baucum Fulk, *An Evaluation of Counterinsurgency as a Strategy for Fighting the Long War*, Carlisle Papers (Carlisle Barracks, PA: U.S. Army War College Strategic Studies Institute, 2011).
- Colin S. Gray, *Categorical Confusion? The Strategic Implications of Recognizing Challenges as either Irregular or Traditional*, Strategic Studies Institute Monograph (Carlisle Barracks, PA: U.S. Army War College Strategic Studies Institute, 2012).
- Colin S. Gray, *Hard and Soft Power: The Utility of Military Force as an Instrument of National Power in the 21st Century*, Strategic Studies Institute Monograph (Carlisle Barracks, PA: U.S. Army War College Strategic Studies Institute, 2011).
- Kenneth D. Johnson, *China's Strategic Culture: A Perspective for the United States*, Carlisle Papers (Carlisle Barracks, PA: U.S. Army War College Strategic Studies Institute, 2009).
- Paul Rexton Kan, *Mexico's "Narco-Refugees": The Looming Challenge for U.S. National Security*, Strategic Studies Institute Monograph (Carlisle Barracks, PA: U.S. Army War College Strategic Studies Institute, 2011).
- Max G. Manwaring, *Ambassador Stephen Krasner's Orienting Principle for Foreign Policy (and Military Management) – Responsible Sovereignty*, Advancing Strategic Thought Series (Carlisle Barracks, PA: U.S. Army War College Strategic Studies Institute, 2012).
- Max G. Manwaring, *The Strategic Logic of the Contemporary Security Dilemma*, Strategic Studies Institute Monograph (Carlisle Barracks, PA: U.S. Army War College Strategic Studies Institute, 2011).
- John A. Mauk, *A Risk-Based Approach to Strategic Balance*, Carlisle Papers (Carlisle Barracks, PA: U.S. Army War College Strategic Studies Institute, 2010).
- Michael G. Mullen (Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff), *The National Military Strategy of the United States of America* (Washington, DC: The Pentagon, February 2011).
- Barack H. Obama (President of the United States), *National Security Strategy* (Washington, DC: The White House, May 2010).
- Barack H. Obama (President of the United States), *National Strategy for Counterterrorism* (Washington, DC: The White House, June 2011).
- Leon E. Panetta (Secretary of Defense), *Sustaining U.S. Global Leadership: Priorities for 21st Century Defense* (Washington, DC: The White House, January 2012).
- Tony Pfaff, *Resolving Ethical Challenges in an Era of Persistent Conflict*, Professional Military Ethics Series (Carlisle Barracks, PA: U.S. Army War College Strategic Studies Institute, 2011).

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W. Andrew Terrill, *The Saudi-Iranian Rivalry and the Future of Middle East Security*, Strategic Studies Institute Monograph (Carlisle Barracks, PA: U.S. Army War College Strategic Studies Institute, 2011).

Phil Williams, *From the New Middle Ages to a New Dark Age: The Decline of the State and U.S. Strategy*, Strategic Studies Institute Monograph (Carlisle Barracks, PA: U.S. Army War College Strategic Studies Institute, 2008).

Phil Williams and Vanda Felbab-Brown, *Drug Trafficking, Violence, and Instability*, Strategic Studies Institute Monograph (Carlisle Barracks, PA: U.S. Army War College Strategic Studies Institute, 2012).

Evaluation Procedures

Each assignment will be evaluated by the instructor using a rubric-scoring guide and comments inserted into the Word document. Forum grades will be determined using a rubric-scoring guide using the forum grader tool.

LATE ASSIGNMENTS: Late assignments and late forum posts will be accepted under certain circumstances. A student request for late submission must be initiated twenty-four (24) hours prior to the assignment deadline. Without prior permission by the instructor, late work will be assessed a five (5) percent penalty per day.

CITATION AND REFERENCE STYLE: All assignments for the School of Security and Global Studies (papers, essays, exams, and Forums) must follow the Turabian citation method. An online copy of may be found at:

http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian_citationguide.html.

Students should be aware that in-text citations are the preferred method for citing sources (rather than in footnotes or endnotes). Any notes used in essays or assignments should be limited to extraneous information that the student wishes to include. The format for in-text citations is given in the Turabian guide linked above. Students are to use the parenthetical form (P) within the text of the document and the reference list form (R) in providing a list of sources.

Grading Scale

The course grade is based on the following assessments:

Discussion Forums – 25 percent (4% for research paper-related discussions; 21% for course readings discussions)

Discussion questions related to course readings will be provided and posts should reflect an assimilation of the readings and respond to the assigned topic(s). Students are required to provide a substantive initial post by Thursday at 11:55 pm ET and respond to two or more classmates' initial posts by Sunday 11:55 pm ET. Forum posts are graded on timeliness, relevance, knowledge of the weekly readings, and the quality of original ideas. To demonstrate knowledge of the readings, students must use citations in parenthetical reference format and a

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reference list in the initial post and in the two additional required responses to classmates' initial posts. A minimum of two to three sources in initial posts and one to two in subsequent required posts should be the goal.

Discussion questions related to student research papers will be required in various weeks throughout the course to facilitate discussion with classmates. Posts should incorporate substantive comments and feedback on classmates' work. No source citations are required. Students should respond to at least two classmates initial posts.

Research Question, Purpose Statement, and Citation Format Exercise – 15 percent

The components of this assignment include a research question, a purpose and design statement, and a reference list. It must contain at least 8 sources, at least 6 of which must be peer-reviewed. The specific research question should relate to a topic covered in the course. Length: 8 pp.

Literature Review—15 percent

This document contains an annotated summary of the major sources that will be used in the research paper, all of which must be peer-reviewed articles or scholarly texts. Students will identify the source, offer a short synopsis of its main argument, and offer a statement of relevance to the research project. Length: 8 pp.

Preliminary Paper Assignment—15 percent

This document represents a preliminary draft of the main body of the paper. It is intended to provide an outline of the main ideas so that the professor and peers can offer comments and suggestions for the final draft. It must include citations. Length: 8 pp.

Final Paper—30 percent

This is the final paper assignment of the course. It must contain citations in formal style as well as a reference list. Length: 15 pp.

ASSIGNMENT	Percentage
Research Design Assignment	15 percent
Literature Review Assignment	15 percent
Preliminary Research Assignment	15 percent
Forum Discussion Posts	25 percent
Research Paper	30 percent
TOTAL	100 percent

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Writing Expectations

All assignments for the School of Security and Global Studies (papers, essays, exams, and Forums) must follow the Chicago Style Manual guidelines. Refer to Kate Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 7th ed. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

http://www.press.uchicago.edu/books/turabian/turabian_citationguide.html.

All written submissions should be submitted in Times New Roman 12 pt font with 1” margins, typewritten in double-spaced format. Graduate-level work is expected to be free of grammar, usage, and style errors.

It is very important that students are aware of and comply with the APUS policy on plagiarism in the Student Handbook. To find the plagiarism policy, go to the vertical toolbar in the classroom and click “Policy.”

Late Assignments

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. The standard for the School of Security and Global Studies for late assignments is a penalty of five percent per day.

Weekly Outline

WK	Topic	Learning Objectives	Readings	Assignments
1	The U.S. View of the Future	LO-1: Assess the key factors and indicators with the greatest potential to influence the international and national security environments in the near future. LO-2: Assess the existing and predicted threats to the international and national security environments. LO-3: Analyze the existing and predicted strategies to address those threats. LO-4: Evaluate the fundamental and functional differences, as well as similarities, between wars of the future and those of the past. LO-5: Assimilate the doctrinal necessities for future war and evaluate them in analytical	US National Security Strategy (2010) US National Military Strategy (2011) US National Strategy for Counterterrorism (2011) Defense Strategic Guidance (2012)	Week One Forum: #1: Required Introduction #2: Specific Course Readings Question Lesson Notes Weekly Readings

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		essays.		
2	Theory & Nature of War	<p>LO-1: Assess the key factors and indicators with the greatest potential to influence the international and national security environments in the near future.</p> <p>LO-2: Assess the existing and predicted threats to the international and national security environments.</p> <p>LO-3: Analyze the existing and predicted strategies to address those threats.</p> <p>LO-4: Evaluate the fundamental and functional differences, as well as similarities, between wars of the future and those of the past.</p> <p>LO-5: Assimilate the doctrinal necessities for future war and evaluate them in analytical essays.</p>	<p>Fulk, <i>Evaluation of COIN as a Strategy for Fighting the Long War</i> (2011)</p> <p>Gray, <i>Categorical Confusion</i> (2012)</p>	<p>Week Two Forum: #1: Post your Research Question and Respond to two peers #2: Specific Course Readings Question (Original Post Thursday, Responses to Peers by Sunday)</p> <p>Lesson Notes</p> <p>Weekly Readings</p> <p>Assignment: Introduce the topic and state the research question; provide a purpose and design statement; and suggest a tentative thesis</p>
3	Theory & Nature of War	<p>LO-1: Assess the key factors and indicators with the greatest potential to influence the international and national security environments in the near future.</p> <p>LO-2: Assess the existing and predicted threats to the international and national security environments.</p> <p>LO-3: Analyze the existing and predicted strategies to address those threats.</p> <p>LO-4: Evaluate the fundamental and functional differences, as well as similarities, between wars of the future and those of the past.</p> <p>LO-5: Assimilate the doctrinal necessities for future war and evaluate them in analytical essays.</p>	<p>Williams, <i>From the New Middle Ages to a New Dark Age</i> (2008)</p> <p>Manwaring, <i>The Strategic Logic of the Contemporary Security Dilemma</i> (2011)</p> <p>Pfaff, <i>Resolving Ethical Challenges in an Era of Persistent Conflict</i> (2011)</p>	<p>Week Three Forum: #1: Discuss initial research results and problems or issues with sources #2: Specific Course Readings Question (Original Post Thursday, Responses to Peers Sunday)</p> <p>Lesson Notes</p> <p>Weekly Readings</p>
4	Preparing	LO-1: Assess the key factors and	Eschevarria,	Week Four Forum:

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	for the Next War	<p>indicators with the greatest potential to influence the international and national security environments in the near future.</p> <p>LO-2: Assess the existing and predicted threats to the international and national security environments.</p> <p>LO-3: Analyze the existing and predicted strategies to address those threats.</p> <p>LO-4: Evaluate the fundamental and functional differences, as well as similarities, between wars of the future and those of the past.</p> <p>LO-5: Assimilate the doctrinal necessities for future war and evaluate them in analytical essays.</p>	<p><i>Preparing for One War and Getting Another</i> (2010)</p> <p>Mauk, <i>Risk-Based Approach to Strategic Balance</i> (2010)</p>	<p>#1: List the two most important sources for the paper, and why? Responses Sunday</p> <p>#2: Specific Course Readings Question (Original Post Thursday, Responses to Peers Sunday)</p> <p>Lesson Notes</p> <p>Weekly Readings</p> <p>Assignment: Literature Review</p>
5	Non-State Threats	<p>LO-1: Assess the key factors and indicators with the greatest potential to influence the international and national security environments in the near future.</p> <p>LO-2: Assess the existing and predicted threats to the international and national security environments.</p> <p>LO-3: Analyze the existing and predicted strategies to address those threats.</p> <p>LO-4: Evaluate the fundamental and functional differences, as well as similarities, between wars of the future and those of the past.</p> <p>LO-5: Assimilate the doctrinal necessities for future war and evaluate them in analytical essays.</p>	<p>Williams and Felbab-Brown, <i>Drug Trafficking, Violence, and Instability</i> (2012)</p> <p>Kan, <i>Mexico's "Narco-Refugees"</i> (2011)</p>	<p>Week Five Forum: Specific Course Readings Question</p> <p>Lesson Notes</p> <p>Weekly Readings</p>
6	Nation-State Threats	<p>LO-1: Assess the key factors and indicators with the greatest potential to influence the international and national security environments in the near future.</p> <p>LO-2: Assess the existing and predicted threats to the international and national</p>	<p>Blank, <i>Arms Control and Proliferation Challenges to the Reset Policy</i> (2011)</p> <p>Terrill, <i>The Saudi-Iranian Rivalry and the Future of Middle East Security</i> (2011)</p>	<p>Week Six Forum: Specific Course Readings Question (Original Post Thursday, Responses to Peers Sunday)</p> <p>Lesson Notes</p>

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		<p>security environments.</p> <p>LO-3: Analyze the existing and predicted strategies to address those threats.</p> <p>LO-4: Evaluate the fundamental and functional differences, as well as similarities, between wars of the future and those of the past.</p> <p>LO-5: Assimilate the doctrinal necessities for future war and evaluate them in analytical essays.</p>		<p>Weekly Readings</p> <p>Assignment: Prelim Draft of Paper</p>
7	Nation-State Threats	<p>LO-1: Assess the key factors and indicators with the greatest potential to influence the international and national security environments in the near future.</p> <p>LO-2: Assess the existing and predicted threats to the international and national security environments.</p> <p>LO-3: Analyze the existing and predicted strategies to address those threats.</p> <p>LO-4: Evaluate the fundamental and functional differences, as well as similarities, between wars of the future and those of the past.</p> <p>LO-5: Assimilate the doctrinal necessities for future war and evaluate them in analytical essays.</p>	<p>Johnson, <i>China's Strategic Culture</i> (2009)</p> <p>Clarke, <i>Chinese Energy Security</i> (2010)</p>	<p>Week Seven Forum: Specific Course Readings Question (Original Post Thursday, Responses to Peers Sunday)</p> <p>Lesson Notes</p> <p>Weekly Readings</p>
8	Implications for U.S. Strategy	<p>LO-1: Assess the key factors and indicators with the greatest potential to influence the international and national security environments in the near future.</p> <p>LO-2: Assess the existing and predicted threats to the international and national security environments.</p> <p>LO-3: Analyze the existing and predicted strategies to address those threats.</p> <p>LO-4: Evaluate the fundamental and functional differences, as well as similarities, between wars of the future and those of the past.</p>	<p>Gray, <i>Hard and Soft Power</i> (2011)</p> <p>Manwaring, <i>Ambassador Stephen Krasner's Orienting Principle for Foreign Policy (and Military Management) – Responsible Sovereignty</i> (2012)</p>	<p>Week Eight Forum Concluding discussion of research process and results (Original Post Thursday, Responses to Peers Sunday)</p> <p>Assignment: Research paper due</p>

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		LO-5: Assimilate the doctrinal necessities for future war and evaluate them in analytical essays.		
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