POLS 6260 – TOPICS IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Spring 2018

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Introduction
Security, along with food and shelter, is the primary need of a human being. In the world of economic scarcities, the craving for security has historically led to further insecurities. Peace has always been at stake in our volatile world full of struggles for individual and group survival. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, history, it seemed, took a peaceful turn. Bipolar rivalry was over, marking the end of the seemingly inevitable nuclear holocaust threat. Common values, such as human rights, free market economy, and sovereignty started spreading beyond state borders decreasing the violence between countries. Or so it seemed…

This course “International Security” introduces key concepts and approaches in the study of security. It covers the history, evolution, development, and the future of international security. During the course students will learn about many of the theoretical approaches and debates related to world politics, starting from ancient times to modern settings; national and international security institutions, and regional security complexes. The course covers such important aspects of global security as the origins and causes of wars; the role of force in international relations; deterrence and coercion (in both theory and practice); diplomacy and international dynamics; and other contemporary threats to national and international security such as terrorism, environmental, and economic security. The reading material includes theoretical works in the field of international security as well as numerous case studies that concern security issues that impact current world politics and international security.

Aim of the course
The main aim of the course is to create within the group of students a better structured vision and improved understanding of national and international security issues. We will embark on our journey in the field of security studies with the key conceptual and theoretical debates. The course will enable students to interpret key texts from the history of international politics and to grasp basic security concepts.

Course objectives
By the end of the semester students should be able to:

- Develop understanding of the main concepts and terminology of national and international security.
- Independently analyze the contemporary concepts of international security.
• Apply the knowledge of the theoretical bases of national and international security in individual research projects.
• Analyze multiple security threats and the ways of coping with them on national and international levels.
• Identify current trends in international security studies.

Course structure

The course consist of the following:

Module I: Introducing International Security

• Week 1 introduces the basics of international security, such as the concepts of power and human nature in international politics.
• Week 2 covers the theoretical bases of the field of international security: Realism, Neorealism, Liberalism, and Social Constructivism, and discusses the viewpoint of these key theoretical schools of thought on national and international security.
• Week 3 focuses on the evolution of international security from ancient times to the contemporary reality. We also begin our exploration on the “security dilemma.”
• Week 4 we continue our discussion of the “security dilemma.”

Module II: War and Peace

• Week 5 looks at the strategic foundations of warfare.
• Week 6 focuses on the use and limits of force on the international arena.

Module III: Contemporary Issues in International Security

• Week 7 analyzes the Cold War threats to international security through the prism of bipolar rivalry: deterrence, containment and the nuclear race.
• Week 8 analyzes intra-state wars.
• Week 9 discusses the issue of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.
• Week 10 lays out the basics of transnational terrorism.
• Week 11 reviews the important issues of international economic security and environmental and resource security.
• Week 12 considers the connection between human rights and international security.

Module IV: US National Security and Globalization

• Week 13 presents efforts directed at coping with security challenges on the level of the United States national security process.
• Week 14 focuses on the component of globalization.
• Week 15 returns to consider efforts to “overcome” the security dilemma and what the future may hold.

There are two required books:


Most of the assigned readings are in the form of articles and book chapters and are posted on Canvas.

**Requirements**

Each of you will be expected to participate in the discussion during each class period. In addition, each of you will take the lead in the discussion on a rotating basis. When it is your turn you are to post to Canvas, by Wednesday at 5pm, questions that directly address the issues raised in the readings for the next day’s class. Remember, everyone will have already read the material so your questions or issues need to address major concerns or problems identified in the reading material.

Specific requirements are:

- Participation/attendance  40 points
- Research Paper             100 points
- Due on the last day of class
- Final Take Home Exam   100 points
- Due Tuesday May 1

Total Points:    240 points

The research paper should be double-spaced with one inch margins and twelve point font. Pages must be numbered and stapled together. No plastic covers. Just have a cover page with your name and A number on it. Citations to references should be clear, consistent and comprehensive; that means author(s) name(s), year of publication, article or book title, page number(s), and when appropriate name of journal and volume number must always be provided. If a reference is from the internet then a URL must be provided.

The final paper should be approximately 15-20 pages.

Do not use Wikipedia because of its unreliability. You can use a few Internet citations, but they must be from recognized organizations or agencies. You would be better served in using books and journal articles were possible. As for the number of citations, you would need to have at least fifteen.
**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism includes knowingly “representing, by paraphrase or direct quotation, the published or unpublished work of another person as one’s own in any academic exercise or activity without full and clear acknowledgement. It also includes the unacknowledged use of materials prepared by another person or agency engaged in the selling of term papers or other academic materials.” (Code of Policies and Procedures for Students, Article V, Section 3A.1) The penalties for plagiarism are severe. They include “#1) warning or reprimand and #2) grade adjustment” (See Article VI, Section 1A); other penalties may also be imposed at the Dean’s discretion. These include probation, suspension, expulsion, withholding of transcripts, denial or revocation of degrees, referral to psychological counseling, and other appropriate disciplinary actions.

**Course Schedule**

**Module I: Introducing International Security**

**Week 1 (Jan 11): Power, politics and human nature in international security**

Smith, chapter 1, pp 1-16.

Thucydides, History of the Peloponnesian War, Book II Pericles’ Funeral Oration; Book III The Mytilenian Debate; Book V The Melian Dialogue.

Saint Augustine, The City of God, Book XII, chpts 22-23 (on human nature); Book XV, chpt 4 and Book XIX, chpts 11-13 (on peace).

Hobbes, T. 1651 Leviathan, Chapter 10 Of Power, Worth, Dignity, Honour, and Worthiness; Chapter 13 On the Natural Condition of Mankind as Concerning their Felicity and Misery; Chapter 14 Of The First and Second Natural Laws, and of Contract, and Chapter 15 Of Other Laws of Nature.


**Week 2 (Jan 18): Theoretical bases of International Security**

Hans Morgenthau, Politics Among Nations, chapters 1 and 2.


**Week 3 (Jan 25): Evolution of International Security and the Security Dilemma**


**Week 4 (Feb 1): Security Dilemma – continued**

Booth and Wheeler, Part II.

**Week 5 (Feb 8): Strategic Foundations of warfare**


**Week 6 (Feb 15): Use of Force in International Affairs and its limits**


Module III: Contemporary Issues in International Security

Week 7 (Feb 22): Cold-War threats to security. Balance of Power, Deterrence, Containment and Nuclear rivalry. Inter-state wars.


Week 8 (Mar 1): Intra-state Wars


*Please be sure that you are familiar with the details and dynamics of the current civil war in Yemen.

Week 9 (Mar 15): Weapons Proliferation


NPT Treaty Overview:


**Week 10 (Mar 22): Transnational Terrorism**


Travis Morris, “The Need to Weaponize Ideas: Anwar Al-Awlaki and William Pierce.”

Mohammed M. Hafez, “Martyrdom mythology in Iraq: how Jihadists frame Suicide Terrorism in Videos and Biographies.” In *Terrorism Studies: a Reader*.


**Week 12 (Apr 5): Human Rights and International Security**


**Week 13 (Apr12): Coping with challenges: US national security process in the times of globalization**


**Week 14 (Apr 19): Pitfalls and Perils of Globalization**


US National Security Strategy 2017 (On-line)


**Week 15 (Apr 26): Security Dilemma: Reform and Transformation?**

Booth and Wheeler, Part III and IV.

*Research paper due today in class.*

Final exam handed out in class – due Tuesday, May 1.