



Course Syllabus
History of Military Thought 500 B.C.-2000

Militär idéhistoria 500 f.kr.-2000

Course Code	2MH062	Main Field of Study	History with specialisation in Military History
Valid from Semester	Spring 2022	Department	Department of War Studies and Military History
Education Cycle	Advanced level	Subject	History with Specialization in Military History
Scope	7.5	Language of Instruction	The teaching is conducted in English.
Progression	A1N	Decided by	The Research and Education Board's Course Syllabus Committee at the Swedish Defence University
Grading Scale	Fail, Pass, Pass with Distinction	Decision date	2022-01-01
Revision	1.1		

Entry Requirements

Applicants should hold a Bachelor's degree with major in humanities, social sciences, or a Military Officers degree (minimum 180 ECTS credits). They should have 30 ECTS credits in history with a specialization in military history, history of philosophy (thought) or economic history. In addition, knowledge of English is required equivalent to English B or English 6 (applicants holding a Swedish bachelor's degree are considered to have already met this requirement).

Course Content and Structure

The main purpose of the course is to introduce the main strands in the history of military thought. The course explores the contribution of important thinkers to the broader military field in order to provide a foundation in military theoretical knowledge for further study during the progression of the programme. The central themes in the history of military thought are presented chronologically.

The course starts with lectures and individual studies aimed at understanding the main strands of military thinking from a historical perspective. The seminars in combination with the written assignment submissions, give perspectives on context and factors of change in military thinking as well as giving insights into scientific writing and discussion. Combined the teaching activities makes the foundations for the take home exam.

Intended Learning Outcomes

After completed course the student should be able to:

Knowledge and Understanding

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the main strands in the history of military thought, including an understanding of the driving factors behind these.

Competence and skills

- discuss military ideas and military thinking using an appropriate theoretical historical perspective both in writing and verbally.

Judgement and approach

- independently and objectively evaluate the position of the different theoreticians in the field from a theoretical, social and ethical perspective.
- demonstrate insights into the potential and limitations of military theoretical concepts in different historical contexts.
- demonstrate the ability to develop a holistic view of the influence of military thought on major historical and social



processes.

Type of Instruction

Seminars

Lectures

Independent Study

Assessment

History of Military Thought 500 B.C.-2000

Scope: 7.5

Grading Scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with Distinction

The course is examined through students active and constructive participation in obligatory seminars and through the submission of written assignments connected to each of these. Grading on these assignments are F and P.

The course is also examined through a final individual written and unmoderated take-home examination. Grading on this assignment is F, P or PwD.

In the event that a student is awarded the grade Fail, the examiner has the right to determine appropriate supplementary tasks that are to be successfully completed by the student in order to be upgraded to a Pass on the course. The student has three working days to complete these supplementary tasks after they have been notified. In the absence of examiner approval, examinations received late due to extenuating circumstances are not assessed.

Grading

Grading takes place through a three-grade / two-grade grading scale: Fail (F), Pass (P) and Pass with Distinction (PwD) / Fail (F) and Pass (P). Grading criteria are reported at the latest at the start of the course.

In order to achieve the grade Pass with Distinction on the course, this grade is required on the unmoderated take-home examination. The student must also the grade Pass on all seminars and written assignments.

Restrictions in Number of Examinations

The number of examinations is not limited.

Restrictions Concerning Degree

The course cannot be included in a degree with another course whose content fully or partially corresponds to the content of this course.

Transitional Provisions

When the course is no longer given or when the course content has changed substantially, the student has the right to be examined once per semester during a three-term period in accordance with this syllabus.

Miscellaneous

The course is given within the Master Programme *War, Culture and Society*. The course may also be given as a single-subject course.

If a student has a decision from the Swedish Defense University on special educational support due to a disability, the examiner may decide on alternative forms of examination for the student.

On the completion of the course, an evaluation will be conducted under the auspices of the course director, which will form the basis for any changes to the course.



Reading List
History of Military Thought 500 B.C.-2000

Militär idéhistoria 500 f.kr.-2000

Course Code	2MH062
Revision	1.1
Reading List Valid from Date	2022-06-01
Reading List Decided Date	2022-05-17

2MH062 Militär idéhistoria 500 f.kr.-2000 (History of Military Thought 500 B.C.-2000)

Azar Gat, A History of Military Thought. From the Enlightenment to the Cold War (Oxford University Press 2001), 900 s.

Mattias Strohn, Winning Wars: The Enduring Nature and Changing character of Victory from Antiquity to the 21st Century (Casemate Academic, Havertown Pennsylvania 2020), 336 s.

Beatrice Heuser, Strategy Before Clausewitz: Linking Warfare and Statecraft, 1400-1830 (Routledge, 2018), 239 s.

Sun Tzu, The Art of War (Penguin Books Ltd 2005), 112 pages. There are a great number of versions and editions of this book, and others will do, as long as they include the translated original chapters. A modern Swedish translation for instance is Sun Tzu, Krigets konst (Modernista 2019), 100 s.)

Johanna Hanink, Thucydides and How to Think about War: An Ancient Guide to Foreign Policy (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press 2019), 270 s.

Total: c. 2 000 pages