GOVT 745-001

International Security

Spring 2015

George Mason University

Room: Thompson Hall 2022
Time: Thursday 7:20pm

Professor: Colin Dueck
Office: Robinson A 219
Office hours: R 1:30-7pm by appt
E-mail: cdueck@gmu.edu

Course requirements

1) Active and timely participation in seminar discussion (30%)

2) Seminar presentation (10%)
   Each student will make an oral presentation on selections from at least one week’s
   required readings. The purpose of the presentation will be to critique, and not to simply
   summarize a major reading for that week. Students presenting should prepare a one
   page handout for each member of class, to complement the presentation.

3) Review essay (10%)
   Write one short essay, of approximately 5 pages, on one of the week’s required
   readings. A hard copy of this essay is due in class the day of the assigned reading.

4) Research paper (50%)
   Write an analytical research paper of 15-20 pages on any of the issues, problems, or
   subjects discussed in this seminar. Due April 30th, by e-mail only.

Course readings

The following books are available for purchase at the GMU bookstore:

Christopher Coker, *The Improbable War* (Oxford University Press, 2015)

Scott Sigmund Gartner, *Strategic Assessment in War* (Yale University Press, 1999)


P.W. Singer, *Cybersecurity and Cyberwar* (Oxford University Press, 2014)


**Course schedule**

**January 22**  
Introduction

Carl von Clausewitz, *On War*, Book 1, all; Book 2, chapters 1-3; Book 3, chapters 1-5; Book 8, all


**January 29**  
Strategy, politics, and war


**February 5**  
Deterrence and coercive diplomacy

Thomas Schelling, "Arms and influence," in Mahnken, 105-126


Micah Zenko, *Between Threats and War*
February 12 Civil-military relations
Andrew Bacevich, *Breach of Trust*

February 19 Strategic assessment
Scott Sigmund Gartner, *Strategic Assessment in War*

February 26 Insurgency and counterinsurgency
David Kilcullen, *Out of the Mountains*

March 5 Alliances
Patricia Weitsman, *Waging War: Alliances, Coalitions, and Institutions of Interstate Violence*

March 19 Revolutions in military affairs
March 26  
Cyber security

P.W. Singer, *Cybersecurity and Cyberwar*

Thomas Rid, "Cyber war will not take place," in Mahnken, 408-428

April 2  
Unipolarity versus multipolarity

Nuno Monteiro, *Theory of Unipolar Politics*


April 9  
Great power transitions and China's rise

Christopher Coker, *The Improbable War*


April 16  
Peacekeeping and war termination

Joshua Goldstein, *Winning the War on War*


Bruno Tertrais, "The Demise of Ares: The End of War as We Know It?" *Washington Quarterly* 35:3 (Summer 2012)

April 23  
Reading period

April 30  
Final papers due by e-mail