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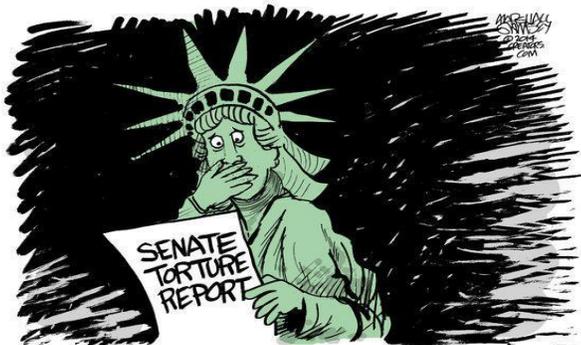
BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT



DANZIGER NYT/CWS Apr 26 2013 (6697)



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# NDU Elective 6063 Ethics and Statecraft: The Strategic Imperative

The responsibility of the great states is to serve and not to dominate the world.

- Harry S. Truman

The highest proof of virtue is to possess boundless power without abusing it.

- Lord Macaulay

The greater the power, the more dangerous the abuse.

- Edmund Burke

The rulers of the state are the only ones who should have the privilege of lying, either at home or abroad; they may be allowed to lie for the good of the state.

- Plato

Those in possession of absolute power can not only prophesy and make their prophecies come true, but they can also lie and make their lies come true.

- Eric Hoffer

Those people who treat politics and morality separately will never understand either of them.

- Jean Jacques Rousseau

## The Issues

Assassination - Kidnapping - Secrecy - Intervention - Disproportionate/Indiscriminate Use of Force - WMD Proliferation - Conventional Arms Proliferation - Spying - Disinformation - Torture - Extraordinary Rendition - Ghost Detention Facilities - Subverting/Destabilizing Governments - Supporting Corrupt Governments - Economic Sanctions - Curtailing Domestic Civil Liberties - Domestic Surveillance/Infiltration - Lying to the Public - Nonlethal Technologies

### Ethical Imperatives

- Public Accountability
- Popular Consent
- Neutral Competence
- Bureaucratic Efficiency
- Professional Discretion

### Strategic Imperatives

- Principled Consistency
- Disciplined Restraint
- Balanced Reciprocity

# NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY

## Elective Course 6063

### *“Ethics and Statecraft: The Strategic Imperative”*

**Course Description:** This course examines the nature, role, and importance of ethics in the effective conduct of statecraft. Focusing on a number of important issues – e.g., official secrecy and deception, intelligence, covert action, intervention, sanctions, technology (weapons, surveillance, communications), international human rights, domestic civil liberties, and prisoner detention and interrogation – the course seeks to determine the ethical propriety and strategic efficacy of particular uses of power in pursuit of national aims and advantage.

**Class Dates/Times/Location:** Tuesday, 1230-1600, Fall and Spring, online.

**Instructor:** Greg Foster

**Required/Recommended Texts and Other Resources:** There will be no required text. Assigned readings will consist of contemporary journal articles from such authoritative publications as *Ethics & International Affairs*, *The National Interest*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, and *Harvard International Review*, as well as recent reports from such organizations as Human Rights First, Human Rights Watch, and the United Nations.

**Evaluation/Grading:** There will be two major components of the course grade, apportioned as follows:

- 60%: Individual Classroom Participation
- 40%: Individual Writing Assignments (2):
  - Paper 1: 750-word op-ed essay on the ethical and strategic ramifications of prisoner abuse. **Due at Lesson 6.**
  - Paper 2: 600-word statement of principles (for signature by retired flag officers, for placement in the *New York Times*) on human rights and military operations. **Due at Lesson 12.**

#### Course Outline:

#### Lesson    Topic

- |    |                                                                                           |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1  | Ethics, Strategy, and Statecraft: Definitional and Conceptual Foundations                 |
| 2  | Just War Doctrine and International Law                                                   |
| 3  | Sanctions: Violent and Nonviolent                                                         |
| 4  | Intervention: Protective, Preventive, Preemptive                                          |
| 5  | Covert Action: Assassination, Destabilization, Illicit Trafficking                        |
| 6  | Prisoner Detention and Interrogation: Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo, and Extraordinary Rendition |
| 7  | Technological Power (WMDs, Nonlethal Weapons, Drones, Robots, Surveillance)               |
| 8  | Intelligence and Information Operations                                                   |
| 9  | Official Secrecy and Deception                                                            |
| 10 | Domestic Civil Liberties                                                                  |
| 11 | International Human Rights                                                                |
| 12 | Summary, Synthesis, and Review                                                            |