

The University of Florida

Department of Naval Science

Course NSC 3221 Class 16977

Evolution of Warfare

Nuclear Sciences (NSC), Bldg. 0634, Room 102A

Tuesday 0935-1025 and Thursday 0935-1130

3 Credit Hours/ Writing: 4000/ Gen Ed: Social Science

“War is both timeless and ever changing. While the basic nature of war is constant, the means and methods we use evolve continuously... We must stay abreast of the process of change, for the belligerent who first exploits a development in the art and science of war gains a significant advantage. If we are ignorant of the changing face of war, we will find ourselves unequal to its challenges.” - MCDP-1

Instructor Information

Instructor: Captain Ashton McCombs
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Office Location: Van Fleet Hall (VAN), Bldg. 0023, Ground Floor
Office Hours: T/R 12:30 – 1:30 P.M. or as arranged by email appointment

Mode of Delivery

Weeks 1-2: Virtual
Weeks 3-completion: In-person

Background: As a Naval Science course, this class must fall in line with the University of Florida NROTC unit's "mode of operations" (in-person or virtual) in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. NROTC is operating fully virtually for the first two weeks of the Spring semester and plans to return to in-person operations during Week 3. This class will follow suit and will be fully virtual for the first two weeks of instruction. The first planned in-person class is Tuesday, January 26th, although this date could change depending on COVID-19 conditions. Information about the medium of instruction will be sent out well beforehand via Canvas.

Zoom information:

Meeting ID: 926 2604 9852
Passcode: 220034

[Zoom Link](#)

Course Description

This course is designed to provide students with a basic understanding of the art, science, and concepts of warfare from the beginning of recorded history to the present day. This course will address the interrelationships between military, technology, politics, culture, and society in order to better understand warfare today and in the future. (S) (WR; 4000-word writing credit)

Course Scope

This course of study will examine how warfare has evolved throughout history by focusing on warfare concepts, historical case studies, common threads, themes, military leadership, and the interrelationship between culture, societies, politics, strategic, operational, tactical, and technical aspects of war that have shaped the face of modern warfare as we know it and will examine what warfare might look like in the future.

Course Objectives

1. Know the preeminent leaders and military organizations of history and the reasons for their success.
2. Know the interrelationship between technological progress and military change in rendering obsolete previous successful strategies, policies, doctrines, and tactics.
3. Comprehend the evolution of the influence of economic, psychological, moral, political, and technological factors.

Course Delivery Method

The goal of the course is to provide the student with the necessary knowledge to understand the evolving nature of warfare and appreciate the complexities and dynamics posed by the art and science of warfare.

This course will offer the student a highly interactive classroom. Each week's lesson will have a course announcement, assigned readings, a reading quiz or short assignment for each reading, and a weekly discussion board assignment based on either course readings or lectures provided by the professor. Video media will be incorporated where practical and applicable. Students will be tested at various times throughout the course via exams, quizzes, and short answer essays. E-Learning in Canvas will be used to post course material and discussions. Recordings of the lectures and the lecture PowerPoints will be posted on Canvas after each class. It is imperative that students become proficient with Canvas, check it regularly, and ensure their Canvas settings allow them to receive Canvas announcements as emails. Since the student is expected to fully participate in discussions, interact with the instructor and other students, reading assignments and assigned projects should be completed in a timely manner. Students should read assigned material prior to the next class and be prepared to discuss the material.

Course Materials

The Naval ROTC unit will provide the texts required for this course. These books must be returned in satisfactory condition – **NO HIGHLIGHTERS OR PENS** – or your grade will be held and a charge will be placed against your university account for the full amount of the texts.

Course Texts (Provided)

Boot, Max. War Made New. New York, NY: Gotham Books, 2006.

Department of the Navy, Headquarters United States Marine Corps. Warfighting, Marine Corps Doctrinal Publication (MCDP) 1. Quantico, VA: United States Marine Corps, 1997.

Additional Readings

The instructor will post additional readings online or in class as necessary and will make course announcements appropriately.

Uniforms and Appearance (Midshipmen and MECEPs only)

Your personal appearance, both in uniform and in civilian attire, should be consistent with that of a prospective Naval or Marine Corps Officer. The uniform for class will follow the NROTC uniform of the day: unit polo on Tuesday, and typically MARPATs on Thursday.

Evaluation Procedures

Grades for this course are based upon classroom participation and the following grading instruments:

GRADE INSTRUMENTS	Weight of Final Grade
Commitment/Participation	10%
Reading Quizzes & Assignments	15%
Discussion Board	15%
Mid-Term Exam	15%
Oral Presentation	20%
Final Paper	25%
TOTAL	100%

Commitment/Participation – Students will be graded on a 1 to 10 point scale regarding their preparation and participation in the class discussion. Students will be evaluated on their ability to interact during student presentations, lectures, and other classroom activities. This is an easy way to earn points. Do the reading and participate in class.

Decision Games

Decision games allow students to practice military decision-making and develop a tactical mindset. The two primary types of decision games utilized in this course are Decision Forcing Cases (DFCs) and Wargames. A DFC is a type of case study that places you in the role of a historic commander faced with a factual dilemma. Wargames enable students to compete against each other on a virtual battlefield. Scenarios, rules, and victory conditions will be specific to the era of warfare covered in the lesson and will be posted and discussed prior to each game. Your participation in Decision Games will be factored into your “Commitment/Participation” grade.

Reading Quizzes/Assignments— There will be either a quiz or short assignment due on Canvas for every reading. These assignments are open book, but individual effort. The purpose of these assessments is to ensure students prepare for class, and to promote knowledge retention through multiple modes of recall. These assignments will be due at the start of the class for which the reading is assigned. All quizzes will consist of short answer/multiple choice/matching questions and will cover the assigned readings/video for the current class. There are no make-ups. The lowest score will be thrown out.

Discussion Board – There will be one discussion prompt within the Canvas course site each week. The quality (not quantity) of your response and subsequent replies will determine your score, but all posts must be a minimum of 100 words. To complete the assignment, respond to the prompt and reply to one classmate’s response. Additional discussion board participation may be considered, but is not required.

Mid-Term Exam— The mid-term exam will cover all material covered up to that point. The format of the exam will be true/false, multiple choice, matching, short answer and short essay.

Oral Presentation – Students will prepare a 10-minute presentation on the same topic as their final research paper. Students are encouraged to utilize multiple multimedia methods but are required to provide the instructor with a printed outline of the presentation at the beginning of class. Students will be graded based on content, presentation quality, and knowledge of the topic. Students will cite sources utilized in the presentation. Presentations and the questions asked of the presenters are directly tied to participation.

Final Paper – Students will submit an 8-10 page research paper on an assigned topic that corresponds with their oral presentation. Utilizing the UF writing center and peer reviews is highly recommended prior to submission. All written submissions should be submitted in a font and page set-up that is readable and neat. It is recommended that students try to adhere to a consistent format. See below for writing expectations.

- Typewritten in double-spaced format and submitted on Canvas (unless Canvas access is not possible and other arrangements have been approved by the professor).
- 12 - Point size, Times New Roman font.
- Page margins Top, Bottom, Left Side and Right Side = 1 inch, with reasonable accommodation being made for special situations and online submission variances.
- Each paper will have a minimum of **six** sources; a minimum of **three** sources must be obtained from a book or scholarly journal. Wikipedia is not considered a reliable source for information.

Guidance on Research Paper Citation

Assignments completed in a narrative essay or composition format must follow the MLA Style Guide.

[Student Note: The **Citation** (format) refers to the basic information needed to find specific materials. For example, for a book this information includes author, title, place of publication, publisher, and date published. The citation provides sufficient information to locate the original item. A **Reference Style** is a consistent way of presenting bibliographic citations. Typically, the selection of the **Reference Style** is specific to a field of study.]

Grading Scale

A	93-100	C	73-76.9
A-	90-92.9	C-	70-72.9
B+	87-89.9	D+	67-69.9
B	83-86.9	D	63-66.9
B-	80-82.9	D-	60-62.9
C+	77-79.9	E	Failed

For more information, please reference the University of Florida grading policy:
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Policies

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is mandatory. Each student is afforded one unexcused absence/late arrival without penalty to account for life circumstances. For each additional unexcused absence/late arrival, the student's overall grade will be reduced by 2.5%. An excused absence or late arrival is when the student arranges with the instructor BEFORE the class and has a legitimate conflict. Emergencies reported after the fact will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The University of Florida attendance policy can be found at the below link:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

LATE WORK

Assignments are due as indicated. There will be no make-up opportunities except under extraordinary circumstances, which will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Students with pre-arranged, excused absences will be permitted a reasonable amount of time to make up the material or activities covered in their absence. Acceptable reasons for requesting an extension include death or grave illness in the family, legitimate university function that conflicts (not fraternity/sorority events), medical issue, NROTC obligation, or professional development opportunity.

INCOMPLETES

Incomplete grades will be given in accordance with University policy if course work is not completed at the conclusion of the course.

REGRADING

A regrade is conducted only when there is a clear and obvious oversight on the part of the grader. Oversights are simple mistakes made on the part of the grader and not a difference in the interpretation of the quality of a student's work. Oversights include: the grader skipped over a question on an assignment, the total point value for a question is in error (e.g., the grader assigned a perfect score of 10 points for a question that was actually worth 15 points), or the points were simply added up incorrectly. You have 24 hours from when the quiz or assignment was returned to the class to request a regrade. Regrade requests must be submitted to me via email with a clear justification for the request.

WITHDRAWAL

Withdrawals will be conducted in accordance with University deadlines and policy.

CLASSROOM CONDUCT

- Tobacco products are prohibited.
- All cell phones must be silenced.
- No use of electronic devices without the consent of the professor.
- Treat others with respect and dignity.

ACADEMIC HONESTY

Violations of academic honesty to include plagiarism will result in disciplinary actions in accordance with University policy and Naval ROTC regulations for NROTC students.

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states:

“We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code.”

On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied:

“On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/%20sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

GORDON RULE

The Writing Requirement (Gordon Rule) ensures students both maintain their fluency in writing and use writing as a tool to facilitate learning. To accomplish this end, students must complete 4,000 written words on assignments during the semester, excluding teamwork, exam essay questions and informal, ungraded writing assignments. Students in courses accredited for the Writing Requirement will receive feedback on their writing assignments which evaluates adherence to the grammar, punctuation and usage rules of standard written English, as well as clarity, coherence, and organization.

NETIQUETTE

This course will promote the advance of knowledge through positive and constructive debate--both inside and outside the classroom. Discussions on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults. Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting--basic academic rules of good behavior and proper “Netiquette” must persist. Do not include personal attacks or attempts to stifle the discussion of others. For Zoom classes, ensure you have a professional background. You are expected to have your camera on during all live Zoom classes.

COURSE EVALUATION

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course. Evaluations are typically conducted during the last two or three weeks of the semester.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

DISCLAIMER STATEMENT

Course content may vary from the outline at the discretion of the instructor to meet the needs of the course/group.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Phone numbers and contact sites for university counseling services and mental health services: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>; 392-1575, University Police Department 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

CLASS SCHEDULE

The class schedule can be viewed on the course Canvas page and is a guide for the topics and timeframes in which we will cover them. **THIS IS ONLY A GUIDE.** Changes are to be expected and will be announced as far in advance as possible. The instructor will provide sufficient time for all reading and assignments.