



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY

Department of History

HTST 655/STST 655
Classics of Strategy
Winter 2021

Instructor: Dr. John Ferris

Email: ferris@ucalgary.ca

Office Hours and Method: TBA

Course Delivery: Online, Synchronous

Synchronous Class Times: Wednesdays, 2-5 pm

Description

This course will introduce students to “strategy”, both as theories about how to understand and practice statecraft and war, and as concepts which guide the thinking and behaviour of states, statesmen and commanders in power politics and war. The aim is to illuminate praxis, or the interrelationship between theory and practice. This course also addresses the nature of war, and its relationship to societies and environments. Core readings for the class include the two most important classical texts of strategy, by Sun Tzu and Carl von Clausewitz, and contemporary works of strategy, by Laurence Freedman and Michael Handel. Case studies range from power politics and war in ancient China to the contemporary use of cyber, and studies in naval and air strategy, guerrilla warfare/counter-insurgency, and nuclear “deterrence”. These books and case studies enable students to consider how far strategy is a unitary matter, or one divided into national or cultural schools (“eastern” vs. “western,” British or German “ways of war”) and how far classical theories like those of Clausewitz or Sun Tzu can be applied to warfare at sea or in space, or to different sorts of competitions than statecraft and war, such as economics, law, politics and sport.

Learning Outcomes

Participants in this course will have an opportunity to study and compare classical works in strategy, and to learn how statesmen and commanders have applied strategy over the past 2500 years. They will have a chance to understand the praxis which guides the effect of strategy on decisions, and the complex, and often seemingly contradictory, ways in which these theories are applied to action in different competitions, ranging from diplomacy and war, to politics and sport. Students should acquire a strong grasp of “strategy”, a matter which affects the lives of individuals, and the success of states.

Class Expectations

All students are expected to have a basic knowledge of military history, especially of the areas addressed in seminars: Christon Archer, John Ferris, Holger Herwig, and Tim Travers, *A World History of Warfare* (University of Nebraska Press, 2001), is a useful introduction to these topics, as are many other works.

Reading Material

Michael Handel, *Masters of War*, Third, Revised and Expanded Edition, 2001. Via the Bookstore. The University Library has digital access to this book by Hathi Trust.

Lawrence Freedman, *Strategy, A History* (OUP, 2013), ONLINE via U of C Library.

Carl von Clausewitz, *On War*, J.J, Graham (Trs.) (1946), <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/1946> ; but the translations by .J. Matthijis Jolles, (1943) especially, and by Michael Howard and Peter Paret, (Princeton University Press, 1976) are superior: the latter also includes useful commentary.

Sun Tzu (translator Ralph Sawyer), *The Art of War* (Westview Press. 1994) ONLINE via U of C Library

Assessment

Class Participation, including Chat: 25%

Oral Reports: 25%

Term Paper, topic selected after consultation with instructor, due last day of class: 50%.

Further details provided under “Schedule” below, and at the start of term.

Grading Policies

Letter grades will be assigned as per the “Departmental Grading System,” listed below. Students may question their grades with the instructor.

Learning Technologies Requirements

The D2L site for this course contains relevant class resources. In order to successfully engage in their learning experiences at the University of Calgary, students in this course will need reliable access to the following technology: A computer with a supported operating system; a current and updated web browser; a webcam (built-in or external); a microphone and speaker (built-in or external or headset); current antivirus and/or firewall software enabled; broadband internet connection.

On-Line Instruction Statement

Class will be online, through Zoom, accessed via D2L, during listed class hours.

Inclusiveness, Accommodation, and Classroom Conduct

I am committed to creating an inclusive learning environment for all registered students. If you have conditions or circumstances that require accommodations, you are encouraged to contact Student Accessibility Services and to contact me by email or during office hours to discuss reasonable measures that will ensure your success in this course. Such accommodation may include disability (physical or mental wellness, whether visible or not), the need to nurse or occasionally bring a child to class, the wish to be called a different name or pronoun, assistance with writing, or adjusting deadlines because of personal circumstances.

Part of creating an inclusive learning environment involves respecting your fellow classmates. In meeting any university's mandate of encouraging free and open inquiry, we will occasionally discuss topics about which you might be uncomfortable or have a set viewpoint. In such situations, it is essential that we understand that others share different experiences and perspectives, and that listening respectfully to and showing tolerance toward opposing viewpoints is part of the process of emerging as active, engaged citizens.

To protect the privacy of others, students may not record in any format any activity that occurs within the classroom or online. Permission to record lectures will only be given to students registered with Student Accessibility Services. All material in this course, including but not limited to lectures, quizzes, worksheets, handouts, and the textbook, are under the protection of copyright and may not be distributed to third parties under any circumstances.

Schedule

Jan 11 - 15. Week One. Introduction to Strategy.

Students will prepare TWO five minute presentations, one on any aspect of the texts by Lawrence Freedman and Michael Handel, and another on any aspect of the texts by Carl von Clausewitz and Sun Tzu.

Jan 18 - 22. Week Two. Ancient Chinese Warfare.

Students will present one five minute presentation, on any aspect of Sun Tzu, or war and strategy in ancient China.

Readings: Ralph Sawyer, Sun Tzu (translator Ralph Sawyer), *The Art of War*. (Westview Press. 1994) ONLINE via U of C Library

David A. Graff, *Medieval Chinese Warfare, 300-900*, Routledge, 2002, ONLINE via U of C Library.

Jan 25 - 29. Week Three. The Peloponnesian War, and Ancient Western Warfare.

Readings: Thucydides, *The Peloponnesian War*. You can use any text, whether printed or on line, but Robert B. Strassler (ed), *The Landmark Thucydides*, (Simon and Schuster, New York, 1996), is the best, with useful commentaries.

Students will present a five minute presentation on any aspect of Thucydides, the Peloponnesian war, or ancient western warfare and strategy.

Oral Report: Ian Worthington, *By the Spear: Philip II, Alexander the Great, and the Rise and Fall of the Macedonian Empire*, (OUP, 2012).

Feb 1-5. Week Four. Strategy, War, Power, States, Society and the Environment.

Geoffrey Parker, *Global Crisis, War, Climate Change and Catastrophe in the Seventeenth Century* (Yale UP, 2013). ONLINE via U of C Library.

Feb 8-12. Week Five. Nomads, Power, War and Strategy.

Pekka Hamalainen, *The Comanche Empire*, (Yale UP, 2008), ONLINE via U of C Library.

David A. Graff, “China, Byzantium and the Shadow of the Steppe”, *Dunbarton Oaks Papers*, 65/66, 2011-12, pp 157-68, ONLINE via U of C Library.

Oral Report: Philip Carl Salzman, *Pastoralists, Equality, Hierarchy and the State*, Westview, 2004; and Ibn Khaldun, *The Muqaddimah*, Chapters 2 and 3. “Bedouin civilization” and ”On dynasties”.

Feb 15-19 Term Break. No classes.

Feb 22-26. Week Six. Strategy and Seapower.

Julian Corbett, *Some Principles of Maritime Strategy*,

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/15076/15076-h/15076-h.htm>

Oral Report: Jan Glete, *Navies and Nations, warships, navies and state building in Europe and America, 1500—1860* (1993).

Oral Report: A.T. Mahan, *The Influence of Seapower upon History, 1660-1783*,

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/13529/13529-h/13529-h.htm>

March 1-5. Week Seven. The Napoleonic Era.

Clausewitz, *On War*; and Baron de Jomini, *The Art of War*,

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/13549/13549-h/13549-h.htm>

Clausewitz, *The Russian Campaign of 1812*,

https://books.google.ca/books?hl=en&lr=&id=O7o5AQAAMAAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PA1&dq=clausewitz,+campaign+of+1812&ots=0bgzUaG_bM&sig=KcVPwYtt-iU6CyZglxnRjGI0iJ8&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q=clausewitz%2C%20campaign%20of%201812&f=false

Leo Tolstoy, *War and Peace*, Book 10, 1812, Chs, 19 to 39 (on the battle of Borodino).

Oral Report: D.G. Chandler, *The Campaigns of Napoleon*. ONLINE via U of C Library.

Oral Report: *On Waterloo, Clausewitz, Wellington, and the Campaign of 1815*,

<https://www.clausewitz.com/readings/1815/TOC.htm>

March 8-12. Week Eight. The Second World War.

Readings: John Ferris and Evan Mawdsley (eds), *The Cambridge History of the Second World War, Volume One, Fighting the War*, CUP, 2015. Online, via U of C Library.

Oral Report: Paul Kennedy, *Engineers of Victory*, (Allan Lane, 2013).

March 15-19. Week Nine. Strategy, Airpower and Strike Warfare;

Colin Gray, *Airpower for Strategic Effect*,

http://uploads.worldlibrary.net/uploads/pdf/20121024224747airpower_strategic_effect_pdf.pdf ;

Post government link:

https://permanent.access.gpo.gov/gpo56522/b_0122_gray_airpower_strategic_effect.pdf

Oral Report: Giulio Douhet, *The Command of the Air*,

<https://archive.org/details/dominiodellariae00unse> ;

Post government link:

<https://media.defense.gov/2010/Sep/24/2001329765/-1/-1/0/AFD-100924-017.pdf>

Colonel Warden, “The Enemy as a System”, *AirPower Journal*, (9) Spring 1995, pp. 44-55,

https://www.airuniversity.af.edu/Portals/10/ASPJ/journals/Volume-09_Issue-1-September1995_Vol9_No1.pdf.

Oral Report, Tami Davis Biddle, *Rhetoric and Reality in Strategic Air Warfare*.

March 22-26. Week Ten. Nuclear Strategy and Nuclear Deterrence.

Remembering Colin Gray, <https://tnsr.org/roundtable/remembering-colin-gray/>

Bernard Brodie, *Strategy in the Nuclear Age*, RAND, 15 January 1959,

https://www.rand.org/pubs/commercial_books/CB137-1.html

Oral Report: Lawrence Freedman, *The Evolution of Nuclear Strategy*, 4th ed. , 2019)

Oral Report, Edward Kaplan, *To Kill Nations: American Strategy in the Air-Atomic Age and the Rise of Mutually Assured Destruction*, Cornell University Press, 2015.

Link to ebook:

<https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/lib/ucalgary-ebooks/detail.action?docID=3138723>

March 29-Apr 2. Week Eleven. Irregular Warfare, Guerrilla Warfare, and Counter-Insurgency.

Mao Zhedung, *On Guerrilla Warfare*

(1937), <https://www.marxists.org/reference/archive/mao/works/1937/guerrilla-warfare/index.htm>

(to be skimmed) Vo Nguyen Giap, *People’s War, People’s Army*,

<https://www.marxists.org/archive/giap/1961-pwpa.pdf>

C.E. Callwall, *Small Wars: Their Principles and Practice* (3rd. ed, 1906)

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/23/Small_Wars-Their_principles_and_practice_%28C._E._Callwell%29.pdf

(to be skimmed) US Army and US Marine Corps, Manual FM-3-24, 15.12.2006, Counterinsurgency, <https://fas.org/irp/doddir/army/fm3-24fd.pdf>
(Oral Report: Alexander Statiev, *The Soviet Counterinsurgency in the Western Borderlands*, CUP, 2010)

April 5-9. Week Twelve. Strategy in Space and Cyber

Howard Kleinberg, “On War in Space”, *Astropolitics*, 5/1, 2007, pp. 1-22, <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/14777620701544600>

Post UC link:

<https://www-tandfonline-com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/doi/full/10.1080/14777620701544600>

Air Force Space Command, 5 September 2019, The Future of Space 2060 and Implications for U.S. Strategy: Report on the Space Futures Workshop, <https://aerospace.csis.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Future-of-Space-2060-v2-5-Sep.pdf>

John Arquilla and David Ronfeldt, “Cyberwar is Coming”, RAND, 1993, <https://www.rand.org/pubs/reprints/RP223.html>

Thomas Kid, “Cyberwar will not Take Place”, *The Journal of Strategic Studies*, 35/1, 2012, pp 5-32, <https://www-tandfonline-com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/doi/full/10.1080/01402390.2011.608939>

Oral Report:

Bledden E. Bowen, “From the Sea to Outer Space: The command of space as the foundation for spacepower theory”, *The Journal of Strategic Studies*, 42/Issue 3—4, (2019), pp 532-56.

Eligar Sadeh, *Space Strategy in the 21st Century: Theory and Practice*, 2012, <https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/lib/ucalgary-ebooks/reader.action?docID=1125240>

April 12 -15. Week Thirteen.

Students will prepare one ten minute presentation on any issue addressed in the course, followed by a general discussion of them. Themes may be historical or theoretical, and address issues like uncertainty and intelligence; how far strategy is unified or divided; how far the concepts of classical strategy are universal, and apply to matters like nuclear deterrence, “guerilla” warfare, strike warfare, or space and cyber, or to politics and law within states; how far strategy actually can be applied in practice.

Students will prepare one ten minute presentation on any issue addressed in this material on United States strategy in Afghanistan between 2001-19: The Washington Post, “The Afghanistan Papers”, 9—14 December 2019,

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2019/investigations/afghanistan-papers/afghanistan-war-confidential-documents/#nav>

Post UC link:

<https://link.gale.com/apps/doc/A608072009/AONE?u=ucalgary&sid=AONE&xid=9409ed61>

**THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION APPEARS ON ALL DEPARTMENT OF
HISTORY COURSE OUTLINES**

Departmental Grading System

The following percentage-to-letter grade conversion scheme is used in all Canadian Studies, History, and Latin American Studies courses, except for HTST 200.

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
90-100	A+	4.00	Outstanding performance
85-89	A	4.00	Excellent performance
80-84	A-	3.70	Approaching excellent performance
77-79	B+	3.30	Exceeding good performance
73-76	B	3.00	Good performance
70-72	B-	2.70	Approaching good performance
67-69	C+	2.30	Exceeding satisfactory performance
63-66	C	2.00	Satisfactory performance
60-62	C-	1.70	Approaching satisfactory performance.
56-59	D+	1.30	Marginal pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject
50-55	D	1.00	Minimal Pass. Insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
0-49	F	0	Failure. Did not meet course requirements.

Program Advising and Student Information Resources

- For program advising in the Faculty of Arts, contact the [Arts Students Centre](#) (ASC).
- For questions about admissions, student awards, common registration issues, financial aid and student fees, contact [Enrolment Services](#)
- Sometimes unexpected circumstances may affect your time table. You can change your registration during the course change period. Please see the [Registration Changes and Exemption Requests](#) page.

Attention history majors: History 300 is a required course for all history majors. You should normally take it in your second year.

Writing

All written assignments and written exam responses are assessed partly on writing skills. Writing skills include surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) and general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented according to the format described in [The History Student's Handbook](#).

Plagiarism

Plagiarism occurs when students submit or present the ideas and/or writing of others as if they were their own or when they submit their own work to two different classes. Please see [The History Student's Handbook](#) for more details, but to summarize, plagiarism may take several forms:

- Failing to cite sources properly
- Submitting borrowed, purchased, and/or ghostwritten papers
- Submitting one's own work for more than one course without the permission of the instructor(s) involved
- Extensive paraphrasing of one or a few sources, even when referenced properly, unless the essay is a critical analysis of those works

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence, and written work that appears to contain plagiarized passages will not be graded. All such work will be reported to the Faculty of Art's associate deans of students who will apply the penalties specified in the *University of Calgary Calendar*, [Section K: Integrity and Conduct](#).

Academic Accommodations

Students needing an accommodation because of a disability or medical condition should contact [Student Accessibility Services](#) in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities in the [Student Accommodation Policy](#).

Students needing an accommodation based on a protected ground other than disability should contact, preferably in writing, the course instructor.

Copyright

The University of Calgary has opted out of the Access Copyright Interim Tariff proposed by the Copyright Board. Therefore, instructors in all University of Calgary courses will strictly adhere to Copyright Act regulations and the educational exceptions permitted by the Act for both print and digital course material. No copyrighted material may be placed on course D2L or web sites without the prior permission of the copyright holders. In some cases, this may mean that instructors will require you to purchase a print course pack from the University of Calgary bookstore or consult books on reserve at the library. Please see the [University of Calgary copyright page](#).

Sexual Violence Policy

The University recognizes that all members of the University Community should be able to learn, work, teach and live in an environment where they are free from harassment, discrimination, and violence. The University of Calgary's sexual violence policy guides us in

how we respond to incidents of sexual violence, including supports available to those who have experienced or witnessed sexual violence, or those who are alleged to have committed sexual violence. It provides clear response procedures and timelines, defines complex concepts, and addresses incidents that occur off-campus in certain circumstances. Please see the [sexual violence policy](#).

Other Useful Information

Please see the Registrar's [Course Outline Student Support and Resources](#) page for information on:

- Wellness and Mental Health
- Student Success
- Student Ombuds Office
- Student Union (SU) Information
- Graduate Students' Association (GSA) Information
- Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points
- Safewalk

Campus Security (220-5333)

Department of History Twitter [@ucalgaryhist](#)

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