

Strategic Studies

The class tries to explore the debates surrounding strategy and the „strategic label“, attempting to examine the theoretical underpinnings of using force or resorting to the threat of using force. Drawing distinctions between the different levels of warfare, the class discusses the material and cultural factors shaping human conflict. The interplay of war and politics, as well as the debates on the instrumental nature of warfare are discussed alongside the problems raised by current debates on civilian control of the military.

The material factors underpinning war are highlighted in the historical examination of the evolution of warfare, as well as the different approaches to resorting to armed violence: maneuver or attrition. The whole range of asymmetric conflicts is discussed during the class, from terrorism to insurgencies. A distinct part of the class discusses nuclear issues, strategies of proliferation and deterrence.

Throughout the class, ethical, moral and normative considerations are given appropriate attention.