

Prof. Victor Magagna  
Office: SSB 375  
Email: magagna@ucsd.edu

**POLI 142K: Politics and Warfare**  
**Summer II 2018**

**Course Purpose**

The purpose of the course is to introduce the analytic study of warfare through a focus on three topics: the causal origins of war; the domestic commitment to pay the costs of war and the problem of combat compliance.

**Course Grades**

Grades consist of one take-home midterm and one take-home final. The assignments are worth 40% and 60% of your grade, respectively.

**Midterm and Final**

The midterm is due **12pm on Wednesday, August 15, 2018**. Choose and answer **one** of the questions below. Your answer should be 5-7 pages long and submitted to the Turnitin link on the course webpage on TritonEd.

1. Explain the structural understanding of WWI.
2. Explain the problem of domestic commitment.
3. Explain the logic of wars of retribution.

The final is due **12pm on Friday, August 31, 2018**. Choose and answer **one** of the questions below. Your answer should be 5-7 pages long and submitted to the Turnitin link on the course webpage on TritonEd.

1. Explain the leadership hypothesis.
2. Explain the combat contract.
3. Explain the security dilemma.

You are expected to submit an electronic copy of both your midterm and final to Turnitin by the due date. Assignments not received by the due date will be marked down automatically. Plagiarism will not be tolerated, and students suspected of plagiarism will be reported to the Academic Integrity Office.

If you need help writing these assignments, you are encouraged to make an appointment with the writing center (<https://writingcenter.ucsd.edu>). Specific deadlines and submission instructions will be announced when the assignments are uploaded to TritonEd.

**Course Resources**

Lectures will be available via podcast at <https://podcast.ucsd.edu>. Professor Magagna's notes from each lecture will be available on the TritonEd page once they have been scanned.

**Course Readings**

Peter S. Kindsvatter. 2003. American Soldiers: Ground Combat in the World Wars, Korea, and Vietnam. University Press of Kansas. It is available in bookstore and library reserve.

**Office Hours and Email**

Professor Magagna's office hours are from 10am to 12pm on Fridays by email or appointment.

**Teaching Assistants**

The teaching assistants for the term are: Brian Engelsma, Jiying Jiang, Michael Seese, Clara Suong, and Jiannan Zhao. They will hold office hours by appointment only. Please direct all emails about the course to Michael Seese at: [mseese@ucsd.edu](mailto:mseese@ucsd.edu).