Course Code: **PSCI 390**

**Special Topics: Technology and International Politics**

| Academic Year and Term: 2019-2020, Winter Semester |

Lectures: Wednesdays, 11:30-2:20 RCH 204

| **Dr. Alexander Lanoszka** |
| Hagey Hall 349 |
| alexander.lanoszka@uwaterloo.ca |
| Office Hours: |
| Up to Reading Week: Wednesdays, 9:00-11:00 |
| After Reading Week: Tuesdays, 14:30-17:00 |

| **Evaluation Criteria:** |
| 10% Participation |
| 20% Take-Home Midterm |
| 35% Technology Futures Paper |
| 35% Take-Home Final |

**Course Description**

This course examines the relationship between technology and international security, with a focus on how technologies have altered political organization, economic development, national security strategies and military competition. Case studies may include chariots, motorized armour, aircraft, nuclear weapons, surface ships, autonomous weapons, cyber-security, biotechnology, and new media.

**Pedagogical Approach**

Classes will mostly consist of lectures, supported by PowerPoint presentations made available to students before each class. Students are responsible for keeping up-to-date with the lecture readings and are encouraged to participate actively in class discussions in a respectful and constructive manner.

For my part, I promise to provide students with the tools necessary to succeed academically whether it is by giving them clear requirements for assignments or by giving them detailed and timely feedback. I will try to devote at least 30-40 minutes for discussion at the end of each lecture, although sometimes this goal will be difficult to fulfill. Doing so ensures that students have a grasp of the lecture’s material and the readings assigned for that week. It will also give them an
opportunity to ask questions that they might have, whether with respect to my lecture, to the assigned readings, or to current events that may be relevant that week. A discussion forum is also available on the LEARN site in which you can submit clarifying questions, anonymously or not. I must emphasize that if you are confused about something, then at least one of your classmates shares the same confusion. As such, do not hesitate to ask questions, whether in class or online!

**Assessment**

**10% Participation**

I expect students to participate in discussions regarding the class material and weekly readings. As such, I will evaluate students based on the frequency and quality of their interventions. Students will receive something between 7 and 10 if they come to all meetings and make an intervention in the classroom at least two-thirds of the time. The quality of the intervention also matters such that, contrary to Joseph Stalin, quantity does not have a quality all of its own. Indeed, a tendency to speak over your classmates in an attempt to dominate or shut down discussion will result in a subtraction of your grades. Students will receive 4-6 if they miss more than the minimum acceptable meetings (without proper documentation) and/or have sporadic interventions over the course of the term. Students will receive 1-3 if they miss class often and remain silent over the course of the term. You have to be a complete no-show to get 0.

I understand that some of you might not be comfortable speaking in front of your peers, but I strive to make the environment as open and comfortable for you to contribute. Please consult me if you wish to discuss this issue further in private. If nothing else, ask clarifying questions because—as mentioned—I guarantee someone else has the same question.

I also understand that life “happens.” You are entitled to miss one session with no questions asked. I will be tracking attendance.

**20% Take-Home Midterm (5-6 pp.)**

This take-home midterm, due 8 February at 23:59 EST, will be based on the course material drawn from lectures 1 through 5. I expect that students will reference at
least some of the readings from those days in answering any question asked of them. The midterm exam will be given one week before the deadline. I do expect proper referencing and adherence to the essay formatting guidelines listed below.

35% Technological Futures Paper (8-9 pp.)

For this paper, you will choose one technology from the list below and write an essay on how that technology will impact politics. To help organize your thoughts, here is a list of questions that can help frame your discussion. Some of these questions overlap and may even be restatements.

- Are there existing technologies that are similar? If so, was the emergence of that technology a difference in degree or of type? What can be learned from that historical experience?

- Are there groups within society that would benefit the most from adopting or acquiring this technology? Are there any losers?

- What would be the effect on political organisation? Would it lead to greater centralization of political control? Or would it lead to decentralization? In whose authority and at what scale (local to planetary)?

- Would this technology be good for democracy or for autocracy?

- If applicable, what are some countermeasures that losers or adversaries might adopt in response?

- What ethical or moral issues attend the introduction and/or incorporation of this new technology? What new standards of behavior would emerge, if any?

- What would be impact of this technology on economic production and consumption? What distributional consequences would this technology have?

- How will this technology affect military strategy and/or military alliances?

- Will this technology reward cooperation or encourage conflict?
Technologies for consideration:

- Transporter (Star Trek)
- Holodeck (Star Trek)
- Replicator (Star Trek)
- Cloaking device (Star Trek)
- Universal translator (Star Trek)
- Replicant (Blade Runner)
- Cylon (Battlestar Galactica)
- Cloning (Orphan Black)
- Cybernetics (Star Wars)
- Sentient computing (2001: A Space Odyssey)
- Subconscious infiltration (Inception)
- Dragons (Game of Thrones)

Be sure to define your terms and use proper referencing, in addition to following the guidelines below. A strong essay will draw on the concepts covered in class as well as lean on extensive research. Because these technologies remain (largely) in the realm of science fiction, I understand that there is no direct historical evidence here. Nevertheless, you can rely on analogical reasoning and use historical examples to substantiate your conjectures.

35% Take-Home Final (7-8 pp.)

This take-home final due 9 April at 23:59 EST, will be based on the course material drawn from lectures 6 through 11. I expect that students will reference at least some of the readings from those days in answering any question asked of them. The final exam will be given one week before the deadline. I do expect proper referencing and adherence to the essay formatting guidelines listed below.
Essay Formatting and Late Policy

Other rules governing the formatting of all written work submitted for this course:

• 1” margins all around
• 12 pt font
• Page numbers—if your first page is the cover page, then set this page number to 0. (In Word, select “Page Numbers” from the “Insert” menu and click on “Format.”)
• Consistent usage of one standard citation style (e.g., Chicago, MLA, etc.)
• A standard cover page that includes the word count
• All written work MUST be submitted in .doc or .docx format. NO PDFS!

Failure to format your essay properly will result in a deduction of your mark.

Failure to submit your written assignment before the deadline (23:59 EST of the scheduled date) will result in a 10% deduction of your mark on the assignment. This rule applies to all written work. No exceptions.

Office Hours

Office hours are on Wednesdays, from 9:00 to 11:00 at 349 Hagey Hall in the first half of the term, and Tuesdays from 14:30 to 17:00 in the second half. No appointment is necessary but I would suggest bringing something to read in case you have to wait. Please let me know if this time does not work with your schedule so that we can arrange an alternative appointment. I will not explain to you what was discussed in any session that you might have missed.

Letter Writing Requests

Absolutely DO NOT put my name down as a reference without asking for my permission first. I strongly encourage all students contemplating further postgraduate studies to consult with me first. Please note that I have very specific guidelines about letter writing. Read the document first before approaching me. Doing so will save everyone time and energy.

http://www.alexlanoszka.com/LanoszkaPolicy.pdf
Email Confirmation and Communication

Once you have read through this syllabus, please send me an email with subject line “PSCI 390: Syllabus Read”. In this email, state your name, your reasons for enrolling in this course, and previous courses that may be relevant. The email should be no longer than four sentences.

Please note that all emails sent to me should include “PSCI 390” at the beginning of the subject line. Responses could take up to 1-2 business days (no weekends). If I believe that answering your email would take me more than five minutes to do, then I would invite you to meet me during my office hours instead. If you have not received a response after 2 business days, then please resend your email. I will ONLY respond to emails that are sent from your uwaterloo.ca account.

Twitter

I often tweet on issues relating to foreign policy in East Central Europe, Baltic regional security, and European security. During the term I might tweet relevant articles that bear directly on the issues raised in this course. Tweeted articles are not required reading. I am indifferent as to whether you follow me on Twitter.

Academic Integrity

In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

(a) **Discipline:** A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offences, and to take responsibility for her/his actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offence, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offences (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 - Student
Discipline. For information on categories of offences and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 - Student Discipline at http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm.

(b) **Grievance:** A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of her/his university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4 at http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm.

(c) **Appeals:** A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 - Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 - Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 - Student Appeals, http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm See also: Student Appeals at https://uwaterloo.ca/arts/current-undergraduates/student-support/artsundergraduate-office.

(d) **Turnitin.com:** Plagiarism detection software (Turnitin) will be used to screen assignments in this course. This step serves to verify that use of all material and sources in assignments is documented. In the first week of the term, details will be provided about the arrangements for the use of Turnitin in this course. If you do not wish to have your assignments submitted to Turnitin, an alternative arrangement between you and I can be worked out where your work can still be rigorously assessed to ensure its academic integrity.

**Accommodation for Students with Disabilities**

The AccessAbility Services (AS) Office (Needles Hall, Room 1401) collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the AS Office at the beginning of each academic term.

**NOTA BENE:** THIS SYLLABUS IS SUBJECT TO MINOR CHANGES. PLEASE REFER TO THE LEARN WEBSITE FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE VERSION.
# Reading List and Course Schedule

## Schedule

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<td>January 8</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>January 15</td>
<td>Knights and Samurai</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>January 22</td>
<td>Military Revolutions and Gunpowder</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td>Land Power</td>
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<td>February 19</td>
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<td>February 26</td>
<td>No class</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>March 4</td>
<td>Sea Power and Air Power</td>
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<td>March 11</td>
<td>Nuclear Weapons</td>
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<td>March 13</td>
<td><strong>Technological Futures Paper Due 23:59 EST</strong></td>
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<td>Insurgency and Terrorism</td>
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<td>March 25</td>
<td>Cybersecurity</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>Unmanned Systems and Artificial Intelligence</td>
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<td></td>
<td>April 9</td>
<td><strong>Take-Home Final Due 23:59 EST</strong></td>
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Session 1

Introduction - The Horse

Required Readings:


Recommended Readings:


Session 2

Knights and Samurai

*Required Readings:*


*Recommended Readings:*


Session 3

Military Revolutions and Gunpowder

**Required Readings:**


**Recommended Readings:**


Session 4

The Great Divergence

Required Readings:


Read comment by Joel Mokyr, 314-321 attached to Clark and Feenstra reading.

Recommended Readings:


Session 5

Industrialisation and Nationalism

Required Readings:


Recommended Readings:


Session 6

Land Power

Required Readings:


Recommended Readings:


Session 7 (NOTE: NO CLASS ON 26 FEBRUARY)

Sea Power and Air Power

*Required Readings:*

*On sea power …*


*On air power …*


*Recommended Readings:*


Session 8

Nuclear Weapons

Required Readings:


Recommended Readings:


Session 9  

Insurgency and Terrorism

Required Readings:


Recommended Readings:


Session 10

Cybersecurity

Required Readings:


Recommended Readings:


Session 11

Unmanned Systems and Artificial Intelligence

*Required Readings:*


*Recommended Readings:*

