POSC 236 National Security Policy

Preliminary Syllabus - Winter 2002

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Office: Willis 404
Office Hours: 2:30 - 4:00 PM on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays; 10:00 - 11:30 AM on Tuesdays
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Course Description & Objectives:

With the end of the Cold War and the disappearance of the Soviet threat, there has been an ongoing debate concerning the future direction and priorities of U.S. national security/defense policy. This course will join and examine this debate within the context of national interests, national power, and the global security environment from the perspective of the United States. The course is organized along four substantive sections: introduction to the study of U.S. national security, America's grand strategy, the international security agenda, and regional security concerns. At the end of the course, students should have a good understanding of the institutions and processes of U.S. national security policymaking, and be able to specify U.S. national security interests around the world, determine actual and potential threats to those interests, and propose and analyze policy options for dealing with those threats.

Course Requirements, Policies & Grading:

The final grade for this course will be based on four basic requirements: three major policy papers, and active class participation including leading class discussions of the reading assignments. All written submissions must be typed (single-side), double-spaced, in 12-pt. font, and with 1" page margins. Always feel free to come to me seeking help with any aspect of the course.

Each of the three policy papers will be about 12-15 pages in length (excluding endnotes and the list of references). Students must draw their topic for each paper from the readings assigned in each of sections 2, 3 and 4 of the reading assignments. The papers must present empirical rather than normative arguments and rigorous analysis of policy. Furthermore, the papers must, at a minimum, incorporate material from relevant course readings. To receive any grade above a B-, however, a student must produce a thoughtful, comprehensive, and well-written policy paper that borrows ideas and arguments from the assigned readings as well as from "outside" source material to thoroughly and critically analyze the subject. Students are strongly encouraged to discuss and clear their policy paper topics with me prior to beginning their work on them.

Always keep in mind that the reading assignments listed below are very much a part of the course requirements. Active class participation is expected, which means a good class attendance record is also expected through the entire course.

Most class periods will be spent on discussion rather than on lecture. On these days, previously appointed students will lead our critical examination of the specified readings. While all students will be expected to have read all of the articles and book chapters, the appointed students will share the burden of leading and carrying our discussion.

Course grades will be based on the following distribution scheme:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Grade Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Policy papers (3): 25 % per paper</td>
<td>94 - 100 % A</td>
<td>75 - 79 % C+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leading class discussions and active class participation: 25 %</td>
<td>90 - 93 % A-</td>
<td>70 - 74 % C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>87 - 89 % B+</td>
<td>65 - 69 % C-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>83 - 86 % B</td>
<td>51 - 64 % D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>80 - 82 % B-</td>
<td>0 - 50 % F</td>
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</table>

https://acad.carleton.edu/curricular/POSC/classes/Posc236/W02/index.html
All students are expected to maintain the highest standards of **academic honesty and integrity**. Any act of academic dishonesty or misconduct will be referred to the Office of the Dean. For further information, see Carleton College's *Academic Honesty in the Writing of Essays and Other Papers* and the section on "academic honesty" in *Academic Regulations and Procedures, 2001-02*. Both are available in Laird 140.

**Special needs:** Students requiring access to learning tools or special schedules approved by Student Support Services should contact me at the beginning of the course.

**Reading Assignments:**

You are expected to keep up with the reading assignments as we go through the term, which means that you are supposed to *read each assignment before the corresponding class period*. The class lectures and discussions are meant to build upon the assigned reading material.

The following four required books are available for sale at the Carleton bookstore:


F 1/4 *Introductory remarks.*

**Section I: Introduction to the Study of U.S. National Security**

M 1/7 Basic concepts; national power; national interests; the geopolitical context.

W 1/9 The president and the policy triad.

F 1/11 The U.S. military establishment.

M 1/14 The U.S. intelligence community.

**Section II: America’s Grand Strategy**

W 1/16 America’s strategic choices.

- Brown *et al.* 2001. Preface, and parts I & II.

F 1/18 America’s strategic choices (cont.).


M 1/21 America’s strategic choices (cont.).


W 1/23 *When America fights.*

F 1/25  *When America fights (cont.)*

**Section III: The International Security Agenda**

M 1/28  *The end of the Cold War and the "new" world order.*

 Old security concerns in the "new" world (Major Regional Conflicts).

W 1/30  *Insurgency and counterinsurgency (Low Intensity Conflicts).*

 New internal wars and external intervention (Military Operations Other Than War).

F 2/1  *International terrorism causes and responses.*

 **Policy paper #1 is due in my office by 5 PM.**
- White. 2002. Chapters 1, 2, 3 & 4.

M 2/4  *Midterm break.*

W 2/6  *International terrorism causes and responses (cont.)*
F 2/8 Technology, the media and terrorism.


M 2/11 Weapons of mass destruction proliferation and counterproliferation.


- Utgoff. 2000. Chapters 1, 2 & 3.

W 2/13 Weapons of mass destruction proliferation and counterproliferation (cont.).


F 2/15 Weapons of mass destruction proliferation and counterproliferation (cont.).


M 2/18 The United States and nuclear weapons deterrence, disarmament and national missile defense.


Section IV: Regional Security Concerns

W 2/20 Europe.


**F 2/22 Europe (cont.)**

Policy paper #2 is due in my office by 5 PM.


**M 2/25 The Middle East.**


**W 2/27 The Caucasus and Central Asia.**


**F 3/8 East Asia (cont.).**


**M 3/11 Course wrap-up and evaluation.**

**F 3/15 Policy paper #3 is due in my office by 5 PM.**