

# HH4092: Modern Military Conflict through Film

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## Overview

War, as a quintessential part of social existence, attracts scholarship from the humanities and social sciences on issues directly or indirectly related to military conflict. Students of history are not exempt from this study as they conduct research on topics ranging from the military conflicts themselves to their long term impacts. However, the theories behind the actions taken during military conflicts remain a field of study of a niche group of military professionals and strategy researchers only. This situation creates a gap in the theoretical understanding of these military conflicts outside of this niche group.

This courses seeks to close this theoretical gap and to explain the theories of modern military conflict from the Napoleonic era to contemporary, through the medium of war movies. Using some of the 20th and 21st century's most iconic war films as a tool will aid student understanding in translating these often complex and abstract theories into practical applications.

## Class Hours and Venue

The seminar will be held once a week on Thursdays between 0930 hours - 1330 hours at LHS-TR+33 (Please try to be there on time. I feel bad every time someone misses the beginning of the class. Also I sometimes make announcements at the beginning of the class)

## Learning objectives

- Establish an understanding of the major theories of the modern military conflict.
- Familiarize with several military conflicts of modern times.
- Understand the impact of the theory on how the warfare is fought.
- Develop and demonstrate critical and analytical historical thinking.

## Some Rules

### *Weekly Readings*

The weekly readings are assigned to help you with your understanding and familiarization with the subject discussed in the class. In an ideal world, it is expected you to do your weekly reading, nevertheless in a realistic setting it is not essential.

### *Academic Honesty*

The universal rules regarding academic honesty will be strictly enforced in this class. Chicago style (full notes-with-bibliography) should be adopted for all written work. Any

written work has to be submitted through turnitin. Also a hardcopy of the paper needs to be submitted with the similarity report attached. Papers with over 24% similarity ratings (excluding small sources and quotes & bibliography) will be returned to be re-written within 24 hours.

### *Late policy*

Late work will incur a penalty of 10% of the maximum grade for every 10 hours. Extensions may be granted until 4 days before the deadline in exceptional cases (and some creative penalty will be applied). Verbal agreements are not binding, therefore the extension requests have to be made through a written medium.

## **Assessment**

*Participation in seminar activities (10%):* This component will be made up of your attendance at the , weekly writing and any other in-seminar activities.

*Weekly writings (30%):* Weekly writing should be 200 - 400 words assessment of the provided scenes from the Star Wars movies through theories studied in the seminar hour or reading responses.

*Final project outline (10%):* Two page outline of the final project due on 08/11/2018

*Final Project (%50):* Based on the theories you learned during the seminar, your group will conduct a post-mortem on “Why the Empire lost against the rebels”. Details will be provided later. Due on 20/11/2018

## **Week 01 - 16/08/2018 - Introduction**

## **Week 02 - 23/08/2018 - Birth of the modern warfare**

### **Readings:**

- Jomini, Antoine Henri. *The Art of War: Restored Edition*. Legacy Books Press, 2008 44-48.
- Paret, Peter. “Napoleon and the Revolution in War.” *Makers of Modern Strategy from Machiavelli to the Nuclear Age*, 1986, 123–142.
- Shy, John. “Jomini.” *Makers of Modern Strategy: From Machiavelli to the Nuclear Age*, 1986, 143–185.
- Paret, Peter. “Clausewitz.” *Makers of Modern Strategy* 414 (1986): 186–213

## Movie:

Bondarchuk, Sergey. *Waterloo*. Action, Biography, Drama, 1970. <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0066549/>.

## Week 03 - 30/08/2018 - Linear Warfare and the WWI

### Readings:

- Goltz, Freiherr von der Colmar. *The Conduct of War: A Brief Study of Its Most Important Principles and Forms*. HardPress Publishing, 2012, 16-19.
- Foch, Ferdinand. *The Principles of War*. H. K. Fly Company, 1918, 22-47.
- Rothenberg, Gunther E. "Moltke, Schlieffen, and the Doctrine of Strategic Envelopment." *Makers of Modern Strategy*, 1986, 296-326.
- Howard, Michael. "Men against Fire: The Doctrine of the Offensive in 1914." *Makers of Modern Strategy* 510 (1986).

## Movie:

- Milestone, Lewis. *All Quiet on the Western Front*. Drama, War, 1930. <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0020629/>.

## Week 04 - 06/09/2018 - Manoeuvre warfare and WWII

- Fuller, John Frederick Charles. *The Reformation of War*. London Hutchinson, 1923, 152-170.
- Guderian, Heinz. *Achtung - Panzer!* New Ed edition. London: Cassell, 1999 178-199.
- Isserson, G. S. *The Evolution of Operational Art*. Combat Studies Institute Press, US Army Combined Arms Center, 2013, 39-76.
- House, Captain Jonathan M. "Toward Combined Arms Warfare." **Chapter II, Research Survey**, no. 2 (1984)

## Movie:

- Attenborough, Richard. *A Bridge Too Far*. Drama, History, War, 1977. <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0075784/>.

## Week 05 - 13/09/2018 - **Naval warfare**

### **Readings:**

- Alfred Thayer Mahan, *The Influence of Seapower Upon History, 1660-1783*, (Boston: Little, Brown & Company, 1890), 25-89.
- Julian Corbett, —Some Principles of Maritime Strategyll, Thomas Mahnken and Joseph Maiolo (eds.), *Strategic Studies: A Reader* (London & New York: Routledge, 2008), pp. 122-134.
- Philip Crowl, Alfred Thayer Mahan: The Naval Historian in Peter Paret (ed.) *Makers of Modern Strategy: from Machiavelli to the Nuclear Age* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1986), 444-477.
- Geoffrey Till, *Seapower: A Guide for the 21st Century* (London & New York: Routledge, 2013), Chapters 1-3. 10

### **Movie:**

- *Clouds Over the Hill*. Drama. Accessed August 10, 2018. <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0991330/>.

## Week 06 - 20/09/2018 - **Air Power**

### **Readings:**

- Douhet, Giulio, *The Command of the Air*, (Washington: Air Force History and Museums Program, 1998), 3-33.
- Warden, John. 1995. The Enemy as a System. *Airpower Journal* (Spring): 40-55.

### **Movie:**

- Algar, James, and Clyde Geronimi. *Victory Through Air Power*. Documentary, Animation, History, 1943. <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0036497/>.

## Week 07 - 27/09/2018 - **Small Wars (Insurgency and Counter-insurgency)**

### **Readings:**

- Mao Tse-tung, *On Guerrilla Warfare* (New York: Praeger, 1961).

- Ian F.W. Beckett, *Modern Insurgencies and Counterinsurgencies: Guerillas and their Opponents Since 1750*, (London; New York: Routledge, 2001), 70-85, 121-150.

**Movie:**

**To be determined later.**

**Week 08 - 11/10/2018 - Nuclear Strategy**

**Readings:**

- Bernard Brodie, *Strategy in the Missile Age*, (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1959) 147-178, 223-263.
- Thomas C. Schelling, *The Strategy of Conflict* (Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 1980), 187-203.
- Albert Wohlstetter, 'Theory and Opposed-Systems Design', *The Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 12:3 (September 1968), 302-31.
- Lawrence Freedman, 'The First Two Generations of Nuclear Strategists', in Paret (ed.) *Makers of Modern Strategy*.
- Nina Tannenwald, *The Nuclear Taboo: The United States and the Non-Use of Nuclear Weapons Since 1945* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007).

**Movie:**

- Kubrick, Stanley. *Dr. Strangelove or: How I Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the Bomb*. Comedy, 1964. <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0057012/>.

**Week 09 - 18/10/2018 - Military Acquisition**

**Readings:**

- Hartley, Keith. "The Arms Industry, Procurement and Industrial Policies." *Handbook of Defense Economics 2* (2007): 1139–1176.
- Henderson. *The Science of War*. BiblioBazaar, LLC, 2009. pp. 8-62

**Movie:**

Benjamin, Richard. *The Pentagon Wars*. Comedy, War, 1998. <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0144550/>.

## Week 10 - 25/10/2018 - **Civil-Military Relations**

- Huntington, Samuel P. *The Soldier and the State: The Theory and Politics of Civil–Military Relations*. Revised edition. Cambridge, Mass: Belknap Press: An Imprint of Harvard University Press, 1981. p 1-19
- Peter D. Feaver. 1998. "Crisis as Shirking: An Agency Theory Explanation of the Souring of American Civil-Military Relations." *Armed Forces & Society*. 24(3): 407–434.
- Peter D. Feaver. 1996b. "The Civil-Military Problematique: Huntington, Janowitz and the Question of Civilian Control." *Armed Forces & Society*. 23(2): 149–178.

### **Movie:**

Michôd, David. *War Machine*. Comedy, Drama, War, 2017. <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt4758646/>.

## Week 11 - 01/11/2018 - **Military Ethics**

- Stephen Coleman, *Military Ethics: An Introduction with Case Studies* (Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 2013), 8-31.
- David Rodin & Henry Shue (eds), *Just and Unjust Warriors: The Moral and Legal Status of Soldiers* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013), 1-43.
- Michael L. Gross, *Moral Dilemmas of Modern War: Torture, Assassination, and Blackmail in an Age of Asymmetric Conflict* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009) 1-25, 253-263.

### **Movie:**

- Stone, Oliver. *Platoon*. Drama, War, 1987. <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0091763/>.

## Week 12 - 08/11/2018 - **Information Warfare**

- John Arquila and David Ronfeldt, *In Athena's Camp: Preparing for Conflict in the Information Age* (Washington D.C.: RAND, 1997). (Chapter 1)
- Thomas Rid and Marc Hecker, *War 2.0: Irregular Warfare in the Information Age* (Westport, CT: Praeger, 2009), 13-33.

### **Movie:**

**To be determined later.**

## Week 13 - 15/11/2018 - **Review and Final Project Discussion**