

Introduction

This is a policy-oriented course on international security issues of the contemporary era. The course deals with fundamental problems of security, and the ways that these problems might manifest themselves in the future. Among the fundamental problems that will be considered are:

- The major forces in the world today, including populism, nationalism, ethnicity, and energy dependence
- Selected global issues such as terrorism, changing relative powers of states, and proliferation
- Emerging regional issues and opportunities, especially in the Middle East and Latin America
- Long run trends and opportunities in the world, such as the effects of the information revolution, changing roles of nation-states, transnational movements, democratization and international organizations
- Current US military decisions, their legitimacy, short- and long-run effects

Course Format

Each week will consist of lecture and discussion. Students are required to participate in online discussions in a way that demonstrates that they have read the required readings for that week and are ready to offer informed, analytical perspectives on the issues raised by the readings. Additionally, students should also keep apprised of current events relevant to the course topic.

Final grades will be calculated in the following way:

Class participation	20%
Quizzes	30%
Mid Term Assignment	20%
Final Assignment	30%

Class Participation

Students are required to participate in class discussions.

Quizzes

Students will be required to complete a quiz posted on the class site every other week. The quiz will be accessible for 24 hours once posted.

Assignments

Mid term and final assignments will comprise fifty percent of the final grade. Instead of a traditional exam, however, students will research, create, and present defense policy proposals that they will defend to the instructor. These presentations should illustrate an understanding of the course material and be analytical and implementable.

Required Texts

[*Strategy in the Contemporary World*](#), 4th Edition, edited by John Baylis et al.

Schedule

1 Introduction: The Domestic Structure of National Security

2 Strategy and Tactics

- (1) Michael Sheehan, "The Evolution of Modern Warfare," in Baylis, ch. 2
- (2) Thomas Mahnken, "Strategic Theory," Baylis, ch 3.

3 The Defense Budget and Strategic Planning

- (1) FY20 requested

4 Strategic Arms Control

- (1) C. Dale Walton, "The Second Nuclear Age..." Baylis, ch. 10
- (2) John Baylis and Mark Smith, "The Control of Weapons of Mass Destruction," Baylis, ch. 11

5 Lessons Learned from Past Wars

- (1) Paul Fussell, *Wartime: Understanding and Behavior in the Second World War*, Oxford University Press, New York, 1989, pp. 129-143.
- (2) Stephen Biddle, "Iraq, Afghanistan, and American Military Transformation," Baylis, ch 13.

6 Intelligence and National Security

- (1) Richard Betts, "Intelligence 'Failures'," *World Politics*, October 1978, pp. 679-693

7 Midterm Assignments due

8 Military Recruitment and Retention

- (1) Michael O'Hanlon, "Who Will Fight For Us?" *Orbis*, Spring 2009, pp. 405-418
- (2) Matthew Hay Brown, "Women in U.S. Military Fight for Right to Serve in Combat," *Baltimore Sun*, January 5, 2013

9 The United Nations and Defense Policy

- (1) Theo Farrell, "Humanitarian Intervention and Peace Operations," Baylis, pp. 313-334

10 Terrorism, Limited War, and Counterinsurgency

- (1) James Kiras, "Irregular Warfare, Terrorism, and Insurgency," Baylis, ch 9

11 Chemical and Biological Warfare

- (1) Dana Shea, "Chemical Weapons: A Summary Report of Characteristics and Effects," Library of Congress, Congressional Research Service, September 13, 2013.
- (2) Centers for Disease Control, "Biological Warfare"

12 Non-State Actors and International Security

- (1) Mark Cancian, "Contractors: The New Element of Military Structure," *Parameters*, Autumn 2008, pp. 61-77.
- (2) "Private military contractors Beyond Blackwater: An Industry Reinvents Itself After the

Demise of Its Most Controversial Firm” Economist (London) 23 November 2013.

13 **Conclusions: International Order and the Limits of Power**

(a) James Wirtz, “A New Agenda for Security and Strategy?” in Baylis, ch 16

(b) Lawrence Freedman, “The Future of Strategic Studies,” in Baylis, ch 19

14 **Final Assignment due**
