Global Security

Spring 2014

Preliminary draft syllabus

This graduate seminar introduces students to the basic concepts of the subfield of security studies and considers contemporary security issues and challenges. We begin by reviewing the history of warfare as a basis for theoretical and policy development in the 20th Century. The evolution of national security politics of the United States after WWII and the development of nuclear deterrence within the context of the Cold War with the Soviet Union became the basis for theories of deterrence that produced the dominant conceptual framework of international security of the latter half of the 20th Century and the prism through which nuclear proliferation and arms control have been analyzed. The course will also examine changing technologies and methods of warfare in the post-cold war era and consider their broader implications. We will also consider the implications of globalization for the balance of power and the production of military capabilities as well as the tensions between economic globalization and the imperatives of homeland security. Although the course will primarily focus on military capabilities and survey traditional topics of security studies, we will also consider alternative concepts of societal security and human security that developed in the changing circumstances of the post-Cold War world, called into question certain postulates of international relations theories associated with the nuclear superpower conflict and broadened security studies to embrace topics such as population, migration and the environment.

The course is intended for graduate students in the Political Science department and designed for those who have completed POS 570 Field Seminar in International Relations (or are taking the course concurrently). Others are more than welcome; however, the course presupposes that students are familiar with international relations concepts and theories.

Course Learning Objectives:

By the end of this course, students should be able to:
1. Identify key concepts in readings and describe the steps of an argument
2. Articulate major arguments in the security studies literature
3. Relate those arguments in security studies to major theories of international politics
4. Critically evaluate common readings in discussions with instructor and fellow students
5. Ask incisive questions of texts as well as of fellow seminar participants
6. Construct a research paper proposal
7. Orally present preliminary findings
8. Incorporate feedback from fellow seminar participants to improve final written paper

Required textbooks:


Recommended:


Additional required readings: The bulk of the readings will be journal articles. Unless noted, all required journal articles can be accessed on-line and at the UAlbany Library via “e-journals.” This includes articles in International Security, Security Studies, Foreign Affairs, Washington Quarterly, Foreign Policy, etc.

Readings that are not available in the UAlbany e-journal collection and are marked with an asterisk (*) will be made available on Blackboard.

Description of requirements:

1. Class participation: All students are expected to attend all classes, complete all assigned readings in advance of class and be prepared to discuss them, including cold calls. The base line grade for class participation is a D. Routine attendance with minimal participation will earn a C. Regular contributions to class discussion that are appropriate and draw on readings will earn a B. Students who are consistently well prepared to discuss the assigned readings nearly every class and actively participate in discussions will receive an A for class participation.

2. Personal statement: All students are asked to submit a 250-word statement describing their background, academic interests and research objectives as they relate to this course. These should be posted on the discussion forum on Blackboard. Although mandatory, the assignment will not be graded; its purpose is for students (and the instructor) to get to know one another better.

3. Reaction papers: Students will submit four brief papers (of approx. 700 words) in which student react to required weekly readings of four selected class sessions. These reaction papers are intended generate informed class discussion, so they must be written and submitted before class. It is best for students to hand in a hard copy but they may also email a paper (must arrive in the instructor’s mailbox before class). These papers should briefly state the main arguments of individual pieces assigned, critically evaluate arguments made and (when possible) relate the articles to one another. Each reaction paper is worth 5% of the course grade. Excellent papers will receive 5 points, good 4 points, failing 3 points. A total of four reaction papers must be submitted for full credit. Students may choose which week’s readings to review, however, reaction papers chosen must be distributed in the following manner:

One reaction paper for the readings from a class session of Part I
One for readings class session of Part II
One for readings from a class session of Part III
One for readings from class most closely associated to your research paper topic (Part I, II or III).
If students do not hand in the required reaction paper by the end of each part of the course, the overdue paper will be considered a failing paper. They will not receive credit for the missing reaction paper.

4. Questions for discussion: For those weeks that students do not submit reaction papers, they should formulate two thoughtful questions about the assigned readings (aside from the first class i.e. 8 weeks worth). These questions should be formulated with the audience of the entire class in mind and with the objective of generating discussion. Students must post the questions on the Blackboard discussion board by 9 AM on the day of class and they should paste the questions on a word document that lists by date all of the students’ questions and reaction papers (A schedule of class session dates and titles will be posted and can be used for organization). This inventory of questions must be submitted on the last day of class.

5. Term paper: PhD students are expected to write a paper of about 8,000 words (approx. 30 pp. double-paced, 12 pt, one inch margins). PhD student papers should demonstrate a command of the theoretical literature relevant to the topic selected and develop an analytical argument related to debates in that literature. Students may do any one of the following: 1) a paper that is based on secondary sources; 2) a paper based mostly on primary sources or 3) a paper based on the analysis of existing data sets or data that the student has collected. PhD students should model their paper on articles published in International Security or Security Studies. Masters students are expected to write a paper of about 5,500 words (approx. 20 pp). Masters students may opt to model their papers on policy-oriented articles that are found in Foreign Affairs, Washington Quarterly, etc. All students are expected to draw on material from the syllabus but students should also incorporate significant additional research on the topic chosen (which would be reflected in a majority of references to material not listed as required reading on the syllabus). All students may select a topic of their own choosing as long as it is within the confines of the course and approved by the instructor. For those students having difficulty selecting a topic, a good approach would be to consider a paper topic that delves into the details of one aspect of one of the session topics. At the very beginning of the course, students should carefully review the entire syllabus and scan readings for possible topics.

All students are expected to submit a one sentence paper topic by 2/10. Students are expected to submit a full paper proposal comprised of a 100-150 word abstract, outline and bibliography by 2/24. The proposal should be emailed to rkoslowski@uamail.albany.edu. If students miss this deadline, a half letter grade will be subtracted from the final grade for the paper. Students will give a presentation (8-10 minutes) of their preliminary findings during the second half of the course at times to be determined. Final seminar papers are due on 5/5. All sources must be in a bibliography at the end of the paper and properly referenced in the text (author, date, page number). Papers without proper references are unacceptable and will not be read. Papers should be emailed to rkoslowski@albany.edu (An additional hard copy may also be handed in.)

Grading:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reaction papers</td>
<td>about 20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion questions</td>
<td>about 10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term paper</td>
<td>about 50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>about 20%</td>
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Late assignments will be penalized.

Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated.

Students must properly reference all sources, including assigned readings, in all written assignments.

References to all sources must be clearly indicated. Direct quotations must be marked with double quotation marks (e.g. "...") and the source cited. Indirect quotations must have source cited. Sources require citation each time they are referred to.
Class Schedule:

1/27 Introduction

Required reading:


Recommended:


Part I Security in a Nuclear World

2/3 History and Nature of Warfare

Required reading:


*Carl von Clausewitz, “War as an Instrument of Policy” from On War, Book 5, Ch. 6. (4 pp)*

Watch: The Fog of War

2/10 The Use of Force and Nuclear Deterrence

(paper topic due)

Required reading:


Watch: Dr. Strangelove
Recommended:


**2/17 The Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction**

**Required reading:**


Steven E. Miller and Scott D. Sagan, “Nuclear Power without Nuclear Proliferation?” *Daedalus* Vol.138 (2009), No. 4, pp. 7-18. [This is the introduction to a special issue of *Daedalus* devoted to the spread of nuclear energy].


**Watch:** *Last Best Chance* [http://www.lastbestchance.org/](http://www.lastbestchance.org/)

**Recommended:**


The April 2009 special issue of the *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, which focused on strategic approaches to nuclear proliferation.


**2/24 Arms Control and Nuclear Disarmament**
Required reading:


Recommended:


Part II Revolutions in Military Affairs

3/3 Revolution in Military Affairs and the Wars in Iraq and Afghanistan

Required reading:


Max Boot, *War Made New*, Intro (pp. 7-16) part IV (pp. 307-438)
Recommended:

Donald Rumsfeld, "Transforming the Military" *Foreign Affairs* 81:3 (May-June 2002), 20-32.


3/10 Cyber warfare

Required reading:

Qiao Liang and Wang Xiangsui *Unrestricted Warfare* (Beijing: PLA Literature and Arts Publishing House, February 1999), (selections from FBIS English translation), Intro to Part 1, chapters 1-2 at: http://www.cryptome.org/cuw.htm


Joseph Nye Jr. “From bombs to bytes: Can our nuclear history inform our cyber future?” *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* September/October 2013 vol. 69 no. 5 8-14


Recommended:


3/17 Spring Break No class

3/24 Military Robotics

Singer, *Wired for War*, chs. 1-19 (pp. 19-381).

3/31 Emerging Weapons Technologies and Arms Control

Boot, Ch 13, Epilogue (pp. 455-473).

Singer, *Wired for War*, chs. 20-22 (pp. 382-436)


Recommended:
Part III: After the Cold War: Globalization and Security


Recommended:


4/14 No class

4/21 Defense Industry Globalization


Commission on Human Security, Final Report, Human Security Now, 2003, Read ch. 1 (pp. 1-19), skim the rest, available as pdf at: 
http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/91BAEEDBA50C6907C1256D19006A9353-chs-security-may03.pdf


Recommended:


5/5 International Trade and Travel vs. Homeland Security

(Final paper due)

Required reading:


Recommended reading:

9-11 Commission Staff Monograph on 9/11 and Terrorist Travel at: http://www.9-11commission.gov/staff_statements/index.htm

Marc Levinson, "Freight Pain." *Foreign Affairs* 87 (2008), no. 6: 133-140.