

POLI 142J
National Security Strategy

<http://slantchev.ucsd.edu/courses/nss/>

Winter 2010
TTh 9:30a-10:50a
PETER 110

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DESCRIPTION: This course examines the relationship between military power and foreign policy. We shall develop rigorous analytic skills to analyze the uses of force and threats to use force to achieve political objectives. We shall begin with a broad overview of strategies for national security, the tools of coercive diplomacy, and the impact of thermonuclear weapons on strategic thought. We shall then survey the development of U.S. strategic doctrine since the end of the Second World War. We shall then apply our knowledge to the analysis of current security issues such as regional deterrence, nuclear proliferation, national missile defense, preemptive war, and terrorism. By the end of the quarter, you will be expected to:

1. Understand the relationship between diplomacy and violence;
2. Know the evolution of U.S. national security policies;
3. Be able to analyze and critique these policies; and
4. Employ the fundamentals of strategic interaction in your analysis.

PREREQUISITES: This is an advanced undergraduate course and correspondingly the reading load is not light. Even though no previous advanced work in international relations is necessary, students will be expected to work through material that is moderately technical. No mathematical skills beyond algebra and elementary deductive logic will be required, but be warned that as upper-division students you will be expected to move back and forth between stark analytical stylization and rich historical narratives quite a bit.

TEACHING ASSISTANTS: Three graduate students will assist me in this course:

Cameron Brown

Office: SSB 322

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Megan Becker

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Sam Seljan

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REQUIREMENTS: The course requirements consist of a midterm exam (30%), a final exam (45%), and an essay (25%). The exams will consist of identification, short-answer, and essay questions, and will be administered in class. The final will be comprehensive. You must take both exams to receive a passing grade for the course. Sample exams (with answers) are available on the course website. The format will be the same.

WRITTEN ESSAY. The essay topic, content requirements, and reference instructions, will be given in class on February 23, and the essays will be due at the beginning of class on March 9. Late essays will incur a 20% grade penalty for each day after the deadline. The essay must be typed, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins all around, and in typeface of 11 points. Essays that exceed 12 pages in length when formatted according to these requirements will not be accepted.

MISSED EXAMS. Essay extensions and make-up exams will only be given under valid, documented, and extreme circumstances. If you know you will miss an exam for a legitimate reason, notify me at least a week in advance. E-mail is perfectly acceptable. If you are not able to contact me in advance, you must do so as soon as possible. I am a reasonable person and will work with you to resolve reasonable problems. It is your responsibility to arrange with me to take a makeup exam.

ATTENDANCE. Class attendance will be important for your performance on the exams. Much of the material that we shall cover may either not be in the readings or not be in easily digestible form. Taking notes will help you structure the substance. The lecture notes on the web site are extensive but class presentation should make organization much more straightforward. Some material is just easier to learn when you hear someone explain it, so do not rely on readings only. Do not print out the lecture notes too far in advance because I may update them up to the day before class.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY. You are expected to do your own work. Students caught cheating on exams or plagiarizing their essays will receive a failing grade for the course and will be turned over to the dean of their college for administrative sanctions.

GRADE APPEALS. You can expect to be graded solely on your academic performance. This includes clarity of thought, knowledge of the material, composition, spelling, and grammar. Students who believe to have received an incorrect grade or a grade based on non-academic criteria should formally appeal it to me. The appeal will consist of a single typed page that identifies the problem and presents a reasoned argument that the grade fits the appeal criteria listed above.

READINGS: The course readings will be drawn from a number of books and articles. The following required books are available for purchase at the bookstore:

- Ambrose, Stephen E., and Douglas R. Brinkley. 1998. *Rise to Globalism: American Foreign Policy Since 1938*. 8th Revised Edition. New York: Penguin Books.
- Schelling, Thomas C. 2008. *Arms and Influence*. 2nd Edition. New Haven: Yale University Press. (The first edition would work too.)
- Smoke, Richard. 1992. *National Security and the Nuclear Dilemma*. 3rd Edition. New York: McGraw-Hill. (This is now out of print, but we have made a deal with the publisher to reproduce it, at a lower price, for this course.)

In addition, we shall read a number of articles and primary documents. These are all listed on the course website.

SCHEDULE: This is only the topic outline. The complete and frequently updated schedule of readings is on the course website.

PRELIMINARIES: INTRODUCTION

- Course Overview
- Strategic Theory and the History of War

ANALYTICS: COERCIVE DIPLOMACY AND MILITARY POWER

- Games and Information
- Strategies in Extensive Form Games
- Best Responses and Nash Equilibrium
- Nash Equilibrium in Mixed Strategies
- Credible Moves and Perfect Information
- Incomplete Information and Sequential Equilibrium
- Revealing and Eliciting Information
- Credible Commitments in Deterrence and Compellence

HISTORY: EVOLUTION OF U.S. STRATEGIC DOCTRINE

- The Nature of the Soviet Union, 1917-1945
- Containment as Grand Strategy during the Cold War
- Sword and Shield: Deterrence and Defense of Europe, 1945-1952

EXAM: MIDTERM

- Thermonuclear War and Nuclear Deterrence
- Limited War and Korea, 1950-1953
- The New Look: Massive Retaliation, 1953-1960
- The Cuban Missile Crisis
- Into the Missile Age: Flexible Response, 1961-1969
- The Vietnam War, 1954-1975
- Détente and the Strategy of Sufficiency, 1970-1980
- Evil Empire: The Reagan Revolution, 1981-1989
- New World Order, 1990-2000

EXAM: FINAL (MARCH 16, 8:00A-11:00A)