

# Graduate School of Defense and Strategic Studies

## Missouri State University

### Spring 2024 Expanded Course Descriptions for Selected Courses January 16 – May 9, 2024

#### **DSS 714 Strategic Thought** **Professor Todd Clawson**

**Internet Asynchronous**

There is a rich literature on strategy and warfare, and even the oldest surviving works on strategy are arguably relevant to contemporary political leaders. This course will examine the ideas of strategic thinkers who lived in historical periods ranging from the ancient world to the present. Students will read works by (and in some cases, about) such figures as Sun Tzu, Niccolò Machiavelli, Baron Antoine Henri de Jomini, Carl von Clausewitz, Thucydides, Alfred Thayer Mahan, Sir Julian Corbett, Mao Zedong, among many others who explore newer concepts of such as air power, nuclear deterrence, and Jihadist strategies. Students will also gain insights from renowned historians with their interpretations of these theorists and concepts. Students will discuss and write about how these thinkers have influenced strategic studies, and how military-strategic thought has developed over time.

#### **DSS 716 Understanding Military Operations** **Professor William Murphy**

**Internet Asynchronous**

This course introduces challenges, complexities, and uncertainties of “Military Operations.” It will examine Military Operation characteristics, the fundamental principles for the employment of the Armed Forces of the United States, the Conflict Continuum and how National Security is impacted by the Strategic Environment. It will specifically seek to explore how past, current, and future political objectives and military doctrine influence Joint Force engagement, security cooperation, and deterrence activities. It will also examine how political objectives impact military operations through historical battle and campaign studies.

#### **DSS 724 Leadership for National Security Professionals** **Professor James Anderson**

**Zoom**

**Monday 6-9 PM  
Eastern**

This course will examine historical case studies of national security leadership from antiquity to modern times. Students will assess positive and negative leadership examples in both peacetime and wartime settings. Students will also consider how to refine their own leadership styles and skills to meet the complex and demanding national security challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

#### **DSS 797 Building Partner Capacity in Defense and Foreign Policy** **Professor Chris Molino**

**In-resident/Zoom**

**Wednesday 6-9 PM  
Eastern**

This course aims to examine some of the fundamentals of U.S. defense and foreign policy in terms of capacity building activities in partner nations (and by default state building) and asks how approaches to achieve U.S. security policy outcomes vary across partners and geography, within both the intervening and the intervened. All within the very real and present context of the realities of great power competition.

#### **DSS 840 National Security Strategies** **\*\*\*For DSS doctorate students only** **Professor Susan Koch**

**In -resident/Zoom**

**Wednesday 6-9 PM  
Eastern**

This seminar focuses on the development and implementation of national security strategies. It is comprised of three components:

- The first examines the strategies of each successive presidential administration from the end of the cold war to the present. The emphasis will be on the perspectives of the principal practitioners: how they viewed the central geopolitical circumstances at the time; how they viewed the key national security challenges; what national level goals they pursued; and what tools of statecraft they emphasized in meeting the strategic challenges they faced.
- The second component focuses on the strategic challenges of the contemporary international and global security environment. These include the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the reemergence of peer nation adversaries, and the spread of dual-use, advanced technologies that have, in some instances, produced new threats to American interests such as in the cyber and biological realms. Strategies pursued by the current and previous administrations for dealing with these challenges will be examined and assessed.
- The third component consists of original research by each student on a strategic challenge of his/her choice (which can range from climate change to global pandemics) with the goal of developing a strategy, along with an integrated set of instruments, to respond to the challenge. Students will present their strategy in class for comment by their classmates who will be asked to provide their assessment of the feasibility of implementation and the prospects for success.