

POLS 437 International Security

Instructor Joel Day

Spring 2013

Office: Clark 328

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Office Hours: By Appointment

Course Overview:

This course tackles the question of how the international system maintains peace and conducts war under the spectre of anarchy. While focusing on general theoretical issues, we will endeavor to confront specific policy cases and therein allow students the opportunity to apply theories of international politics to the topics inherent in the field of security politics.

Learning Outcomes:

1. understand the fundamental theoretical and policy debates that present themselves in the international order.
2. students should have well developed understanding of current trends in intra and inter state war, peace, new warfare technologies, US grand strategy and foreign policy, nuclear strategy and proliferation, privatization of security, state repression, intervention, weak and failed states, self determination and secession movements, civil resistance, and terrorism.
3. students will learn to write effectively about the above topics in various formats, including reading quizzes, policy papers, and exam essays.

Reading: I will assign 150-200 pages of readings per week. Students are expected to engage all assigned course materials. This is an upper division course, and as such, will not spend a lot of time in review of concepts obtained in lower division courses. Rather, we will focus almost exclusively upon primary literature in the field of Security Studies. These journal articles and books are difficult and will require your time. Plan to spend 15 hours per week engaging material for a 3 unit course.

GRADING:

Attendance / Participation: 10%

Reading Quizzes: 20%

Mid-Term 1: 15%

Mid-Term 2: 15%

Take-Home Final: 40%

Attendance / QUIZ: I will be running this course like a graduate seminar, not simply lecturing to an audience. This will require your constant engagement. Come to class prepared. Students must attend class consistently to succeed, especially as exams will cover lecture material. To reinforce this notion, students should be prepared

for “pop” reading quizzes every class. Attendance, Participation, Discussion, and Quizzes together will count for 30% of your overall grade. Everyone is entitled to miss **three** class sessions, no questions asked. For every absence past these three, you will be deducted 2%. Six unexcused absences (in addition to the three) is cause for disenrollment in the course.

Mid-Terms and Final: Mid Terms and Final are take-home and open book / open note. These will take the form of policy-oriented questions and will require you to draw substantially upon the reading to make your own argument. Integrating the reading is key. More direction will be provided closer to exam dates.

STATEMENT ON SENSITIVITY AND INCLUSION: The general premise of this class is this that *minds are like parachutes: it doesn't matter so much what shape or color it is, just so long as it opens*. Studying politics is tricky business, but it does not have to be a source of contention. We will all have different opinions about political matters and that is OK, but we are not here to learn how to be guest commentators for Fox News or MSNBC. While I encourage verbal class participation, everyone needs to understand that there is a difference between debate and disrespect.

There will be absolutely no tolerance of *ad hominem* attacks (look it up) in the classroom. Hateful language or purposeful exclusion on the basis of ideology, identification, race, class, sex, gender, religion or sexual orientation will not be tolerated. You are lucky enough to embark on this journey with 40 other people, each with different perspectives than you have – embrace each other's ideas. Try them on. Get comfortable with challenging one another and letting others change your mind on issues.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION: Any learning disabled student working with either the Learning Disabilities Program or the Academic Advancement program who might have problems with exams, time limits, or other academic requirements should consult with me in the first week of class.

Academic Integrity: This course adheres to the Academic Integrity Policy of the Colorado State University General Catalog and the Student Conduct Code. Colorado State University has long upheld values of academic and scholastic integrity. The General Catalog's "Policies and Guiding Principles" asserts that CSU "expects students to maintain standards of personal integrity that are in harmony with the educational goals of the institution" - citing "principles of academic honesty" as the first example. (1.6 Page 1). Cheating and plagiarism absolutely violate the ideals and mission of the university and are grounds for immediately failing the course and disciplinary action

by the dean. All forms of academic dishonesty will result in a grade of **zero** for the assignment in question, and will thus almost certainly result in failing the course.

Topics and Assignments

Jan 22 - Theories and Approaches to Security I

Grieco, Joseph M. 1988. Anarchy and the Limits of Cooperation: A Realist Critique of the Newest Liberal Institutionalism. *International Organization* 42 (3):485-507.

Jan 24 - Theories and Approaches to Security II

John Owen. 1994. "How Liberalism Produces Democratic Peace." *International Security*, Fall 1994: 87-125.

Chan, Steve, In Search of Democratic Peace: Problems and Promise, *Mershon International Studies Review*, 41:1 (May 1997), 59-91

Jan 29 - Causes of War

Stephen van Evera. 1998. Offense, Defense, and the Causes of War. *International Security*. 22:4 (Spring): 5-43.

Jan 31 - Alliances

Stephen Walt. 1987. *The Origins of Alliances*.

Feb 5 - Great Power Rivalry

Randal Schweller and Xiaoyu Pu. 2011. "After Unipolarity: China's Vision of International Order in an Era of U.S. Decline." *International Security*. 36:1 (Summer 2011)

Feb 7 - The Cold War

Stephen Walt. The Super Powers as Managers

Feb 12 - The Rise of China

Aaron Friedberg, "The Future of US-China Relations: Is Conflict Inevitable?" *International Security*, Fall 2005: 7-45.

Feb 14 - US Grand Strategy

Posen. The Military Foundations of US Hegemony.

Feb 19 - US Grand Strategy II

Colin Dueck, "New Perspectives on American Grand Strategy." *International Security*. 28:4 (Spring 2004).

Gates. A Balanced Strategy.

Feb 21 - Mid Term 1

Due by Midnight Feb 22 on Blackboard

Feb 26 - Nuclear Strategy and History

Kenneth Waltz. Towards A Nuclear Peace.

Feb 28 - Ballistic Missile Defense

Brodie. Is There A Defense?

Fitzpatrick. Prudent Decision on Missile Defense.

Mar 5 - Nuclear Proliferation

Waltz. Why Iran Should Get The Bomb.

Kahl and Waltz. Iran and the Bomb.

Mar 7 - Arms Control

Daalder and Lodal. The Logic of Zero.

Schelling. Stability in a Disarmed World.

Mar 12 - Technology and Conventional Forces

Boot. The New American Way of War.
Singer. Robots at War.

Mar 14 - Drones and Spies

Kibbe. The Rise of the Shadow Warriors.
Jane Mayer. The Predator War.

Spring Break

Mar 26 - Afghanistan

Christia and Semple. Flipping the Taliban.
Simon and Stevenson. Afghanistan How Much Is Enough.

Mar 28 - Iraq

Fearon. Iraq's Civil War.

April 2 - Middle East and the US

Pape. It's The Occupation Stupid.
Osama Bin Laden. Fatwa of 1996.

April 4 - Mid Term

Due by Midnight on April 5th

April 9 - Terrorism

Shultz. Nice Reasons Why We Never Sent Special Operations.
Cronin. How Al Qaeda Ends.

April 11 - Terrorism

Walter and Kydd. Strategies of Terrorism.

April 16 - Civil War and Intervention

Bruce Bueno De Mesquita and Alastair Smith. The Dictator's Handbook.
Day. Buy Off and Buy In: Flipping the Farc.

April 18 - Mental Health Recess: No Class

April 23 - Secessionism

Collier and Hoeffler. The Political Economy of Self Determination.

April 25 - Human Security

Roland Paris. Human Security: Paradigm Shift or Hot Air?

April 30 - Private Contractors and New War

Deborah Avant. The Market For Force.

May 2 - Civil Resistance and Protest

Chenoweth. Why Civil Resistance Works.

May 7 - Obsolescence of War

Pinker. The Better Angels of Our Nature.

May 9 - Final Exam Emailed @ 9am.

May 14 - Final Exam Due @ 9am.