Course Description

This course examines national and international security, especially the nature of the security challenges facing the United States in the 21st century. The United States and other countries face a host of new and resurgent security problems, including the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, biological, and radiological weapons; international and domestic terrorism; ethnic and regional violence; environmental degradation and scarcity; and epidemic disease. At the same time, policy makers and students of national and international security remain attentive to the core of traditional security studies, the use and management of force. This course examines these diverse traditional and non-traditional threats to security, as well as the policy instruments available to states for coping with security threats.

Course Goals

The course seeks to familiarize students with the main approaches to the study of international security; encourage the critical application and evaluation of these theories as explanations of international events; introduce important historical and contemporary issues in international security; and facilitate the interpretation and critical evaluation of contemporary issues and events.

Course Requirements and Policies

Grades: Students are required to attend all classes, complete readings and reading journal entries before the class for which they are assigned, participate in class discussions, take two in-class exams, and submit the final paper in a timely manner. All students should read a daily news source, such as the New York Times, Washington Post, or Foreign Policy on a daily basis. Monitoring the security and foreign policy media provides a common pool of knowledge for class discussions and test questions, as well as furnishing resources for paper assignments.

Daily attendance at class is required and, as such, is a minimum requirement for successful participation in the course. Active participation requires writing journal entries in a timely manner and regularly engaging the readings, lectures, and assignments and interacting with the instructor and other students. Students who are not comfortable speaking in class should talk with me so we can discuss how you might participate effectively in the course.
As part of their participation grade, all students are required to keep a class reading journal. The journal will consist of a brief summary of the assigned readings for each day and short answers to the day’s discussion questions. Journal entries should be approximately 250-500 words and must be completed before class and ready to hand in during class. Students are required to write journal entries for every class session, but I only will collect entries on some days, randomly and without advance notice, throughout the semester.

Students get one “get out of journal free card”—that is, one day on which they do not need to submit an entry when asked. Once that card is played, failure to submit a journal entry when asked will result in a “Zero” for that day. Late journal entries will not be accepted, unless the student has an excuse from the Dean of Students Office or Health Services. It is the students’ responsibility to bring a hard copy of the day’s entry to every class session. If you have an excused absence on a day that entries are collected, those entries are due at the start of the next class session. Journal entries will not receive letter grades; rather, they will receive a “Check plus”, “Check”, “Check minus”, or “Zero”. A Check plus indicates an exceptional entry; a Check means that the entry shows at least the minimum level of effort required; a Check minus indicates that a student did not meet the page requirement or put little effort into understanding the material; and a Zero indicates that a student put very little to no effort into summarizing the readings or failed to complete an entry. I will not penalize students for incorrect summaries, unless those summaries indicate that the students did not read the assigned material or put little effort into answering the questions. Students must keep copies of all journal entries. Failure to produce a copy when requested by the instructor will result in a Zero for that assignment.

An optional extra credit assignment is available to students who wish to improve their participation grades. To help create a pool of research subjects for the Government Department’s Omnibus Project, and to give students insight into experimental and survey research, students will have the opportunity to participate as a subject in a research project this semester. An alternative writing assignment designed to take about the same amount of time will be available to students who want extra credit but who feel uncomfortable participating or are not old enough to give informed consent. (You must be 18.) The total time required will be about one hour. You do not need to do anything at this point to indicate your interest. Someone from the Omnibus Project will contact you via email during the first week of February. If you participate in the Omnibus Project, you may increase your participate grade by a third of a letter grade (i.e., from a B+ to an A-).

Course grades are based on four requirements:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation (including reading journal)</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam #1</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exam #2</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Policy Paper</td>
<td>35%</td>
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Detailed assignments for the three papers are included at the end of this syllabus and will be posted on Blackboard.

All students must submit paper assignments in hard copy and are responsible for retaining a copy of their papers until they have received a grade from the instructor.

Numeric grades translate into letter grades in the following manner:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Numeric Grade</th>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>100-94</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>93-90</td>
<td>A-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>89-87</td>
<td>B+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86-84</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83-80</td>
<td>B-, etc.</td>
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Absences: If you will miss class on the day of the midterm or the day an assignment is due, or if you require an extension, because of a religious holiday or school-sanctioned activity, you must notify me in writing during the first two weeks of classes or as soon as possible after you learn you will need to miss class. If you will miss multiple classes because of illness or other personal issues, please contact the Dean of Students Office.

Late Assignments: You are expected to submit the papers at the times indicated. Receiving a paper extension because of an absence requires notice from the Health Center or the Dean of Students Office. No late papers will be accepted for papers #1 and 2, which must be submitted at the start of class on the day the reading is assigned. Late assignments for paper #3 will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade (i.e., from an A- to a B+) for each day or fraction of a day late. No student can pass this course without completing all assignments. All students are responsible for saving a copy of their papers.

Academic Honesty: Students are expected to adhere to the Honor Code when completing all course assignments and in all aspects of their participation in this course. Violations of the Honor Code, and particularly plagiarism in any form, will not be tolerated. If you have any questions about how and when to cite material or what constitutes plagiarism, please ask me. It is your responsibility to seek clarification of these issues before submitting any assignment.

Disability Services: Persons with documented disabilities requiring accommodations to meet the expectations of this course should contact the Dean of Students Office immediately. If you feel it is important for me to know that you have a diagnosed disability that will require accommodation, the Dean of Students Office must notify me in the first two weeks of classes or as soon as possible after a diagnosis or change of status. If your required accommodations change during the semester, it is your responsibility to notify me immediately.
**Required Texts**

The following text is available for purchase in the bookstore:


*All other readings—those marked with an asterisk—are available through the Black Board website.*

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**CLASS OUTLINE**

I. **Introduction**: The Nature of Security and Security Studies

II. **Traditional Security Concerns in Historical and Contemporary Perspective**
   A. Anarchy and the Balance of Power
   B. Security Institutions
   C. Deterrence and Nuclear Weapons
   D. Contemporary Great Power Politics

III. **New and Resurgent Security Issues**
   A. Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction
   B. Rogue States
   C. Case Study: Iran
   D. Terrorism
   E. Civil War, and Ethnic Conflict, and Humanitarian Intervention
   F. Asymmetric War and Counterinsurgency
   G. Cyberwarfare
   H. Disease and Environmental Conflict

IV. **U.S. National Security Policy**

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**CLASS SCHEDULE**

I. **Introduction: The Nature of Security and Security Studies (January 16, 21)**: What is security and how do we study it? How has the nature and definition of security changed over time? What are the main disagreements about the nature and scope of the security studies field?

   *Arnold Wolfers, “‘National Security’ as an Ambiguous Symbol,” *Political Science Quarterly* (December 1952).

II. Traditional Security Concerns

A. Anarchy and the Balance of Power (January 23, 28): What is anarchy and what are its implications for international relations? How do the nature of military technology and the military balance affect international politics?


ADD/ DROP PERIOD ENDS—January 27

B. Security Institutions (January 30): Why and when is international cooperation possible? What types of international institutions influence international security?


C. Deterrence, Nuclear Weapons, and the Use of Force (February 4, 6): What are the physical and political uses of force? What is the difference between deterrence and compellence? How have nuclear weapons changed the use of force?


Alexander L. George, “Coercive Diplomacy,” in Art and Waltz, pp. 72-78.


D. Contemporary Great Power Politics (February 11, 13): How does the contemporary balance of power influence the security of states? Has the United States achieved nuclear primacy? Are the great powers balancing against U.S. power? Is China a threat to U.S. security and/ or international stability? Is war among major powers likely?


EXAM # 1—February 18

III. New and Resurgent Security Issues

A. Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (February 20, 25, 27): Why do state and non-state actors seek to acquire nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons? How great a threat does proliferation pose to national security? (How) can proliferation be limited?


*Derek Smith, Deterring America: Rogue States and the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (Cambridge University Press, 2006), ch. 5.

B. Rogue States (March 11): What is a rogue state? Can rogue states be deterred or contained? What other strategies can manage rogue states?


C. Case Study: Iran (March 13): Why is Iran developing nuclear technology? Should the United States and/or other major powers use force to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons?


LAST DAY TO WITHDRAW—March 14

D. Terrorism (March 18, 20): What constitutes terrorism and who engages in it? How likely is it that terrorists will use weapons of mass destruction in a terrorist attack? What measures can be taken to prevent or respond to terrorism?

Brian Jenkins, “International Terrorism,” in Art and Waltz, pp. 77-84.


E. Civil War, Ethnic Conflict, and Humanitarian Intervention (March 25, 27) Why have ethnic conflicts and civil wars increased since the end of the Cold War? What risks do these conflicts pose to the international system? What are the most effective international responses to civil wars and failed states?


EXAM #2—April 1

**F. Asymmetric War and Counterinsurgency (April 3, 8):** When do strong states lose wars against weak states?


**G. Cyberwar (April 10)**

*“Cyberwar: War in the Fifth Domain,”* *Economist.*


**H. Disease and Environmental Conflict (April 15)** To what extent do environmental scarcity, infectious disease, or other transnational issues threaten national and international security?


IV. U.S. National Security Policy (April 17, 22) Does the United States have a “grand strategy”? When should the United States intervene militarily? What doctrine should govern the use of force?

Christopher Layne, “From Preponderance to Offshore Balancing,” in Art and Waltz, pp. 283-299.


CATCH-UP, WRAP-UP—April 24

POLICY PAPER DUE—April 28

THIS SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AT THE DISCRETION OF THE INSTRUCTOR.
Assignment: Write a policy paper that examines a current or emerging international security challenge, offering advice to for the U.S. president, a foreign policy decision maker in another country, or the U.N. Secretary General.

Your paper should include the following parts:

(1) outline the nature of the international security problem;
(2) explain its importance to the nation and/ or international system;
(3) review the relevant academic literature on your topic, including literature on the sources of, reasons for, and extent of the problem;
(4) describe at least three potential and proposed solutions to the problem discussed by policy makers and/ or in the relevant academic literature, as well as the strengths and weaknesses of each possible solution;
(5) make an argument for why one course of action is preferable to the others

To select a topic, you may find it useful to look through past issues of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, The National Interest, American Interest, Washington Quarterly, Survival, or International Security. The New York Times or Economist also may provide possible paper ideas. If you are having difficulty selecting a topic, or if you have questions about the appropriateness of your topic, come talk to me about your ideas.

Deadline: The paper is due by 5 pm on Monday, April 28 and should be submitted to my office, Morton 5E, or my mailbox in Morton 10. All late papers will be penalized 1/3 of a letter grade (i.e., from an A- to a B+) for each day or fraction of a day late. No papers will be accepted after 5 pm on May 9.

Evaluation: Evaluation of the paper will be based on:

Thoroughness of research: This is a research paper. You should draw on and cite a wide range of the best and most reliable sources. Be sure to begin your research early. Depending on your topic, a digital library like JSTOR may identify only a fraction of the available sources. Excellent research requires some detective work to find the most appropriate and up-to-date sources. If you find one particularly useful article, use its bibliography to track down other sources. Given the current nature of the paper topics, your research probably will need to go beyond books, chapters in edited books, and academic (peer-reviewed) journals to include other resources, such as policy journals (e.g. Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, National Interest), reports from international and non-governmental organizations, and news and magazine periodicals.
Quality of Analysis: Your paper should not merely describe the topic or summarize another scholar’s arguments and findings. Similarly, this is not a think piece or an extended editorial. It is primarily a research paper. You must identify a security challenge, make an argument about why it is important and the most effective policy response, and you must use factual evidence to support your conclusions.

Quality of Writing and Organization: Write clearly, be concise, and avoid jargon. Pay particular attention to the organization or structure of your paper. It should be organized logically, so that ideas and arguments flow from one to the next. You must proofread your paper for misspellings, grammatical errors, awkward sentences, etc. Please remember that an excellent paper is most often the product of several re-drafts. Even the most skilled writers need to edit and polish their prose.

Length and format: Papers should be no more than 10 pages in length. They should be typed and double-spaced, and use a standard 12 point font and at least one-inch margins. Please number and staple your pages and be certain that your name appears on all pages before you submit the paper. *No electronic copies will be accepted.* You are responsible for retaining a hard copy of your paper until you have received a grade from the instructor.