

# Course Syllabus

**Course Title:** Use of Force

**Course Title in Swedish:** Militär maktutövning

**Course Code:** 2PK036

**Valid From:** Autumn term 2017

**Confirmed by:** The Swedish Defence University Board of Research and Education 2017-04-27

**Department:** Department of Security, Strategy and Leadership

**Subject:** War Studies

**Level:** Advanced

**Higher education credits:** 15 credits

**Entry requirements and specific admission requirements:**

Admission to the Master's programme in politics and war.

**Main field of study:**

War Studies

**Progressive specialisation:**

A1N

**Level of specialisation:**

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**Course Content and Structure:**

The aim of the course is to increase the understanding of both traditional and modern perspectives on the military use of force. The course combines theoretical and applied elements on the use of force. The main theme of the course is how, for what ends and under what circumstances military power can be useful to achieve political goals. It provides an overview over the history of military theory and contains rationalistic as well as constructivist approaches to the study of the use of military force. Throughout the course the use of force is problematized through different ethical perspectives.

The course begins by contextualizing basic conceptual questions in the study of military force as strategy and as war. Thereafter the course progresses by the introduction of two different perspectives on the use of military force: the instrumental and the constructivist perspectives. The course then proceeds to treat different themes and conflict types in which the aforementioned theoretical perspectives are used to analyze contemporary and relevant cases of the use of force.

Datum  
2018-06-01

**Intended Learning Outcomes:**

Having finished the course the student will be able to:

- Identify different analytical perspectives and traditions within the study of military use of force and critically evaluate their analytical power and scientific basis.
- Independently and critically analyse different strategic decisions to use military force from an instrumental as well as from an ideational perspective.
- Display the ability to clearly communicate, orally and in written form, the content, arguments and conclusions in the course literature.
- Value and contrast different ways of analyzing the use of force
- Independently and with good arguments weigh the possibilities and limitations to achieve political goals with different kinds of military power.
- Analyse the main tendencies in the historical development of the use of military force and relate these to shifts in international and national political and cultural context.
- Evaluate and problematize different forms of the use of military force in relation to their ethical consequences and foundations.

**Assessment and Examination:**

The course is examined through an individual written assignment, active participation in mandatory seminars.

The examining teacher may decide on supplementary tasks in order for the student to achieve a passing grade (G).

Absence from mandatory seminars may, subject to the examining teacher's decision, be compensated by submission of a written supplementary task.

**Number of examination sessions:**

There is no limit of the number of examination sessions.

**Grading:**

Grading is done according to a three-tiered scale: Pass with distinction (VG), Pass (G), and Fail (U).

In order to achieve a Pass with distinction (VG) on the course, the student has to have participated actively and constructively in the mandatory seminars, and received a Pass with distinction (VG) on the final individually written paper.

In order to achieve a Pass (G) on the course, the student has to have participated actively and constructively in the mandatory seminars and received a Pass on the final individually written paper.

**Grading criteria**

Grading criteria are described in the course description.

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**Reading list and study resources:**

See appendix 1.

**Interim Regulations:**

When the course is no longer offered or when its content has been changed in its essence a student has the right to be examined according to this course syllabus once every semester during a period of three consecutive semesters.

**Miscellaneous:**

The course is given as a part of the Master's programme in Politics and War.

The language of instruction is English.

The course convenor will arrange for the course to be evaluated after its conclusion. The evaluation forms the basis for eventual changes to the course.



Name of the course	Use of force 15 credits
<b>Course literature</b>	<p>Angstrom, Jan. &amp; Widén, Jerker., The dynamics of war: contemporary military theory, Routledge, London, 2013 1-33</p> <p>Betts, Richard K. "Is strategy an illusion?" International Security 25.2 (2000): 5-50</p> <p>Biddle, Stephen (2006[2004]). Military power: explaining victory and defeat in modern battle. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press</p> <p>Bobbitt, Philip (2002). The shield of Achilles: war, peace, and the course of history. London: Allen Lane 5-75, 205-344 5.</p> <p>Bobbitt, Philip, Terror and consent: the wars for the twenty-first century, Allen Lane, London, 2008. (1-180, 350-397, 521-547) 11</p> <p>Duyvesteyn, Isabelle. "How new is the new terrorism?." Studies in Conflict &amp; Terrorism 27.5 (2004): 439-454.</p> <p>Fortna, Virginia Page. "Do Terrorists Win? Rebels' Use of Terrorism and Civil War Outcomes." International Organization 69.3 (2015): 519-556.</p> <p>Hafez, Mohammed M. Rationality, Culture, and Structure in the Making of Suicide Bombers: A Preliminary Theoretical Synthesis and Illustrative Case Study Studies in Conflict and Terrorism 29(2), 2006: 165-185</p> <p>Jensen, Mark N. "Hard Moral Choices in the Military." Journal of Military Ethics 12.4 (2013): 341-356.</p> <p>Malešević, Siniša (2010). The sociology of war and violence. Cambridge: Cambridge. P.1-178</p> <p>Merom, Gil (2003). How democracies lose small wars: state, society, and the failures of France in Algeria, Israel in Lebanon, and the United States in Vietnam. New York: Cambridge University Press</p> <p>Pape, Robert A. "The strategic logic of suicide terrorism." American political science review 97.03 (2003): 343-361.</p>

Datum  
2012-05-29

	<p>Schelling, Thomas C., Arms and influence, Yale University Press, New Haven, CT, 2008[1966]</p> <p>Schulzke, Marcus. "Ethically Insoluble Dilemmas in War." Journal of Military Ethics 12.2 (2013): 95-110.</p> <p>Smith, Rupert (2006[2005]). The utility of force: the art of war in the modern world. London: Penguin (selections).</p> <p>Strachan, Hew, The direction of war: contemporary strategy in historical perspective, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, [England], 2013</p> <p>Sullivan, Patricia L. "War aims and war outcomes: Why powerful states lose limited wars." Journal of Conflict Resolution 51.3 (2007): 496-524.</p> <p>Ringmar, Erik, Identity, interest, and action: a cultural explanation of Sweden's intervention in the Thirty Years War, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge 1996</p> <p>Walzer, Michael. "The triumph of just war theory (and the dangers of success)." Social Research (2002): 925-944.</p>
<b>Decision</b>	Appendix decided by the War Studies scientific council _____ 2017-04-27
<b>Valid from:</b> The literature list may be subject to changes	Autumn semester 2017