Instructor:

Eugene P. Tadie, Ph.D.

Day, time and venue:

Monday, 4:30-7:10 p.m., Innovation Hall 137

Contact information:

I communicate routinely with students via the George Mason University email system. Please make sure your GMU email is working properly and remember to check your account regularly. My University email address is <etadie1@gmu.edu>. I will provide an emergency telephone number during our first class.

Office hours and venue:

I am an adjunct and am not on campus during regular business hours. Therefore I meet students by appointment. Generally, I do this at Starbucks before or after class. If that won’t work, we will seek alternatives.

Course description and objectives:

• This course introduces students to the dominant reality of international relations, war. It focuses specifically on nuclear war-fighting, conventional warfare, and insurgencies and counter-insurgency.

• The objective of this course is to familiarize students with U.S. national security policy and strategy across the continuum of force.

Course texts:

None.
Course requirements:

• Three exams (each worth one-third of final grade)
  • The exams are ‘essay’. They are administered in class. They are not cumulative. You must use exam books. You must write legibly in either black or blue ink.
  • I use a straight (i.e., no “curve”) grading scale, as follows:
    • 98 - 100 = A+
    • 93 - 97 = A
    • 90 - 92 = A-
    • 87 - 89 = B+
    • 83 - 86 = B
    • 80 - 82 = B-
    • 77 - 79 = C+
    • 73 - 76 = C
    • 70 - 72 = C-
    • 60 - 69 = D
    • 59 – 0 = F

• Note: There is no final exam in this course.

• Attendance: If you miss class, you must present evidence of illness or other hardship to be excused; one-half letter grade will be deducted if you accumulate more than two unexcused absences.

General:

• Take this course seriously. It will be demanding of your time and commitment. You have a responsibility to whomever – the state of Virginia, your family, yourself – is paying for your college education.

• Attend class and be punctual.

• Be civil. You will be dismissed if you disrupt class.

• You must come to class prepared because I expect you to participate in class discussions. This means doing the assigned readings and being familiar with current events.

• There is no extra credit in this course.

• There are no “do-overs” in this course.
• Make-up exams will be administered on a case-by-case basis and only with a valid excuse; they will be harder than the original exam.

• Work in this course is administered under the University’s Honor Code, which requires all students to abide by the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are all prohibited. All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee and pursued vigorously. See <honorcode.gmu.edu> for details.

• Students are responsible for verifying their enrollment in this class. Schedule adjustments should be made by the deadlines published in the Schedule of Classes each semester and available at the Registrar’s website at <registrar@gmu.edu>.

• Students with disabilities, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Resources (ODR), 703-993-2474. Only the ODR can make these accommodations.

• No electronic devices of any kind – computers, tablets, book readers, cell phones, voice recorders, etc. – may be used in class.

• If you cannot read, write and speak English at the university level, you may want to consider dropping this course.

Schedule of topics, readings and exams:

January 28

• The Syllabus

• Readings:
  
  
February 4

Introduction and Overview: The Great Strategists
Assessing Political-Military Affairs and Military Capabilities

• Readings:
  • None.

February 11

Insurgency and COIN: Policy, Strategy and Doctrine

• Readings:
  • Department of Defense (DOD) Directive 3000.05, www.fas.org
  • Weak and Failing States, Congressional Research Service (CRS), www.fas.org

February 18

• Insurgency and COIN: An Integrated Response

• Readings:
  • “Special Warfare: The Missing Middle in U.S. Coercive Options”,
  • “Anatomy of a Successful COIN Operation”, Wilson,
February 25
First Exam

March 4
Nuclear Weapons: What They Are and How They Work

- Readings:
  - None.

March 11
***Spring break. No class.***

March 18
Origins and Evolution of Nuclear Strategy

- Readings:
  - “NSC 68”, www.wikipedia.org

March 25

“Limiting” and “Defending Against” Nuclear Weapons

- Readings
  - “National Missile Defense”, www.fas.org/spp/starwars/program/nmd
  - “New START”, www.state.gov/t/avc/newstart/index.htm

April 1

The Future of Nuclear War: Proliferation and Modernization
• Readings:
  • None.

April 8
Second exam

April 15
Conventional Warfare: Theory and Practice

• Readings

April 22
Organizing Conventional Warfare: Military Services and Weapons

• Readings
  • “Do Joint Fighter Programs Save Money?”, http://www.rand.org/pubs/monographs/MG1225.html

April 29
The Future of Conventional Warfare: Near-Peer Competitors

• Readings
  • China TBD

May 6
Third exam