

Introduction to military planning

Lecturer: Michael Benhamou
Contact: michael.benhamou@dauphine.psl.eu

Department: LSO
Semester: 1 & 2

Course level: L3 Undergraduate
Domain: Political Sciences
Teaching language: English
Number of in-class hours: 33
Number of course sessions: 12
ECTS: 6

Course description and objectives

This course is about applying military planning techniques to contemporary crises. Students will be given the role of an advisor to military commanders from all geographies (Europe, America, Asia). They will have to integrate the following parameters: economic forces and weaknesses, diseases, resource scarcity, climate change, supply chain tensions. Using data analysis and visuals, students will react to geopolitical risks by designing defence scenarios – strategic mapping, center of gravity math, threat to opportunities ratios, scaling of battlefield options.

Course plan:

- 1) The first four classes (3h) will explain our basic template for military crisis management.
- 2) Written exam on a contemporary security situation (3h).
- 3) External speakers will explain their own methodology and experience of war zones (3h).
- 4) Using the methodology and template that were provided, students will prepare oral military briefs based on six case studies (3h).

Learning outcomes

At the end of this course, students will know how to

- 1) understand the basics of military planning processes;
- 2) visualize their own thought processes and counter their analytical biases;
- 3) anticipate the deeper power dynamics at play in the 21st century to better evaluate politico-military risks in their future career.

Prerequisites

Possessing data analytics skills are advised before taking this class – Excel, Power Point, Tableau and/or QGIS can also bring value. Basic algebra skills also necessary.

Assignments and grading

1/ 50% for an individual written exam (/10) where students will produce a note to manage a conflict based on 40 pages of documentation. Deliverable: three-four pages of text accompanied by visuals laying out three military scenarios and one recommendation.

2/ 50% of the grade (/10) for an oral brief (35 slides) also based on the template explained in the first four classes. The lecturer will also provide certain articles, books and open data pointers. This 40 minutes oral brief will be followed by 30 minutes of Q&A. Students will work in groups of three to five.

Class participation: class participation generates up to two bonus points. The passing grade for a course is 10/20.

Class policy: unexcused absences from exams and/or military briefs will result in zero grades in the calculation of numerical averages.

Course structure

Session	Topic
1	INTRO – a) presenting each other, b) philosophy of the course (values, defining warfare in the 21 st century, reading & military research tips, Paris tips); c) detailing each oral military brief cases.
2	METHODOLOGY (1) – explaining NATO planning standards. Steps: a) produce strategic visuals; b) create environment analytics (transport, topography, weather); c) create actor analytics (psychology, defence economics, logistics, society’s weak signals). d) produce Center of Gravity (CoG) visuals.
3	METHODOLOGY (2) – a) produce strategic-level Courses of Actions (CoA) and choose one of them. b) full oral brief presented by the lecturer on the Roman Empire in the 3 rd century CE; c) Students pick their own oral case & group.
4	METHODOLOGY (3) – review by lecturer of the entire methodology & template through one specific case study based on ongoing news events to prepare for the written exam.
5	WRITTEN EXAM – with the support of forty pages of documentation, prepare an emergency military note to propose a solution to a crisis after having described three courses of action. Two specific visuals should be created alongside three-four pages of text leading to a preferred course of action.
6	EXTERNAL SPEAKERS – one French Army or NATO representative; and one climate/energy/logistics expert.
7	CASE 1 – advisor to the Russian president in 2021. The latter is asking you for three offensive options regarding Ukraine. Explain what these could be and choose one of them. Parameters involved: logistics, infantry masses, diplomacy.
8	CASE 2 – adviser to the Iranian president in 2026. Imagine that the current Mollah regime collapses. Present three geostrategic options to the new nationalist head of government in this moment of turmoil. Parameters involved: diplomacy, economic sanctions, military threats and opportunities.
9	CASE 3 – advisor to the French president in 2026. How could France improve its military and diplomatic layout from now to 2030? Present three scenarios based on specific data and maps. Parameters involved: public budgets, strategic culture, climate and logistics.
10	CASE 4 – advisor to the Indian president in 2026. Should India invest more or less in the Army, the Navy or in Air Forces in 2030? Present three options based on threat analysis. Parameters involved: public budgets, strategic culture, threat analysis.
11	CASE 5 – advisor to the US president in 2030. Present cold & bold policy options on Greenland, integrating several factors like mining potential, maritime trade, climate change impact or geopolitical opportunities vs damages. Parameters involved: macro-economic analysis, climate change, naval logistics.
12	CASE 6 – advisor to the Turkish president in 2040. Where should Turkey’s diplomatic and military assets focus on in the next fifteen years? The Balkans? Russia and the Caucasus? Mesopotamia? Parameters involved: foresight analysis, socio-economic studies.
	Final grades will then be given to all students.

Bibliography

- Aron (Raymond), *Penser la guerre, Clausewitz*, Gallimard, 1976
- Beaujard (Philippe), *Histoire globale, mondialisation et capitalisme*, 2009
- Benhamou, Guehenneux, Robinet, “Le Polad : bilan et rôle d’un conseiller particulier”, *Revue de Défense Nationale*, 2017
- Braudel (Fernand), *Civilization and Capitalism*, 1982
- Dupuy (Trevor), *Forecasting Battle Casualties and Equipment Losses in Modern War*, 1995
- Gordon (Robert), *The Rise and Fall of American Growth*, 2015
- Koselleck (Reinhart), *Futures Past: on the Semantics of Historical Time*, 2004
- Lawrence (Christopher), *War by Numbers: Understanding Conventional Combat*, 2017
- Le Roy Ladurie (Emmanuel), “L’histoire immobile”, *Annales*, 1974
- Maddison (Angus), *Growth and Interaction in the Modern Economy*, 2005
- NATO Doctrines – AJP 1D (Joint), AJP 4 (Logistics), AJP 5 (Planning)
- RAND Corporation, *Guide to Nation Building*, 2007
- Santacroce (Mike), *Planning for Planners: Joint Operation Planning Process (JOPP)*, 2013
- Stewart, Knaus, *Can Intervention Work?*, 2011
- TRADOC, *The Red Team Handbook*, 2018
- Van Creveld (Martin), *Supplying War*, 1977
- Yakovleff (Michel), *Tactique théorique*, 2016

Lecturer’s biography

Michael Benhamou – co-director of European defence consultancy OPEWI – Europe’s War Institute. Reserve officer in the French armed forces. Former political adviser for French, NATO and European Union operations on the field (Kosovo, Afghanistan, Libya, Gulf, Indian Ocean with aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle).

Moodle

This course is on Moodle: **yes**

Academic integrity

Be aware of the rules in Université Paris Dauphine about plagiarism and cheating during exams. All work turned in for this course must be your own work, or that of your own group. Working as part of a group implies that you are an active participant and fully contributed to the output produced by that group.