# Strategic Studies

## Prof. Andrea Locatelli

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

The course aims to explore the concepts of strategy and international security, starting from the main contributions given by political science. In terms of strategy, the course will analyse war and, more broadly, the use of force for political purposes. In particular, given the vastness of the subject, this part of the course will focus on Clausewitz’s theories, and the school of thought that emphasises the link between war and politics. In addition, students will have the possibility to analyse the simultaneous evolution of warfare and strategic thinking that took place during the last two centuries. The second part of the course will explain the most relevant matters of this subject, including the so-called “new challenges”, related to phenomena such as international terrorism, the spread of military drones, weapons of mass destruction, cyber-security, and humanitarian intervention.

Knowledge and understanding

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

– get a better understanding of the theories of the most important strategy experts, like Sun Tzu and Mary Kaldor.

– find connections between the key concepts of military history and political phenomena.

– understand the nature and the complexity of the current challenges to security.

Ability to apply knowledge and understanding

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

– understand and assess a security strategy.

– understand and assess a security policy (counterterrorism, cybernetics, etc.).

– make policy proposals related to security.

In terms of communication skills, by the end of the course, students will be able to:

– argue for and against a security policy.

– communicate specialist information to a non-professional audience.

– contribute to the public debate on armament and military expenditure.

***COURSE CONTENT***

The course is articulated in two modules: the first will introduce the key concepts of modern strategic thinking, with a focus on its objectives and internal divisions, its historical evolution, and war. The second module will analyse the most important theoretical and empirical issues of contemporary security, from international terrorism to humanitarian intervention, from the spread of military drones to weapons of mass destruction, and from cybernetic attacks to the privatisation of violence. In addition, students have the possibility to propose or substitute further topics of their interest that must be approved by the lecturer.

***READING LIST***

The course programme provides two alternatives, depending on the student's degree of participation in the lessons.

For those who will actively participate:

G. Giacomello-G. Badialetti, *Manuale di studi strategici,* Vita e Pensiero, 2nd edition, Milan, 2016.

A selection of chapters from:

A. Locatelli, *Tecnologia militare e guerra,* Vita e Pensiero, Milan, 2010.

Further readings will be indicated by the lecturer in class and then made available on Blackboard.

For those who will not actively participate:

G. Giacomello-G. Badialetti, *Manuale di studi strategici,* Vita e Pensiero, 2nd edition, Milan, 2016.

G. Giacomello-P. Foradori (edited by), *Sicurezza globale. Le nuove minacce,* Il Mulino, Bologna, 2014.

A. Locatelli, *Tecnologia militare e guerra,* Vita e Pensiero, Milan, 2010.

***TEACHING METHOD***

During the first part of the course: frontal lectures; during the second part of the course: frontal lectures, and oral presentations held by students and followed by debates. This structure will help students to acquire the key analytical tools they need, and then develop their analytical skills. For this reason, during the second part of the course, lectures will be structured as seminars: a first lecture will introduce the topic; then students will be asked to read some relevant material before the following seminar; finally, during the seminar, a small group of students will have to present and analyse the readings assigned by the lecturer.

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Instead of a final written assessment, students who intend to actively participate in the lessons will be allowed to take partial exams. The first one will be a written test on the topics explained in the *Manuale di Studi Strategici* textbook and in class during the first part of the course. It will consist of three open-ended questions that students can choose in a list of five. The aim is to test students on their understanding of the subject, their acquisition of analytical tools, and their ability to develop critical thinking towards the topics analysed during the course. Each answer can get a maximum of 10 points.

The second module, instead, will be structured as a seminar: all the students will be asked to read a list of texts (available on Blackboard) in advance; then, in turn, every student will have to make a presentation of these texts, in order to encourage a debate on that topic. Therefore, students will be tested on their active participation in class, and the quality of their presentation, assessed through the following criteria: argumentation skills, clarity, ability to find a constructive answer to criticism. This will increase or decrease of 2 points (-2 or +2) the mark obtained in the written assessment.

Finally, the last partial exam will consist in an oral assessment on the topics discussed in class during the seminars. Each student will be asked one question based on one of the topics presented by the rest of the class. If their answer is approved by the lecturer, students are allowed to take the written exam.

Students who will not actively participate in the seminar lessons will have to take a written exam on the course syllabus indicated in the reading list. They will be asked to choose one of the two questions proposed by the lecturer (one for every textbook). Each answer can get a maximum of 10 points.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

There are no prerequisites for attending the course. However, students should ideally be interested in contemporary international politics, also because during the course the lecturer may refer to relevant historical and contemporary events.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.