



Course Syllabus
From Diplomacy to Deception: Influence through Strategic Narratives

Från diplomati till vilseledning: påverkan genom strategiska narrativ

Course Code	2SS072	Main Field of Study	Political Science: Security Studies
Valid from Semester	Spring 2022	Department	Department of Political Science and Law
Education Cycle	Advanced level	Subject	Political Science
Scope	7.5	Language of Instruction	The teaching is conducted in English.
Progression		Decided by	The Research and Education Board's Course Syllabus Committee at the Swedish Defence University
Grading Scale	Fail, Pass, Pass with Distinction	Decision date	2022-01-01
Revision	1.2		

Entry Requirements

Admitted to the Master Program in Politics and War or to the PhD program in Political Science with a focus on crisis and security.

Course Content and Structure

The aim of the course is to provide deeper knowledge about influence through strategic narratives in the sphere of security and an ability of independently study strategic narratives. It provides deeper knowledge in different theoretical assumptions within narrative research, which serves a foundation to the research on strategic narratives. It also provides ability to critically value how actors use strategic narratives to influence others; from more accepted practices such as diplomacy and soft power to deception. Finally, the course provides students with the ability to value different methods and research schemes, in order to be able to judge their applicability on an independently chosen research problem.

The course consists of three main parts: one concerns the theory of knowledge within narrative research and how it forms as a basis for research on strategic narratives; one treats the projection of strategic narratives and one treats the efficacy of strategic narratives; that is the reception of strategic narratives by different audiences. Ample opportunities are provided to gain deeper knowledge in methodological issues, with numerous examples of how one can study and measure projection and reception of strategic narratives in the domain of security, risk and war.

Intended Learning Outcomes

After having completed this course, students will be able to:

- In depth account for and distinguish between different theoretical assumptions about language and communication that underpin research on strategic narratives
- Identify and discuss ethical and political dilemma by problematizing the scientific study of, and use of, strategic narratives
- In depth value different theoretical frameworks and methods within the field with regard to their applicability on a given research problem.

Type of Instruction

The course is taught through seminars.

Assessment

From Diplomacy to Deception: Influence through Strategic Narratives

Scope: 7.5

Grading Scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with Distinction

The examination takes place through an individual take-home examination.

Grading

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

Restrictions in Number of Examinations

Unlimited.

Restrictions Concerning Degree

The course cannot be included in a degree with another course whose content fully or partially corresponds to the content of this course.

Transitional Provisions

When the course is no longer offered or when the contents of the course have been changed in their essence a student has the right to be examined twice during the same academic year according to this course syllabus.

Miscellaneous

The course is given in English.

- An evaluation of the course will be made after the conclusion of the course, conducted by the course convenor. The evaluation is the basis of eventual changes to the course.
- If a student has a decision from the Swedish Defense University on special educational support due to a disability, the examiner may decide on alternative forms of examination for the student.

The course is given as an elective course and forms part of the Master's programme in politics and war. It can also be given as a separate course.

Reading List

From Diplomacy to Deception: Influence through Strategic Narratives

Från diplomati till vilseledning: påverkan genom strategiska narrativ

Course Code	2SS072
Revision	1.2
Reading List Valid from Date	2023-01-16
Reading List Decided Date	2022-10-20

- Braddock K and Horgan J (2016) Towards a Guide for Constructing and Disseminating Counternarratives to Reduce Support for Terrorism. *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* 39(5): 381-404.
- Burke K (1964) Definition of Man. *The Hudson Review* 16(4): 491-514.
- Callahan K D M and Olshfski D (2006) War narratives: framing our understanding of the war on terror. *Public Administration Review* 66(4): 554-564.
- Chaban N, Miskimmon A, O'Loughlin B (2017) The EU's Peace and Security Narrative: Views from EU Strategic Partners in Asia. *Journal of Common Market Studies* 55 (6): 1273-1289.
- Colley T (2017) Is Britain a force for good? Investigating British citizens' narrative understanding of war. *Defence Studies*, 17(1): 1-22.
- Crilly R, Gillespie M, Willis A (2020) Tweeting the Russian revolution: RT's #1917LIVE and social media re-enactments as public diplomacy. *European Journal of Cultural Studies* 23(3):354-373.
- Deverell E, Wagnsson C & Olsson E K (2020) Destruct, direct and suppress: Sputnik narratives on the Nordic countries. *The Journal of International Communication* 27 (1): 15-37.
- Freedman L (2006) Networks, culture and narratives. *Adelphi Papers* 45(379): 11-26.
- Hagström L and Gustafsson K (2021): The limitations of strategic narratives: The Sino-American struggle over the meaning of COVID-19. *Contemporary Security Policy* 10.1080/13523260.2021.1984725
- Hagström L and Gustafsson K (2019) Narrative power: how storytelling shapes East Asian international politics. *Cambridge Review of International Affairs* 32(4): 387-406.
- Hellman M and Wagnsson C (2017) How can European states respond to Russian information warfare? An analytical framework. *European Security* 26(2):153-170.
- Hoyle A, van den Berg H, Doosje B, Kitzen M (2021) Portrait of liberal chaos: RT's antagonistic strategic narration about the Netherlands. *Media, War & Conflict*. doi:10.1177/17506352211064705
- Khaldarova I (2021). Brother or 'Other'? Transformation of strategic narratives in Russian television news during the Ukrainian crisis. *Media, War & Conflict*, 14(1), 3-20.
- Livingston J and Nassetta, J (2018) Framing and Strategic Narratives: Synthesis and Analytical Framework. *SAIS Review of International Affairs* 38 (2): 101-110.
- Miskimmon A O'Loughlin B Roselle L (2018) *Forging the World. Strategic Narratives and International Relations*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan press. (chapters 1, 2, 9, 12)
- van Noort C and Colley T (2021) How do strategic narratives shape policy adoption? *Review of International Studies* 47(1): 39-63.
- Oschatz C and Klimmt C (2016) The effectiveness of narrative communication in road safety education: A moderated mediation model. *Communications* 41(2): 145-165.
- Patterson M and Monroe KR (1998) Narrative in Political Science. *Annual Review of Political Science* 1:315-331.
- Ringsmose J and Börgensen B (2011) Shaping Public Attitudes Towards the Deployment of Military Power: NATO, Afghanistan and the Use of Strategic Narratives. *European Security* 20 (4): 505-528.
- Sadler N (2018) Narrative and interpretation on Twitter: Reading tweets by telling stories. *New Media & Society* 20(9):3266-3282.
- Somers M R (1994) The Narrative Constitution of Identity: A Relational and Network Approach. *Theory and Society* 23(5): 605-



649.

Szostek J (2018) Nothing Is True? The Credibility of News and the Conflict in Ukraine. *The International Journal of Press/Politics* 23(1): 116–135.

Trevisan F Bello B Vaughan M, Vromen A (2020) Mobilizing personal narratives: The rise of digital “story banking” in U.S. grassroots advocacy. *Journal of Information Technology & Politics*. 17(2): 146-160.

Wagnsson C & Lundström M (2022) Ringing True? The persuasiveness of narratives in malign information influence. *Media War and Conflict*, 1-18.

Wagnsson C and Barzanje C (2021) A framework for analysing antagonistic narrative strategies: A Russian tale of Swedish Decline. *Media, War and Conflict* 14 (2) 239–257.

Wellings, BK, Wilson, Burton B & Martin H (2018) Narrative Alignment and Misalignment: NATO as a Global Actor as Seen from Australia and New Zealand. *Asian Security* 14(1): 24-37.

Wright K and Bergman Rosamond A (2021) NATO’s Strategic Narratives: Angelina Jolie and the alliance’s celebrity and visual turn. *Review of International Studies* 47(4): 443-466.