DESCRIPTION

National security professionals must understand the mechanics of the international system, the motivations of the actors that operate within it, and the institutions that govern it. This class will explore the challenges confronted by US foreign policy makers and the approaches that can be taken to address them. Nation states remain the preeminent actors on the international stage, but a range of organizations and non-state actors increasingly challenge their primacy. How can we understand the interests and interactions of these various actors? What are their preferences and what are the limits placed on them? How can national security decision-makers shape international processes to improve outcomes? We will explore international security debates, institutions, policy options, traditional and nontraditional security challenges, and future threats. The course will meet weekly and mix lecture, discussion, group exercises, and invited speakers.

This course aims to provide:

- Familiarity with concepts and perspectives commonly used in the study and practice of foreign policy
- Analytical skills and enhanced understanding of policy analysis
- Writing skills
- Public speaking and presentation skills
- Deeper knowledge of an international issue of particular interest to you

In sum, I have three goals for you. First, I’d like you to learn something about how scholars think about foreign policy. Second, I’d like you to learn about how these processes have unfolded in reality and how policy is made. Third, I’d like you to learn useful skills that will serve you in your academic and professional lives.

REQUIREMENTS

Assignments and Grading (described in detail in separate handout)

1) Background memo 10% 500-700 Words Due 10/2 (no class)
2) Analysis memo 10% 500-700 Words Due 10/16
3) Actor interest memo 10% 500-700 Words Due 10/30
4) Call for Solarium 2017 15% 500-700 Words Due 11/13
5) Solarium Report 25% 2000 Words Due 12/11
6) Solarium Presentation 15%
7) Overall Participation 15%
POLICIES

I try to make myself very available to students, and you should feel free to come talk to me. In addition to regular office hours I am happy to meet with you by appointment.

A reminder regarding plagiarism: don’t do it. Confirmed cases will result in a minimum of a failure on the assignment and a maximum of a failure in the course. This will be in addition to any disciplinary action that the university levies.

MATERIALS

This course is primarily based on important articles, book chapters, mass media, and agency reports. All readings will be available on Collab.

As policy students and future policy professionals, keeping up with current affairs is not optional. We will often tie our discussions to what is going on in the world at the moment. Knowledge of current events will be assumed. In order to participate, you should try to keep up with the news. Media outlets such as the New York Times, The Economist, and Foreign Affairs may be a good place to start. Look for balanced perspectives.

SCHEDULE

PART 1: NATIONAL SECURITY, STRATEGY, AND DOCTRINE

8/28 – Introduction

9/4 – Where do we stand?
  • Jim Manzi, “Keeping America’s Edge,” National Affairs, No. 2 (Winter 2010)
  • Christopher Layne, “The Unipolar Illusion Revisited: The Coming End of the United States’ Unipolar Moment,” International Security 31, no. 2 (Fall 2006)

9/11 – Doctrine, Strategy, and Grand Strategy
  • Solarium Documents
  *International Security* 21, no. 3 (Winter 1996/97)

9/18—Hegemony
• Walt, Steven *Taming American Power*

9/25 – Intervention and its limits
• ICISS, “The Responsibility to Protect” (SKIM this, it’s long)
  *http://responsibilitytoprotect.org/ICISS%20Report.pdf*
• Morton H. Halperin, "Guaranteeing Democracy," *Foreign Policy* No. 91 (Summer 1993)
• U.S. Senate Select Committee to Study Governmental Operations with Respect to Intelligence Activities, Staff Report: *Covert Action in Chile 1963-1973*, 94th Cong., 1st sess., 1975

10/2 – Reading Break

PART 2: THE NATIONAL SECURITY SYSTEM

10/9 – The Department of Defense (Guest, Col. Patrick Donely)
• Peter D. Feaver and Richard Kohn, “The Gap: Soldiers, Civilians and their Mutual Misunderstanding,” *National Interest* No.61 (Fall 2000)
• Stephen Biddle, “Afghanistan’s Legacy: Emerging Lessons of an Ongoing War,” *Washington Quarterly* 37, no. 2 (Summer 2014)

10/16 – Intelligence
• Halperin and Clapp with Kanter, *Bureaucratic Politics and Foreign Policy*, chaps. 8, 9
• Richard K. Betts, “Two Faces of Intelligence Failure: September 11 and Iraq’s Missing WMD,” *Political Science Quarterly* 122, no. 4 (Winter 2007-08)
• Nigel Inkster, “The Snowden Revelations: Myths and Misapprehensions,” *Survival* 56, no. 1 (February-March 2014)

10/23 – Post WWII Institutions and the material foundations of national security
• Alvarez, Jose. “International Organizations: Then and Now,” American Journal of International Law, 100 (April 2006), pp 324-347
• ICRC Report on International Law (SKIM, this one is long) http://www.icrc.org/Web/Eng/siteeng0.nsf/htmlall/p0703/$File/ICRC_002_0703.PDF

10/30 – The NSC, Interagency, and Strategic Planning
• Stephen D. Krasner, "Are Bureaucracies Important? (Or Allison Wonderland)," Foreign Policy No. 7 (Summer 1972)
• Rothkopf, David J. “Inside the Committee that Runs the World,” Foreign Policy March/April 2005: 30-40.

PART 3: THREATS AND ADVERSARIES
11/6 – China + DELPHI METHOD EXERCISE
• Robert Gilpin, "Hegemonic War and International Change," in Betts, ed., Conflict After the Cold War

11/13 – Proliferation, North Korea and Iran
• Readings TBA (available on Collab)

11/20 – NSAs and Unconventional Threats
• John Mueller, Overblown: How Politicians and the Terrorism Industry Infl ate National Security Threats, and Why We Believe Them (Free Press, 2006), Introduction and chap. 1
• P.W. Singer and Allan Friedman, Cybersecurity and Cyberwar (Oxford University Press, 2014), Part II (pp. 67-165)
11/27 – Russia

- John J. Mearsheimer, “Why the Ukraine Crisis is the West’s Fault,” *Foreign Affairs* 93, no. 5 (September/October 2014)

12/4 – SOLARIUM EXERCISE

- https://www.rose-hulman.edu/~pickett/solarium04.html
- https://www.brookings.edu/blog/up-front/2013/07/18/american-foreign-policy-obama-should-summon-his-own-project-solarium/
- https://warontherocks.com/2015/06/a-solarium-exercise-in-strategic-choice/