War in the Modern World 2002

Syllabus

SAIS 660.777, Monday 1015-1215, Rome 203

Purpose

version 02.01.04

Note: this syllabus may be revised during coming weeks.

What has been the role of war in international politics since the end of World War II? What has determined success and failure, the intensity, duration, and consequences of military action? And what is the nature of war today? We will address these questions through a series of case studies of contemporary conflicts, comparing and contrasting the forms of conflict during the last forty years. This is an advanced Strategic Studies course: Strategy & Policy is strongly recommended, and knowledge of its content will be assumed.

Course requirements and grading

Requirements will consist of four elements:

- basic knowledge  20%
- class participation  15%
- memoranda/review essays  40%
- final exam   25%

Basic knowledge will consist of a knowledge of (a) key figures, (b) basic chronology, and (c) main events, enough to give a one sentence response on a quiz.

The formation of study groups is recommended to students, and as a rule of thumb, the “top ten” in each category will suffice.

Class participation is, of course, taking part in classroom discussion

Four memoranda/review essays will be required of students during the course of the semester. These will be spread evenly across the course. They will consist of 1000 word (roughly four page) assessments of books or articles relevant to each week, or thought pieces on a subject (e.g., “what were the key disputes between NATO political and military leaders during operations in Yugoslavia?”). Students will write two memoranda and two reviews each.

The final exam will take place Wednesday, May 8th, at 9:00 a.m.
Because of the nature of the subject matter, in most weeks readings will consist of required materials (listed below) and supplemental readings, which will be discussed in handouts available on the internal ERes website, and on a web references list posted there. Students are expected to read approximately 200 pages a week or equivalent.

INTRODUCTION

1. What is modern war? (28 January)


WARS OF THE DYING EMPIRES

**Algeria** (4 February)


WARS OF THE DUELLING GIANTS

3. **Vietnam** (11 February)


THE WARS OF THE SOVIET SUCCESSION

4. **Yugoslavia** (18 February)

5. Chechnya (25 February)

Dunlop, John B. Russia Confronts Chechnya: Roots of a Separatist Conflict. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998), selections TBD

THE WARS OF REGIONAL ASCENDANCY


7. The Indo-Pakistani conflict, 1972-2000 (11 March)


THE WARS OF THE AMERICAN EMPIRE

8. The Gulf War (25 March)

THE WARS OF THE BLUE HELMETS

9. Somalia (1 April)


THE WARS OF THE THEORISTS

10. The revolution in military affairs (8 April)

“The RMA” Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments. (“Strategic Studies”) http://www.csbaonline.org/

11. Information warfare (15 April)


THE WARS OF THE MARGINAL MEN

12. Terrorism and asymmetric conflict before 9/11 (22 April)


13. World War IV? (29 April)


James F. Hoge and Gideon Rose, eds. How Did This Happen? Terrorism and the New War, chapters by Brian Jenkins, Fouad Ajami, Michael Scott Doran, and Walter Laqueuer, pp. 1-82. 82 pages.