**Syllabus**

**TRN 409H1S (Selected Topics in International Studies)/ Global Affairs 2050**

**Winter 2016**

**War and its Theorists**

**Time:** Wednesday, 2-4 pm

**Location:** Larkin 200

**Instructor:** Dr. Jack Cunningham

**Office Hours:** Larkin 208, TBA

This course examines the nature and dynamics of war throughout history, as they have been understood by major thinkers and writers from the ancient Greeks to contemporary theorists.

Introductory sessions expose students to the heroic conception of war and the martial virtues, as illustrated in Homer’s *Iliad*, and the analysis of the causes of war first propounded by Thucydides in his account of the Peloponnesian War. Subsequent classes discuss the early modern “Military Revolution”, Jomini’s emphasis on the pursuit of the “decisive point” in battle, Clausewitz’s analysis of the relationship between war and politics, the nature of absolute and limited war, and the phenomenon of “friction”, and Mahan’s assessment of the nature and workings of seapower.

We will then proceed to assess the evolution of limitations on war and the Just War tradition, and the impact of industrialization and modern technology on warfare as both geopolitical instrument and lived experience. As we move into the Twentieth Century, we will explore the profoundly disillusioning experience of the First World War and its impact on the traditional heroic conception of warfare, the efforts of the theorists of airpower and unconventional warfare to find an alternative to the indecisive slaughter of the trenches, and close with an assessment of the first generation of nuclear strategists. Students will be exposed to both primary source material and the relevant secondary literature.

Most weeks a student (or two, depending on numbers) will present and comment upon the assigned readings, followed by general discussion.

Evaluation:

* In-class presentation on assigned readings (10%).
* Written reflections on assigned reading, due a week after presentation, approx. 1,000 words (10%).
* Class participation (10%).
* Proposal for research paper and annotated bibliography, approx. 6-800 words (20%); Due Feb. 3
* Research paper of approx. 6,000 words (50%); Due April 6

In the absence of a doctor’s note or similar documentation to justify a late submission, overdue papers will be penalized 5% per calendar day. Papers may not be submitted beyond the last day of classes of the Fall 2015 term. We assume your familiarity with the conventions of academic writing in matters of citation and bibliography. You are responsible for following University of Toronto policies pertaining to plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. These are set out at

<http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm>

Outline:

Jan. 13: The Heroic Ethos

Readings: *The Iliad,* Homer, translated by Robert Fagles, books 1, 9, 18-19, 22-24 (on short-term loan, Graham Library, Trinity College)

“The Iliad, or the Poem of Force”, Simone Weil, in War and the Iliad (short-term loan, Robarts Library)

Jan. 20: The Dynamics of War: The Case of the Peloponnesian War

Readings: *The Landmark Thucydides*, books 1-2 (short-term loan, Graham Library)

Bernard Knox, “Thucydides and the Peloponnesian War: Politics and Power”, from idem, *Essays Ancient and Modern* (short-term loan, Robarts Library)

Jan. 27: The Military Revolution

Reading: *The Military Revolution Debate*, ed. by Clifford J. Rogers, chs. 1-4(short-term loan, Robarts Library)

Feb. 3: Jomini

Readings: *The Art of War*, Antoine-Henri de Jomini, chs. 1-3 (short-term loan, Robarts Library)

“Jomini” by John Shy, ch. 6 in *Makers of Modern Strategy,* ed. by Peter Paret (short-term loan, Robarts Library)

Feb. 10: Clausewitz

Readings: *On War*, Carl von Clausewitz, edited by Michael Howard and Peter Paret, bks. 1-3 (short-term loan, Robarts Library)

Peter Paret, *Clausewitz and the State*, ch. 11 (short-term loan, Graham Library)

Feb. 24: Mahan and Seapower

Readings: *The Influence of Seapower on History,* Alfred Thayer Mahan, chs. 8-14 (short-term loan, Robarts Library)

Ch. 1 of *Worldmaking: The Art and Science of American Diplomacy*, David Milne (short-term loan, Robarts Library)

March 2: The Just war Tradition

Reading: *Just and Unjust Wars*, Michael Walzer, pts. 3-4. (Short-term loan, Graham Library)

March 9: Industrialized Warfare

Readings: *War Machine: The Rationalisation of Slaughter in the Modern Age,* Daniel Pick, chs. 6-12 (short-term loan, Graham Library)

*The Pursuit of Power*, William H. McNeill, chs. 6-8 (available online via U of T library system)

March 16: The Trenches

Readings: *The Oxford Book of War Poetry*, Jon Stallworthy, ed. ,pp. 189-221 (short-term loan, Robarts Library)

*The Great War and Modern Memory,* Paul Fussell, chs. 1-2 (short-term loan, Graham Library)

March 23: Airpower

Readings: *The Command of the Air*, Giulio Douhet, book 2 (short-term loan, Robarts Library)

*The Rise of American Air Power,* Michael S. Sherry, chs. 2-6 (short-term loan, Graham Library)

March 30: Guerrilla War

Readings: *The Guerrilla Reader: A Historical Anthology,* Walter Laqueur, ed. , parts 4-5 (short-term loan, Robarts Library)

David Kilcullen, “Countering Global Insurgency”, *Journal of Strategic Studies,* 28 / 4 (available electronically via U of T library system)

Karl Hack, “The Malayan Emergency as Counter-Insurgency Paradigm”, *Journal of Strategic Studies,* 32 / 3 (available electronically via U of T library system)

April 6: Nuclear War

Readings: *Strategy in the Missile Age,* Bernard Brodie, chs. 5-11 (short-term loan, Graham Library)

“The First Two Generations of Nuclear Strategists”, Lawrence Freedman, in *Makers of Modern Strategy* (short-term loan, Robarts Library)