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| SKSU 6214 | STRATEGY AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY : CONCEPTS & THEORIES |
| Course Classification | Compulsory |
| Instructors | Prof. Dato' Dr. Zakaria Haji Ahmad Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kuik Cheng Chwee |

Synopsis

This course is a graduate-level introduction to Strategic and Security Studies as a subfield of International Relations. It focuses on the use of military power (alongside non-military means) for political ends in contemporary inter-state system. It aims to expose students with a range of key conceptual tools and theoretical approaches needed to analyse strategic and international issues, especially the motives and manifestations of state strategies in pursuit of security and other goals among the self-interested sovereign actors. These analytical devices include anarchy, power, war, security, "national" interests, alliance, alignment, institutions and other instruments of statecraft, in addition to the propositions of Realism, Liberalism, and Constructivism. Particular attention is paid to several recurring themes in world politics, i.e. great power politics, causes of war, sources of peace, the uses and constraints of military force, the functions and limits of diplomacy, the synergies and tradeoffs between multiple policy options (both to big powers and to smaller states), as well as the effects of various domestic and structural variables driving policies and outcomes at the international level.

| Week | Topics |
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| 1 | Strategic Studies: Scope and Approaches |
| 2 | Theoretical Approaches |
| 3 | "Power" and the Consequences of Power Asymmetry |
| 4 | "Security" and the Definitions of National Interests |
| 5 | "War" and the Logics of Anarchy |
| 6 | State Strategy (I): Military Force |
| 7 | State Strategy (II): Alliance and Balance of Power |
| 8 | State Strategy (III): International Institutions and Multilateralism |
| 9 | State Strategy (IV): Diplomacy, Economic Statecraft, and other Approaches |
| 10 | Causation in International Relations: Three Levels of Analysis |
| 11 | Explanation (I): Individuals and Leadership |
| 12 | Explanation (II): Domestic Determinants |
| 13 | Explanation (III): Material & Ideational Structures |
| 14 | Prospects |