

DEREE COLLEGE SYLLABUS FOR:	
HY4054 THUCYDIDES AND WAR STRATEGIES (Updated Fall 2025)	
UK LEVEL: 6 UK CREDITS: 15 US CREDITS: 3/0/3	
PREREQUISITES:	
CATALOG DESCRIPTION:	Exploration of the discipline of Military History and War Studies; examination of various methodological approaches used by Thucydides to describe and explain the behaviour of ancient Greek city-states and consequently great powers; students will identify the skills of analysis and interpretation of primary and secondary sources and the tools necessary to comprehend Thucydides' contribution to the study of strategy.
RATIONALE:	In this course students will be trained in the basic skills of analysis and interpretation of primary and secondary sources related to strategic planning, strategic decisions, leadership, and tactical execution in the various theatres of operations. Additionally, they will learn to establish comparisons between different eras through the examination of case-studies of common or similar nature. Eventually, students will comprehend the long-lasting factors that differentiate the land and the naval powers that determine strategy. Thus, the course is a valuable advanced foundation for the interpretation of military conflicts, international relations and world politics.
LEARNING OUTCOMES:	Upon completion of the course, students should be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Examine a substantial body of relative historical knowledge of antiquity and the 19th and 20th centuries. 2. Understand the complexity of factors that determine strategic planning and strategic decisions in antiquity and the history of 19th and 20th centuries 3. Reflect critically and contextually upon classical and contemporary texts and other primary and secondary sources, including visual and material sources like documentaries. 4. Demonstrate command of comparative perspectives including the ability to compare the histories of different leaders and military confrontations.
METHOD OF TEACHING AND LEARNING:	In congruence with the teaching and learning strategy of the college, the following tools are used: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectures and class discussions on secondary literature and on primary sources • Case study analyses and possible fieldtrips • Office hours held by the instructor to provide further assistance to students. • Use of library facilities: Students are encouraged to make use of the library facilities for further study as well as for preparation for the exams. • Use of the Blackboard site to further support communication, by posting lecture notes, assignment instruction, timely announcements, formative quizzes and online submission of

	assignments.										
ASSESSMENT:	<p>Summative:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>1st assessment: Oral Presentation</td><td>10%</td></tr> <tr> <td>2nd assessment: Term paper (3,500 words)</td><td>60%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Final assessment: Final exam (essay questions and responses to gobbets)</td><td>30%</td></tr> </table> <p>Formative:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Take home gobbet exercises</td><td>0%</td></tr> <tr> <td>Annotated bibliography and draft</td><td>0%</td></tr> </table> <p>The 1st summative assessment tests LO 1 The 2nd summative assessment tests LOs 2, 3, 4 The final assessment tests LOs 1, 2, 3, The formative assessments prepare students for the exam</p> <p><i>Students are required to resit failed assessments in this module.</i></p>	1 st assessment: Oral Presentation	10%	2 nd assessment: Term paper (3,500 words)	60%	Final assessment: Final exam (essay questions and responses to gobbets)	30%	Take home gobbet exercises	0%	Annotated bibliography and draft	0%
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Take home gobbet exercises	0%										
Annotated bibliography and draft	0%										

INDICATIVE READING:	<p>REQUIRED READING: Platias A. & Koliopoulos C., <i>Thucydides on strategy, Athenian & Spartan Grand Strategies in the Peloponnesian War and their relevance today</i>, Athens, 2006.</p> <p>RECOMMENDED READING: Bagnall N., <i>The Peloponnesian War, Athens, Sparta and the Struggle for Greece</i>, New York, 2004. Burn A.R., <i>Pericles and Athens</i>, New York, 1948. Finley J. H., <i>Thucydides</i>, Cambridge Mass, 1942. Fields N., <i>Ancient Greek Warships: 500-322 BC</i>, Oxford, 2007. Forde S., <i>The Ambition to Rule: Alcibiades and the Politics of Imperialism in Thucydides</i>, Cornell, 1989. Fourakis P., <i>The rule of the sea is indeed a great matter. The Naval History of Peloponnesian War»</i> (in Greek), Athens 2016. Frieser K.H., <i>The Blitzkrieg Legend: The 1940 Campaign in the West</i>. Annapolis: Naval Institute Press, 2005. Gray C.S., <i>The leverage of sea power, The strategic advantage of navies in war</i>, New York, 1992. Hanson V.D., <i>The Western Way of War</i>, New York, 1989. Hanson V.D., 2005, <i>A War like no Other, How the Athenians and Spartans fought the Peloponnesian War</i>, New York, 1989. Hale J.R., <i>Lords of the Sea: The Epic Story of the Athenian Navy and the Birth of Democracy</i>, London, 2009. Henderson B.W., <i>The Great War between Athens and Sparta</i>, London, 1927. Howard M., <i>Clausewitz</i>, Oxford, 1983. Jordan B., <i>The Athenian Navy in the Classical Period</i>, Berkeley, 1975. Kagan D., <i>The Outbreak of the Peloponnesian War</i>, Ithaca and London, 1969. Kagan D., <i>The Archidamian War</i>, Ithaca and London, 1974. Kagan D., <i>The Peace of Nicias and the Athenian Expedition</i>, Ithaca and London, 1981. Kagan D., <i>The Fall of the Athenian Empire</i>, Ithaca and London, 1987. Liddell H.B., <i>Strategy</i>, London, 1991. Livezey W.E., <i>Mahan on Sea Power</i>, Oklahoma, 1981.</p>
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	<p>Mahan A.T., <i>The Influence of Sea Power Upon History, 1660 – 1783</i>, Boston, 1890.</p> <p>Starr C.G., <i>The Influence of Sea Power on Ancient History</i>, New York, 1989.</p> <p>Strauss B., <i>The Battle of Salamis: the Naval Encounter that Saved Greece and Western Civilization</i>, New York, 2004.</p> <p>Strauss B.S., and Ober J., <i>The Anatomy of Error: Ancient Military Disasters and their Lessons for Modern Strategists</i>, New York, 1990.</p> <p>Warry J., <i>Warfare in the Classical World</i>, London, 1980.</p>
INDICATIVE MATERIAL: <i>(e.g. audiovisual, digital material, etc.)</i>	REQUIRED MATERIAL: RECOMMENDED MATERIAL:
COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS:	Use of proper English, both oral and written
SOFTWARE REQUIREMENTS:	MSOffice; Blackboard CMS
WWW RESOURCES:	http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/ https://www.jstor.org/
INDICATIVE CONTENT:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Thucydides and contemporary strategy. 2. Theories of land power versus naval power. 3. The one-dimensional Spartan grand strategy and the USSR in the Cold War era. 4. The multi-dimensional Athenian grand strategy and the USA in the cold war and the post-cold war eras. 5. The strategy of secondary players: Argos and Corinth, China and the European Union. 6. The Athenian plague and the covid-19: effects on strategic planning. 7. The strategy of imperialism: the Melian dialogue. 8. Strategic blunders: the Sicilian expedition, Operation Barbarossa, the war in Afghanistan. 9. The Spartan and Syracusan adaptation into naval power: the case of Turkey. 10. Strategic perspectives: Clausewitz, Sun-Tzu and Thucydides.

