



Course Syllabus
Introduction to Military Thinking

Introduktion till militärt tänkande

Course Code	2FS032	Main Field of Study	Systems Science for Defence and Security
Valid from Semester	Autumn 2023	Department	Department of Systems Science for Defence and Security
Education Cycle	Advanced level	Subject	Systems Science for Defence and Security
Scope	7.5	Language of Instruction	The teaching is conducted in English.
Progression	A1N	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	2022-06-14
Revision	1.0		

Entry Requirements

A minimum of 180 credits including a thesis work of at least 15 credits.

English equivalent to English 6/English B.

Course Content and Structure

Capability for defense and security is a central object of study in the subject of defense systems. To study it requires an understanding of the technical and social components and how they interact in the special context of the defense and security sector.

Engineers have the tools of engineering science to use to evaluate the use of technology and technical systems in society. This course lays the foundation for the student to develop that ability in a military context and creates an understanding of military science approaches. This creates the conditions for a developed understanding of the technical and social components and how they interact in the special context of the defense and security sector, which is not achieved with just an engineering perspective.

The course explores the contribution of important thinkers within the military field in order to provide a foundation in military theoretical knowledge for further study, and also includes an introduction to the design of military operations.

Intended Learning Outcomes

After completed course the student should be able to:

Knowledge and understanding:

- explain central theories, concepts and principles for warfare,
- explain purposes, phases and activities in an established planning process for a military operation.

Competence and skills:

- take part in and contribute to the process of planning a military operation.

Judgement and approach:

- analyse military passages in a historical or contemporary context with support from central theories, concepts and principles for warfare.

Type of Instruction

Seminars

Group Work

Literature Studies

Lectures

Assessment

Planning a Military Operation

Scope: 1.5

Grading Scale: Fail, Pass

The examination includes to participate in a practical group work activity applying a planning method, and to submit an individual written report.

Written Home Assignment

Scope: 6.0

Grading Scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with Distinction

The examination includes one individual written home 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.

Grading

Grading takes place through a three-grade scale: Fail (F), Pass (P) and Pass with Distinction (PwD).

Grading criteria are reported at the latest at the start of the course.

In order to achieve a Pass (P) for the course, a Pass (P) is required for the group work assignment, planning a military operation, together with a Pass (P) for the written home assignment.

In order to achieve a pass with merit (PwD) for the course, a Pass (P) is required for the group work assignment, planning a military operation, together with a pass with merit (PwD) for the written home assignment.

Restrictions in Number of Examinations

The number of examinations is not limited.

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 given or when the course content has changed substantially, the student has the right to be examined once per semester during a three-term period in accordance with this syllabus.

Miscellaneous

If a student has a decision from the Swedish Defence University on special educational support due to a disability, the examiner may decide on alternative forms of examination for the student.

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.



Reading List
Introduction to Military Thinking

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Course Code	2FS032
Revision	1.0
Reading List Valid from Date	--
Reading List Decided Date	--

Litterature for Introduction to Military Thinking

Publication: 8073. Ångström, Jan (2015) Contemporary military theory (9780415643030)

Azar Gat, A History of Military Thought. From the Enlightenment to the Cold War (Oxford University Press 2001), 900 s.

Mattias Strohn, Winning Wars: The Enduring Nature and Changing character of Victory from Antiquity to the 21st Century (Casemate Academic, Havertown Pennsylvania 2020), 336 s.

Beatrice Heuser, Strategy Before Clausewitz: Linking Warfare and Statecraft, 1400-1830 (Routledge, 2018), 239 s.

Sun Tzu, The Art of War (Penguin Books Ltd 2005), 112 pages. There are a great number of versions and editions of this book, and others will do, as long as they include the translated original chapters. A modern Swedish translation for instance is Sun Tzu, Krigets konst (Modernista 2019), 100 s.)

Johanna Hanink, Thucydides and How to Think about War: An Ancient Guide to Foreign Policy (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press 2019), 270 s.