

**ARTS 6002**  
**War and the Human Condition**  
**Course Outline**

**Time** Thursday 14:30 – 17:15

**Location**

ELB 204

**Instructor** Prof. Nicolas de Warren

**Office** Room 417, Fung King Hey Building

**Office Hours** Per Appointment

**email** njd15@psu.edu

**Course Design and Readings**

The aim of this interdisciplinary course is to examine the significance of war for the human condition. The approach in this course is multi-layered and multi-dimensional, combining readings from philosophy, literature, sociology, and anthropology. The course will be divided into six sections:

[a] The Epic of War: Homer's *The Iliad*

Simone Weil, *Iliad or the Poetry of Force*

“Homeric Way of War”

“Fighting by the Rules”

“Time and Arete in Homer”

“War and Democracy in Ancient Greece”

“Democracy and War in Ancient Athens”

“Western Way of War”

[b] Origins of war and Anthropology of war: debate between Azar Gat and R. Brian Ferguson, and readings from Richard Overly, *Why War?*

[c] War, Sovereignty, and the Modernity: Readings from Clausewitz, Carl Schmitt, Lenin, Gramsci, Mao, Giap, and Foucault

[d] Poetry in the First World War: Selection of readings from WWI poets

[e] Us and Them, Dehumanization and the Enemy

Sartre, selection from *Critique of Dialectical Reason*

“Paradoxes of Dehumanization”

“Ingroup Identification in Viking Warbands”

“When Social Identity Becomes Violent”

[f] The Future of War: *Drone Theory* by Chamayou, readings on AI, cyberwarfare, military robots, and chaotic warfare

Advisory to Majors: to be taken in year 2 or above.

### **Learning outcomes (as shown on CUSIS)**

1. Acquire knowledge of the selected topics of the course.
2. Have a solid grasp of the philosophical issues of the selected topics of the course.
3. Demonstrate familiarity with the primary/secondary source texts.
4. Be able to articulate and defend a philosophical thesis of their own.

### **Topics**

Based on a selection of readings from classical and contemporary authors, this course will introduce students to different theories of desire and emotions, the relation between cognition, action, and emotions, and the connection between desire, emotions, and values.

### **Learning activities**

Attend lectures and participate in class discussions.

### **Assessment scheme**

<i>Assessment scheme as prescribed on CUSIS</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Weight</i>
<b>Seminar paper</b>	<b>Term paper</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>Class participation</b>	<b>Attendance and discussion</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Short answer test or exam</b>	<b>Two 2-3 pages reflective papers</b>	<b>20%</b>

**End of term seminar paper presentation** **10%**

### **Grade Descriptor**

Please refer to: [http://phil.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~phidept/UG/Grade\\_descriptors.pdf](http://phil.arts.cuhk.edu.hk/~phidept/UG/Grade_descriptors.pdf)

### **Required Texts:**

*All readings will be posted on Blackboard.*

## Course schedule

1	Introduction to Seminar	
2	The Epic of War: Homer's <i>The Iliad</i>	
3	The Epic of War: Homer's <i>The Iliad</i>	
4	Origins of war and Anthropology of war	
5	Origins of war and Anthropology of war	
6	War, Sovereignty, and the Modernity	
7	War, Sovereignty, and the Modernity	Short research paper
8	Poetry in the First World War	
9	Poetry in the First World War	
10	Us and Them, Dehumanization and the Enemy	
11	Us and Them, Dehumanization and the Enemy	
12	The Future of War	
13	The Future of War	Short research paper
14	End of term presentations	Term paper due

### Details of course website

We will use Blackboard for this course. Lecture notes and information on assignments and examinations will be posted on the website.

### Academic honesty and plagiarism

Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at <http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>

For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students' uploading of the soft copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.