Political Science/IR 277W: International Security

Instructor: Thomas M. Dolan
Class Sessions: Mondays and Wednesdays, 13:24-1640, Goergen 109
Office Hours: Tuesday 9:30-11:30 at Harkness Hall 323, and by appointment
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This course surveys the field of international security. It starts by examining the nature of security, force and the threat of force in the international realm. It then examines the international security problems that emerge from the interactions of the great powers, and considers important historical cases including the August 1914 crisis, the initiation of the Second World War, and the end of the Cold War. During the second half of the course, it examines asymmetric international security problems, including wars with weak states, nuclear proliferation, terrorism, ethnic conflicts, and rising powers. It concludes by considering some of the solutions that have been proposed for the problems of international security, including international organizations, democracy promotion, and integration.

Course Goals
1. Students will gain an intellectual framework for understanding and thinking about both enduring problems and current issues in the field of international security.
2. Students will gain a better understanding of specific current and future challenges in international security.
3. Students will improve their ability to comprehend and communicate social scientific approaches to world events.

Please note that none of these goals involve the advancement of anyone’s political or policy opinions (including those of the instructor). While I encourage political activity and the fulfillment of one’s citizenship duties outside of the classroom, a political science course is not a proper forum for the airing of one’s personal politics.

Course Design
This course involves a combination of class sessions involving both lecture and discussion, directed readings, papers, exams, and opportunities for informal discussion during office hours. Each part serves a purpose, be it information transmission and retention, promoting rigorous analysis, or encouraging the development of new ideas. Failing to engage with all parts will diminish the return on your efforts. For this reason, pre-class preparation is essential for this course. Students are expected to have read and considered the assigned material prior to the course, and be prepared to discuss it in class. Questions are placed beneath each reading to help focus your attention to what the instructor believes are the most important points. Please remember that that the material of the course is delivered in both texts and in-class discussion, which means that the texts contain valuable ideas and information which may not be specifically addressed in class, and discussions and lectures will go beyond the readings. You are
responsible for understanding both, so please be sure to raise questions about things you are unsure about.
Because this course is designated as a writing course, particular attention will be paid to the process, nature, and character of good writing.

Assignments

First Paper, [5 pages], Due 13 October, 15%
Make an argument responding to one of the four options. Be sure that your answer is grounded in the literature addressed in the course. Where appropriate, use historical examples.
Option 1: How many poles are most stable? Why?
Option 2: Is anarchy really what states make of it? Or is structure determinative?
Option 3: What is the current state of the world in terms of polarity and hegemony? Does that bode well for world peace?
Option 4: How do trade and other economic factors influence the probability of great power war?

Response Papers [1 page], #1: no later than 6 October; # 2, after the midterm, no later than 6 December, each 5%
Respond to a reading. Only asterisked readings are applicable.

Midterm, 20 October, in class, 20%
Includes both short answer and essay components. Study guide will be distributed 1 week in advance.

Term Paper [10 pages], Due 22 November, 25%
Identify a current problem or challenge in international security, analyze it using theoretical concepts developed in the course, and prescribe a solution or response to it that is theoretically grounded, realistic in terms of available resources, and politically possible.
  • 1 page description of topic, strategy for the paper, and an initial bibliography must be approved by 3 November

Final, Friday, 17 December at 08:30 (that is, 8:30 AM), 20%
Cumulative. Includes both short answer and essay components. Study guide will be distributed by last normal class session.

Participation, 10%
Your active participation in class is necessary if this class is to be a successful learning experience. This means you must come in having read the assignments and join in the class-room discussion of them, making evident that you have read and thought about them. While attendance is not graded as such, excessive truancy can affect this grade, since you are unable to participate when absent.
Assignments are to be turned in by class time on the day they are due. They should be in hardcopy unless unforeseen circumstances prevent printing them in or handing them in a timely manner. For every 24 hours that pass thereafter, 5% of credit is lost, to a maximum of 40% lost. Exams are to be sat at the date and time specified, unless prior approval has been given or a doctor’s excuse is submitted at the next attended class meeting. Exams should be sat within 1 week of the general administration of the exam.

Grades
Grades are assigned to both individual pieces of work and cumulatively. The grade scale I use for both is below (note that “g” refers to the numerical grade you receive). I do not usually curve grades, but reserve the right to do so if I deem it necessary. All material is graded on its own terms, rather than through comparison with other students’ work. For the cumulative grades, I do not round: what you get is what you get.

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<tr>
<th>100&gt;g≥93: A</th>
<th>90&gt;g≥88: B+</th>
<th>80&gt;g≥78: C+</th>
<th>70&gt;g≥68: D+</th>
<th>60&gt;g: E</th>
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<td>88&gt;g≥83: B</td>
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<td>73&gt;g≥70: C-</td>
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Cheating and plagiarism are, of course, unacceptable in academic work, and when suspected will be pursued through the appropriate university channels. Proper citations and standards of integrity are not optional. If you have questions about what this means, please ask the instructor.

Changes to the Syllabus:
In the event that there is a need for there to be any changes to the syllabus, an e-mail will be sent to all students’ e-mail accounts (as maintained by the registrar), and will be mentioned in class at two class meetings. Changes become effective immediately after their second mention in class, or the sending of the e-mail, whichever comes last.

Cancellation of Class: In the event that the instructor needs to cancel class, an e-mail will be sent to all students’ e-mail accounts (as maintained by the registrar) prior to class time.

Readings
All Readings are available on-line through blackboard at my.rochester.edu

Section 1: Introduction to International Security
1 September: Intro

6 September: LABOR DAY—NO CLASS
8 September Geography and Geopolitics
Recommended:
Alfred Thayer Mahan, *The Influence of Sea Power Upon History.* Introduction and Chapter 1.*
www.gutenberg.org/etext/13529

13 September: The Tools at Hand: The Threat and Use of Force
Carl von Clausewitz, *On War.* Book 1.*
Thomas Schelling, *Arms and Influence,* 1966. (selections)
Recommendations
Recommended:

15 September: What do States Want? Security and Power—What are they?
Recommended:

Section 2: International Security and the Great Powers

20 September: Anarchy, the Balance of Power, and Polarities
Ken Waltz, *Theory of International Politics* 115-129.*
Recommended:
E. Gulick, Europe’s *Classical Balance of Power.*
Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War.*

22 September: Revisionism and Bandwagoning?
John Mearsheimer. *Tragedy of Great Power Politics.* Ch. 2 and 5.*
Recommended:
Recommended

29 September: Hegemony and Power Transition Theory
Recommended:
Barbara Tuchman, Guns of August.

4 October: Trade and War
Recommended:

6 October: Is Anarchy what States Make of It? Is there an international society? **Last day for 1st response**
Alex Wendt, “Anarchy is What States Make of It,” International Organization Vol. 46 (1992) *
Recommended:
Hedley Bull, The Anarchical Society, p.3-19; 44-49.
13 October: Managing Security? Concerts and Collective Security
Further Recommendation:
Harold Nicholson, *The Concert of Vienna*.

18 October: The Outbreak of WWII **First Paper Due**
E. H. Carr, *The Twenty Years Crisis*, selected reading.
Recommended:

20 October: Midterm

Section 3: International Security Among Unequal Powers

25 October: A Uni-polar Moment?
Recommended:

27 October: Crucial Case—China
Recommended:

1 November: Weaker States and Nuclear Proliferation
Recommended:

3 November: Crucial Cases—India and Pakistan

Recommended:

8 November: Asymmetric War: Why the Weak Win (Sometimes)

Recommended:
*US Army Counter-insurgency handbook, chapter 2.*
http://usacac.army.mil/cac/repository/materials/coin-fm3-24.pdf [note: this links to the whole manual, which is a large file (>13MB)]

*The Battle of Algiers*, movie, 1965

10 November: Crucial Cases—Iraq and Afghanistan
TBA...two months is a long time in both places.

Recommended:
A. Exum et al., “Triage: the Next Twelve Months in Afghanistan and Pakistan.”

15 November: Terrorism

Recommended:
17 November: Weak States and State Failure
Recommended:

22 November: Humanitarian Interventions **Term Paper Due**
Recommended:
Blackhawk Down, movie, 2002

29 November:
The Environment as a Security Challenge
Geoffrey Parker, “States Make War But Wars Also Break States,” *Journal of Military History*, 71:1 (Jan. 2010), pp. 11-34. *(the important stuff starts on the middle of p. 14 [publication pagination]*)
Recommended:
Daniel Yergin, “It’s Still the One,” *Foreign Policy*. September/October 2009

1 December: Human Security
Recommended:
Section 4: Solving the Problems of International Security?

6 December: International Organizations? **Last day for second response**

Recommended:
Foreign Affairs, January/February 2008

8 December: Democracy?

13 December: Integration?

Final Exam: Friday, 17 December at 08:30.
Other Books, etc. about International Security

Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War*
Hugo Grotius, *De Jure Belli ac Pacis*
Niccolo Machiavelli, *The Prince*
Emanuel Kant, *Perpetual Peace*
Norman Angell, *The Great Illusion*
Kenneth Waltz, *Man, the State, and War*
EH Carr, *Twenty Years Crisis*
Robert Jervis, *Perception and Misperception in International Politics*
Reinhold Niebuhr, *Moral Man and Immoral Society*
Alexander George and Richard Smoke, *Deterrence in American Foreign Policy: Theory and Practice*
Samuel Huntington, *The Clash of Civilizations*
Jeffrey W. Legro and Andrew Moravcsik, "Is Anybody Still a Realist?" *International Security* 24 (Fall 1999), 5-55