Instructor: Dr Robert H. Latiff, Maj Gen (Ret), USAF
Meeting Day/Time: Thursday, 4:30 PM - 7:10PM
Location: ARLFH 476 (Arlington Campus, Founders Hall)
Phone: 571-216-9279
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Overview: This course will explore the relationship between weapons and warfare and the ethical issues raised by the use of force, both in past conflicts and in a current and future context. We will study the symbiotic relationship between technology-enabled weapons and war, and their relationship to modes of conflict. We will discuss Just War Theory and the Laws of Armed Conflict as well as selected international laws and conventions governing war and weapons. The course will cover some past ethical issues and will delve into ethical issues related to several new technologies, to include cyber warfare, non-lethal weapons, and others, which are challenging the current laws and standards of conduct. Students will have an understanding of the ethical and legal basis for conduct in war and will apply a framework to analyze the ethical, legal, and societal implications of future weapons.

Course Goals/Learning Outcomes: Students will gain a broad understanding of the law, policy and practice of warfare and the ethical and moral implications of certain practices and weapons. Students will be able to articulate the basic laws of armed conflict and international humanitarian laws and conventions associated with war. They will also understand and be able to apply a proposed analytical framework to new warfighting technologies to better understand their potential ethical, legal, and societal implications.
Requirements: The course will employ lectures, guest speakers, class discussion, short written assignments, case discussion, and quizzes. There will be two quizzes (non-cumulative).

Required Texts:


Supplemental Readings:
To be provided by instructor via Black Board

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

1. INTRODUCTION, COURSE OVERVIEW  
   a. Coker, Chapter 1  
   b. Hehir, The Just War Ethic (On BlackBoard)

2. REALITY OF WAR  
   a. Coker, Chapter 2,3  
   b. Walzer, Preface and Chapter 1

3. A NEW DISCOURSE  
   a. Coker, Chapter 4,5  
   b. Walzer, Chapters 2,3  
   c. Short Paper Due

4. THE PAST AND THE FUTURE  
   a. Coker, Chapter 6,7
b. Walzer, Chapters 8,9

5. JUST AND UNJUST WARS (10/1/15)
   a. Walzer, Chapters 10,11

6. INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW (10/8/15)
   a. ICRC, How Does Law Protect in War?, Chapters 1-2

7. INTERNATIONAL TREATIES AND CONVENTIONS (10/15/15)
   a. ICRC, Chapter 3-4
   b. QUIZ 1

8. A FRAMEWORK FOR ANALYSIS (10/22/15)
   a. NRC, Ethical, Legal, and Societal Implications of Emerging Technologies

9. AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS (10/29/15)
   a. Quintana, “The Ethics & Legal Implications of Military Unmanned Vehicles”

10. SOLDIER ENHANCEMENT (11/5/15)
    a. Allhof, “Ethics of Human Enhancement: An Executive Summary”

11. CYBER WARFARE/BIG DATA (11/12/15)
    a. Lin, “Primer on Cyber Conflict and National Security”

12. NON-LETHAL WEAPONS (11/19/15)

13. PHILOSOPHICAL APPROACHES (12/3/15)
a. TBD, to be posted

14. QUIZ 2 and Open Class Discussion (12/10/15)

GRADING:

Class participation 10%
Three Short Papers (2-3 pages maximum, ungraded (pass/fail)) 30%
Paper (graded, 6-8 pages) 30%
Quizzes (2) 30%

Students With Disabilities

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the DRC.

* Policy on Plagiarism:

The profession of scholarship and the intellectual life of a university as well as the field of public policy inquiry depend fundamentally on a foundation of trust. Thus any act of plagiarism strikes at the heart of the meaning of the university and the purpose of the School of Public Policy. It constitutes a serious breach of professional ethics and it is unacceptable. Plagiarism is the
use of another’s words or ideas presented as one’s own. It includes, among other things, the use of specific words, ideas, or frameworks that are the product of another’s work. Honesty and thoroughness in citing sources is essential to professional accountability and personal responsibility. Appropriate citation is necessary so that arguments, evidence, and claims can be critically examined. Plagiarism is wrong because of the injustice it does to the person whose ideas are stolen. But it is also wrong because it constitutes lying to one’s professional colleagues. From a prudential perspective, it is shortsighted and self-defeating, and it can ruin a professional career. The faculty of the School of Public Policy takes plagiarism seriously and has adopted a zero tolerance policy. Any plagiarized assignment will receive an automatic grade of “F.” This may lead to failure for the course, resulting in dismissal from the University. This dismissal will be noted on the student’s transcript. For foreign students who are on a university-sponsored visa (eg. F-1, J-1 or J-2), dismissal also results in the revocation of their visa. To help enforce the SPP policy on plagiarism, all written work submitted in partial fulfillment of course or degree requirements must be available in electronic form so that it can be compared with electronic databases, as well as submitted to commercial services to which the School subscribes. Faculty may at any time submit student’s work without prior permission from the student. Individual instructors may require that written work be submitted in electronic as well as printed form. The SPP policy on plagiarism is supplementary to the George Mason University Honor Code; it is not intended to replace it or substitute for it. GMU is an Honor Code University. Please see the University Catalog for a full description of the Honor Code and the honor committee process. [http://honorcode.gmu.edu/](http://honorcode.gmu.edu/)

A more complete description of University Policies may be found in the University Catalog at [http://www.gmu.edu/academics/catalog/0809/policies/index.html](http://www.gmu.edu/academics/catalog/0809/policies/index.html)