University of Glasgow | School of Social & Political Sciences

DEPARTMENT OF SECURITY STUDIES
Faculty of Social Sciences

SECINTEL Dissertation Feedback & Mark Sheet

Student Matriculation No.	Glasgow 2283812 Charles 71179134
Dissertation Title	Between Defence and Offence: An Analysis of the US "Cyber Strategic Culture"

INDIVIDUAL INSTITUTION GRADING

Glasgow Marker	***Charles Marker***	***Charles Additional Info***
Office Use	*Office Use*	*Please advise ranking*

JOINT GRADING (subject to agreement of the external examiner and approval at Joint Exam Board)

Final Agreed Mark. Markers should make reference to the Joint Charles University-University of Glasgow Grade Conversion Table

A5 [18] *A [Excellent]*

DISSERTATION FEEDBACK

Assessment Criteria	***Rating***
A. Structure and Development of Answer This refers to your organisational skills and ability to construct an argument in a coherent and original manner	
• *Originality of topic*	Very Good
• *Coherent set of research questions and/or hypothesis identified*	Very Good
• *Appropriate methodology and evidence of effective organisation of work*	Very Good
• *Logically structured argument and flow of ideas reflecting research questions*	Excellent
• *Application of theory and/or concepts*	Very Good
B. Use of Source Material This refers to your skills to select and use relevant information and data in a correct manner	
• *Evidence of reading and review of published literature*	Excellent
• *Selection of relevant primary and/or secondary evidence to support argument*	Very Good
• *Critical analysis and evaluation of evidence*	Very Good
• *Accuracy of factual data*	Very Good
C. Academic Style This refers to your ability to write in a formal academic manner	
• *Appropriate formal and clear writing style*	Very Good
• *Accurate spelling, grammar and punctuation*	Very Good
• *Consistent and accurate referencing (including complete bibliography)*	Excellent
• *Is the dissertation free from plagiarism?*	Yes
• *Evidence of ethics approval included (if required based on methodology)*	Not Required
• *Appropriate word count*	Yes

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ADDITIONAL WRITTEN COMMENTS

Glasgow Marker

There can be no doubt that the student has undertaken a through investigation of a varied and complex literature field when researching this dissertation. This is meticulously detailed across the full range of chapters with chapter 5 presenting detailed overview of a range of themes. These themes have in turn been effectively used in the analysis of US policy and strategy. One of the findings presented by the student notes that certain discourses within narratives and strategy persist over time, but there is no real discussion for why this might be. Nonethless, the dissertation is very well structured, with consistent analysis that does appear to prove a shift towards more aggressive/offensive use of cyber albeit restrained - what might be termed self-limited. It is well written and does appear to offer some development of knowledge. If there is to be a critical comment it might be that the emphasis in terms of content focuses much more on the literature (which is undoubtedly important) and less on the empirical analysis (which is where the original contribution lies). Finding a balance is key.

Charles Marker

This is a solid thesis analysing the crucial cyber security documents forming the US cyber strategic culture. Although there has been quite lot written on the development of US cyber policy and strategy the thesis takes a novel approach which does not necessarily lie in the constructivist rounding as the author suggests but rather in placing the concept of ACD into the centre of the analysis. The author convincingly illustrates the shift from the originally defensive discourse dominating the cyber strategic documents to a more offensive one in a context of the strategic utilisation of the ACD. The thesis reveals several major strengths. Namely, it is extremely virtuously elaborated covering huge wealth of theoretical and empirical material. It has also a strong analytical character and provides counter-intuitive conclusions. My only critical notes would be related to the overall coherency of the theoretical framework. Although the research design is clear and functioning some of the theoretical sections could be better connected/tied together making the design more straightforward. Overall, it is a thorough piece of work that deserves a high evaluation. A2/91

Charles University > University of Glasgow Grade Conversion

CU General Grade	Grade Specification for Conversion	Percentage	UoG equivalent
A - excellent	Excellent upper (1)	100 – 96	22 (A1) Excellent
	Excellent lower (2)	95 - 91	19 (A4) Excellent
B – very good	Very good upper (1)	90 - 86	17 (B1) Very Good
	Very good lower (2)	85 – 81	16 (B2) Very Good
C - good	Good upper (1)	80 – 76	15 (B3) Very Good
	Good lower (2)	75 – 71	14 (C1) Good
D - satisfactory	Satisfactory upper (1)	70 – 66	13 (C2) Good
	Satisfactory lower (2)	65 – 61	12 (C3) Good
E - sufficient	Sufficient upper (1)	60 - 56	11 (D1) Satisfactory
	Sufficient lower (2)	55 – 51	9 (D3) Satisfactory
F - fail		50 – 0	8 (E1) Weak

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University of Glasgow > Charles University Grade Conversion

UofG General Grade	Grade Specification for Conversion	Percentage	CU equivalent
A1-A3	Excellent upper (1)	100 – 96	A - Excellent
A4-A5	Excellent lower (2)	95 - 91	A - Excellent
B1	Very good upper (1)	90 - 86	B – Very Good
B2	Very good lower (2)	85 – 81	B – Very Good
B3	Good upper (1)	80 – 76	C - Good
C1	Good lower (2)	75 – 71	C - Good
C2	Satisfactory upper (1)	70 – 66	D - Satisfactory
C3	Satisfactory lower (2)	65 – 61	D - Satisfactory
D1	Sufficient upper (1)	60 - 56	E - Sufficient
D2-D3	Sufficient lower (2)	55 – 51	E - Sufficient
E1-H		50 – 0	F - Fail

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Notes for Markers: When grading the SECINTEL Dissertation markers are asked to reflect upon the aims and learning outcomes for the dissertation. Each dissertation should also adopt a clear security focus reflecting the relevant programme pathway

Aims: The course aims to provide students with independent research opportunities. It will include engagement with research methods training leading up to a period of independent research and the production of a substantial dissertation that builds upon themes and issues covered within the MSc International Security, Intelligence and Strategic Studies. Students will be encouraged to develop their own ideas and demonstrate their capacity for original thought and independent research. The dissertation element aims to enable students to identify and research particular issues or problems, linked to security, intelligence and strategy, at a deeper level than is possible within assessed essays and to develop a critical analysis of the existing body of academic work relating to their topic of choice. Students taking this course will be prepared for further research, study or professional careers through the development of their skills in data collection and analysis, use of original and secondary sources and the conducting and writing up of a detailed research project.

Intended Learning outcomes: By the end of the dissertation, students will be able to:

- Devise a realistic programme of research on a topic reflecting the main themes of the programme;
- Collect, select and critically analyse relevant background literature and arguments of a range of scholars;
- Understand and select the appropriate methodology for dealing with information sources and data;
- Apply these methods to gather and interrogate data in an open-minded, rigorous and undogmatic manner;
- Be able to critically evaluate competing theories and apply relevant theoretical frameworks to guide the study
- Organise the data collected and analyse the findings in a competent manner that allows for a fluid and logical argument to be presented;
- Be reflexive and self-critical about findings and the limitations of analysis;
- Work independently, organising and maintaining own programme of study to meet academic deadlines so as to produce work containing a substantial element of originality.

Word Count:

Dissertations should be 20,000 words in length for students undertaking work-placement as part of the independent study portfolio and 22,000 words in length for standard dissertation students. Word counts exclude the title page, abstract, contents, bibliography and appendices). There is a 10% leeway for words above the upper limit, but no leeway for dissertation that fall under the word requirement. All dissertations must display an accurate word-count including the citations, footnotes/endnotes and chapter/section titles. One point (on the Glasgow 22-point scale) will be deducted for each 750 words under the minimum or over the 10% upper limit.

Language:

The dissertation **must** be written in British English. A Czech Language cover page / abstract may be included

Late Submission Penalty:

Dissertations that do not have an extension or are submitted after an extension deadline are subject to a penalty of 2 secondary bands per day (this includes weekends and holidays) on the Glasgow grading Scale.

Plagiarism:

Dissertations which suffer from excessive (e.g. serious and/or deliberate) plagiarism will be subject to a grade of 0/Fail and be referred to the appropriate authorities at both universities. Dissertations that contain some elements of plagiarism, but which are deemed not to be excessive (e.g. minor instances that are not considered deliberate) based on consultation of both internal markers, should be graded accordingly and will be subject to scrutiny from the external examiner and could still result in a mark of 0 as well as referral to appropriate authorities for disciplinary action.

Consultation prior to final grading:

First marking by both institutions should be completed blind with no prior consultation. Once both markers have graded the dissertation and provided written comments, they should consult on the grading and come to a joint final grade, taking into consideration any late submission or excessive word count penalty. It is the responsibility of the Glasgow marker to oversee this. Where markers cannot come to a joint agreement then the dissertation should be referred to the Programme Convenors at Glasgow and Charles (Dr. Eamonn Butler & Dr Vít Střítecký). The external examiner will be used to moderate any dissertation in this position and the comments referred back to the internal markers for confirmation.