

Grading guidance STV 4225B Strategy and Security Policy, Spring 2121

The student is asked to write one of two essays. (Because the exam is digital short factual questions that are usually included, are not present this time as it would be very easy to look up the answers.)

The first essay option is the following:

Which roles does NATO play today? Discuss deterrence, coercion and peace enforcement, using examples where appropriate. Does realism seem to explain NATO's roles? Discuss.

The lectures and readings cover all the themes in this question: NATO as an organization and its roles, particularly regarding strategy (Dyndal and Hilde, Michta, Kroenig, Johnsen to mention some), and I have also lectured on the changes NATO has undergone, from deterrent role against the USSR in the Cold War (CW) to peace enforcement and enlargement after 1990, and then from about 2010 its renewed role in deterring Russia. The differences between the CW and the present period have been discussed at length, by me and guest lecturer Bruusgaard. The strategies deterrence, coercion, and strategy in operations are well covered, a central theme of the course. Part Two of the Matlary/Johnsen book covers conventional, nuclear, and hybrid deterrence, also Kroenig deals with this. With regard to theories, realism is along with liberal theories well covered by me in lectures and discussion, as well as by Buzan and Hansen. – A good essay should contain an overview and analysis of NATO's former and current roles and discuss how especially deterrence is defined as a strategy today compared to the CW period. Also, the essay should assess realism's shortcomings as a general theory, but also its relevance in terms of state rivalry and revisionism. To this end the student must distinguish between defensive and offensive realism.

The second essay option was

Great power rivalry, i.e. state-to-state security policy, is now back. Attacks in the 'grey zone' matter much. How would you devise strategy for the 'grey zone'? (also called 'sub-art 5 situations', 'political warfare'). Which theories would you draw on to study the present type of great power interaction?

This essay question demands that the student analyse the nature of the new type of state rivalry – what does it imply that great powers use hybrid means of attack and manipulation? Here there will have to be a definition of hybrid/grey zone/ ‘political warfare’ as well as a consideration of whether it is possible to devise strategy for these means that are often without attribution (e g Cyber and direct actions that are clandestine). Can a state only defend itself, or can it also deter and coerce in the grey zone? Relevant curriculum contributions are Johnson’s chapter II, Østerud on the interface between policing and military action, as well as the two chapters on adaptive strategy in Part One (Matlary/Johnson). In addition, the readings on traditional strategy.