



**O.P. JINDAL GLOBAL**  
Institution of Eminence Deemed to be  
**UNIVERSITY**  
*A Private University Promoting Public Service*



**JINDAL INSTITUTE OF  
BEHAVIOURAL SCIENCES**

## War and Peace: AI and Conflict

*Course Instructor: MANEKA NAIR SASTHARAM*

Jindal Institute of Behavioural Sciences (JIBS)

4 Credit Course

**FALL SEMESTER 2026**

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Office Hours:

Classroom:

The information provided herein is by the Course Coordinator. The following information contains the official record of the details of the course.

**Part 1:**

<b>Course Title: War and Peace: AI and Conflict</b>	
Course Code	
Course Duration	1 Semester
No. of Credit Units	3
Level	
Pre-Requisites	Nil
Pre-Cursors	Nil
Equivalent Courses	Nil
Exclusive Courses	Nil
Class Timing	

**Part II**

**Course description:**

Artificial intelligence has changed how we live our lives substantially in the past few years.

As such it is also swiftly changing how wars are fought—and how peace is maintained. The global security landscape is undergoing an unprecedented transformation, from autonomous drones in the Russia- Ukraine battlefield and algorithmic targeting and surveillance in the Gaza Strip to cyber warfare in Russia - Ukraine war and information battles.

The course explores the role played by intelligent machines in conflict , how they can influence conflict, power, and international politics. It also aims to explore the possibilities of bloodless war in the age of technological warfare and determine the dangers of the both. Through real-world

case studies, debates and discussions students will examine the promises and risks of AI on the battlefield and beyond.

### Course Aims:

This course aims to explore the transformative impact of Artificial Intelligence across various domains, from predictive policing and crime prevention to enhancing retail and verification processes. While AI offers numerous benefits, it also raises significant ethical concerns, including issues of privacy, data security, bias and discrimination, labour, environment, expression and labour. Students will critically analyse AI's influence on employment, labour rights, economic inequality, and social justice, examining global perspectives, governance mechanisms, and existing legal frameworks to develop strategies for responsible and inclusive AI implementation.

**Course Intended Learning Outcomes:** After successful completion of this course, you should be able to-

1. Explain how AI technologies are changing warfare and international politics.
2. Analyse the ethical and legal challenges created by autonomous and algorithmic warfare.
3. Evaluate real-world case studies from Ukraine, Gaza, Syria, Nagorno-Karabakh, and cyber conflicts.
4. Critically assess the role of AI in surveillance, propaganda, cyber warfare, and peacebuilding.
5. Develop informed policy recommendations on the governance of military AI.

### Assessment Process:

The evaluations will include mostly in-class activities, individual and group work, written assignments and class participation.

### Percentage breakdown of Grade:

70%- Internal assessment

30% - End Semester Exam (Closed book and timed)

### Grading of Student Assessment

Letter Grade	Percentage of Marks	Grade Points	Interpretation
O	80 and above	8	<b>Outstanding:</b> Exceptional knowledge of the subject matter, thorough understanding of issues; ability to synthesize ideas, rules and principles and extraordinary critical and analytical ability.

A+	75 - 79	7.5	<b>Excellent:</b> Sound knowledge of the subject matter, thorough understanding of issues; ability to synthesize ideas, rules and principles and critical and analytical ability.
A	70 - 74	7	<b>Very Good:</b> Sound knowledge of the subject matter, excellent organizational capacity, ability to synthesize ideas, rules and principles, critically analyse existing material and originality in thinking and presentation.
A-	65 -69	6	<b>Good:</b> Good understanding of the subject matter, ability to identify issues and provide balanced solutions to problems and good critical and analytical skills.
B+	60 - 64	5	<b>Fair:</b> Average understanding of the subject matter, limited ability to identify issues and provide solutions to problems and reasonable critical and analytical skills.
B	55 - 59	4	<b>Acceptable:</b> Adequate knowledge of the subject matter to go to the next level of the study and reasonable critical and analytical skills.
B-	50 - 54	.. 3	<b>Marginal:</b> Limited knowledge of the subject matter and irrelevant use of materials, and poor critical and analytical skills.
P1	45 - 49	2	<b>Pass 1:</b> Pass with Basic understanding of the subject matter.
P2	40 - 44	1	<b>Pass 2:</b> Pass with Rudimentary understanding of the subject matter.
F	Below 40	.. 0 ..	<b>Fail:</b> Poor comprehension of the subject matter; poor critical and analytical skills and marginal use of the relevant materials. Will require repeating the course.

### Professional Conduct in Classroom

You are expected to arrive on time in the classroom and follow the classroom decorum. It is expected that you are punctual in class and be seated immediately within the first two minutes so that the class can start on time. Students arriving after a ten minute window from the designated start time will be refused entry/attendance. You are expected to participate in the classroom discussions, activities and presentation. Participation is essential in this class. You are also expected to be respectful when the instructor is teaching. Furthermore, you are welcomed to share

your thoughts in the class but you are expected to do that respectfully and be welcoming of other perspectives in the class even if you disagree with the same.

### **Notes on Plagiarism**

*Plagiarism is not acceptable!* Please refrain from copying and pasting paragraphs and sentences from your reading materials. This includes copying someone's words, structure, grammar, ideas, thoughts, and phrases and passing them as your own. Too many quotes are not acceptable!

What is acceptable? Using one quote which is not more than 40 words with proper citation. Use citation! It's a must! Present the content you read from your reading materials in your own words! Think and critically analyse the content! The source should be always acknowledged in your written material and presentation. All papers in this class will be checked electronically for plagiarism.

### **Attendance Policy**

Students are expected to attend all classes (100% attendance). A student who fails to attend a class is expected to inform the Course Instructor, orally or in writing, the reason for his or her absence. A minimum of 75% attendance is mandatory, failing which, student is not permitted to take the final exam or end term exam.

### **Safe Space Pledge**

Some parts of this course may discuss a range of issues that might result in distress for some students. Discussions and images in the course might also provoke strong emotional responses. To make sure that all students collectively benefit from the course, and do not feel troubled due to either the contents of the course, or the conduct of the discussions, it is incumbent upon all within the classroom to pledge to maintain respect towards our peers. This does not mean that you need to feel restrained about what you feel and what you want to say. Conversely, this is about creating a safe space where everyone can speak and learn without inhibition and fear. This responsibility lies not only on students, but also the instructor.

### **Disability Support and Accommodation Requirements**

JGU endeavours to make all its courses accessible to students. All students with a known disability needing academic accommodations are required to register with the Disability Support Committee [dsc@jgu.edu.in](mailto:dsc@jgu.edu.in). The Committee has so far identified the following conditions that could possibly hinder student's overall well-being. These include: physical and mobility related difficulties; visual impairment; hearing impairment; medical conditions; specific learning difficulties e.g. dyslexia; mental health.

The Disability Support Committee maintains strict confidentiality in its discussions. The students should preferably register with the Committee in the first week of the semester as disability accommodation requires early planning. DSC will approve and coordinate all the disability related

services such as appointment of academic mentors, specialized interventions and course related requirements such as accessible classrooms for lectures, tutorials and examinations.

All faculty members are required to refer students with any of the above-mentioned conditions to the Disability Support Committee for addressing disability-related accommodation requirements.

**Centre for Wellness and Counseling Services:**

Contact: Email ID: cwcs@jgu.edu.in

Mobile: +91 8396907312

**COURSE OUTLINE**

Module No.	Module Name	Movie references
I	The Arrival of AI in War: History, Technology and Power	Eye in the Sky(2015)
II	Autonomous Weapons, Drones and the New Battlefield	Good Kill(2014)
III	Law, Ethics and Human Rights in the Age of Military AI	Official Secrets(2019)
IV	Cyber War, Information Warfare and the Battle for Truth	The Social Dilemma(2020)
V	AI for Peace, Humanitarian Response and the Future of Global Order	Her(2013)

**READINGS**

1. Nicholas Thompson and Ian Bremmer, ‘The AI Cold War That Threatens Us All’ (2018) *Foreign Affairs*
2. Stuart Russell, ‘Stop Killer Robots’ (2018) *Nature*
3. Robert Sparrow, ‘The Ethics of Autonomous Weapons’ (2007) *Minnesota Journal of Law, Science & Technology*
4. ‘The Panopticon Is Already Here’ (2018) *The Atlantic*
5. War, Artificial Intelligence, and the Future of Conflict, *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs*
6. United Nations, *Report of the Group of Governmental Experts on Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems (LAWS)* (UN Doc CCW/GGE.1/2019/3, 2019)

7. United Nations, *International Humanitarian Law and the Challenges of Contemporary Armed Conflicts* (ICRC Report, 2019)
8. United Nations, *Artificial Intelligence and Conflict Prevention* (UN Report, various years—cite specific report if used)