Strategic Studies Learning Goals

Strategic Studies is the study of the preparation, organization, and application of force for political purposes. Although it focuses on the use of military means, it includes work in closely related fields such as intelligence, cyberwar and leadership studies. As such, it has broad applications in non-security related areas such as leadership and management, organizational behavior and technology policy. It is methodologically eclectic, drawing upon theory, history and contemporary practice, and pedagogically diverse, using a variety of techniques including lecture, seminar, case study, simulation, field visit, guest speakers, film showing and staff rides. It begins with an introduction to the field through a fundamentals course, Strategy & Policy, and then allows students to branch out in a variety of subfields, tailoring their work to their interests and needs.

Learning Objectives:

1. Students will understand major trends in military affairs since the late nineteenth century;
2. Familiarize themselves with diverse, including both Western and Asian, approaches to strategic thought;
3. Apply a variety of analytic concepts to contemporary security problems in a succinct, well-informed and policy-relevant manner;
4. Understand patterns of war, including those which make it resistant to predictive analysis or, indeed, close control by political authority;
5. Comprehend the relationships among tactics, operations, strategy and policy;
6. Obtain knowledge of fundamental problems in civil-military relations;
7. Obtain awareness of the dynamics of measure/countermeasure, or move/countermove that make war a cycle rather than a point event; and
8. Acquire an appreciation of the use of force for deterrence, coercive diplomacy and intimidation.