



Course Syllabus

Course title in Swedish: Taktiska och etiska aspekter på autonoma system

English title: Tactical and Ethical Aspects of Autonomous Systems

Course code: 2MF015

Valid from: Autumn 2020

Date of establishment: This course syllabus was established by the Research and Education Board's Course Syllabus Committee at the Swedish Defence University on 2020-01-22

Department: Department of Military Studies

Subject: Systems Science for Defence and Security

Level: Second cycle

Scope: 7.5 Credits

Prior knowledge requirements and other preconditions for admission to the course

Admitted to the Master's Programme in Defence and Security Systems Development.

For freestanding courses: A bachelor's degree with a minimum of 180 credits, including a minimum of 90 credits in the field of defence, crisis management and security. Alternatively, a bachelor's degree in Engineering or equivalent.

Main field of study

Systems Science for Defence and Security

Gradual specialisation

A1N second cycle, with prior knowledge requirements consisting solely of first-cycle course(s).

Level of specialisation

-

Course content and structure

The purpose of the course is to deepen the understanding of ethical and tactical aspects on the use and design of autonomous systems in the context of defence and security. The course will involve:

- (1) Autonomous systems in the defence context: systems in use today, ethical and tactical issues connected to these and future systems, including the debate on autonomous systems in the UN
- (2) Definitions of tactics and autonomy
- (3) Autonomous systems and responsibility: the human in the decision loop, meaningful human control

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- (4) Autonomous systems and tactics
- (5) Tactical competence, autonomous systems and practical wisdom: how Aristotle's idea in virtues and practical wisdom can contribute to the understanding of tactical competence.

The course is conducted through lectures and seminars. The course is structured in a manner that provides the student with considerable opportunities to plan their studies individually.

Intended learning outcomes

After completing the course, the student is expected to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding:

Describe and categorize ethical and tactical aspects on autonomous systems

Ability:

Analyze and discuss different points in the course theme

Ability to value:

Analyze and value arguments in the course theme debate

Assessing knowledge and examination

The course is examined through a written unsupervised assignment.

The examiner may decide that supplementary work is required in order for a pass grade to be achieved. Examination papers submitted late will not be graded, unless there are special reasons, which have been approved by the examiner. Supplementary assignments are to be submitted no later than five working days after the notification of results and the supplementary assignment for the examination in question, unless there are special reasons, which have been approved by the examiner.

If the student has a decision from the Swedish Defence University stating the need for extra pedagogical support because of a functional disability, the examiner may decide on alternative examination forms for the student.

Number of examination opportunities

There is no limit on the total number of examination opportunities. The total number is restricted to one ordinary examination and two retakes in any two-term period, unless special circumstances exist that are acceptable to the examiner.

Grades

Grades are set according to a three-grade scale: Pass with merit (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U).

A pass (G) requires a pass (G) for the written unsupervised assignment.

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A pass with merit (VG) requires a pass with merit (VG) for the written unsupervised assignment.

Course literature and additional teaching materials

See Appendix 1.

Interim regulation

When a course is no longer provided or when the content of a course has been significantly altered, the student/participant retains the right to be examined in accordance with this course syllabus once per term during a three-term period.

Other

The course is an elective course in the Master's Programme in Defence and Security Systems Development.

The course can also be read as a freestanding course.

On the completion of the course, an evaluation will be conducted under the auspices of the course director, which will form the basis for any changes to the course.

The course will be held in English. If no international students are admitted, parts of the course may be held in Swedish.