Political Science 142: Regional Security (Fall 2011)

Dr. Randy Willoughby (rwilloug@sandiego.edu)

Office Hours: Mondays Wednesdays 415 to 445 Roundtable in Price Center

Course Description: This course examines contemporary security as a political science subfield at the intersection of comparative politics and international relations. We visit five regions of the world--Africa, Latin America, East Asia, Europe, and the Middle East, and we explore security topics related to domestic politics, diplomatic history, military technology, drug trafficking, terrorism, insurgency, civil war, nuclear weapons, and energy, among other things. Class sessions are normally organized in lecture format, but regular student attendance, preparation, and participation are essential. In class quizzes are a frequent feature of the course, students who miss a class quiz may write a three page paper to compensate, but no more than once.

Readings: Students are responsible for three to four readings per week running a total of around 100 to 125 pages each week. Many readings are on UCSD electronic reserve; some readings are on websites like the Army War College or Carnegie Endowment, as noted in the citation; and some readings may need to be accessed by way of full text library links.

Exams and Quizzes: There will be two exams, one tentatively November 2, and one during finals week (December 8), each worth 37.5 per cent of the course grade. As already indicated, quizzes running 10 to 15 minutes may be offered at any time and those grades are weighted and factored into the following exam grades; guidance for the quizzes is often but not always provided in the previous class. Quizzes are intended to help students prepare for the exams and to boost their grade average in the class (since quiz questions tend to be much more straightforward than exam questions.) See the calendar below for the planned course itinerary, although modifications are always possible.

Papers: Students write one six to eight page literature review on any week of their choice other than the introductory week, week two, and week six. The papers are due on Monday in class (hard copy) of the corresponding week. More specific guidelines are provided below, be sure to check them meticulously before submitting papers.

Schedule and Readings

Week One (Week of September 26 and 28) Introduction

Johnstone, "Germany's Political Awakening," The Politics of Euromissiles.

John Chipman and Smith, "South America: Framing Regional Security," Survival (Dec Jan 2010.)


Recommended Movie: Lives of Others

Week Two (October 3 and 5) Africa/Latin America

Milam and Jones, "Ivory Coast: Another... Democratization," Current History (May 2011.)

Pelton, Chapter 12, "The Bight of Benin Company," Licensed to Kill.

Grann, "Murder in Guatemala," New Yorker (April 4, 2011.)

Hylton, "Evil Hour in Colombia," pages 97 to 131.

Recommended Movie: Sin Nombre

Week Three (October 10 and 12) Mexico

Finnegan, "Letter from Mexico," New Yorker (May 31, 2010.)

Shirk and Astorga, "Drug Trafficking ..." in Olson, Shirk, and Selee, eds. Shared Responsibility.

Kleiman, "Surgical Strikes in the Drug Wars," Foreign Affairs (September/October 2011.)


Recommended Movie: El Violin

Week Four (October 17 and 19) United Kingdom

Freedman, "The Special Relationship," Foreign Affairs (May June 2006.)


Giegerich and Wallace, "Not Such a Soft Power," Survival (Summer 2004.)

Recommended Movie: Lawrence of Arabia

Week Five (October 24 and 26) France

Reiss, "Laugh Riots," New Yorker (November 19, 2007.)


Shapiro and Suzan, "The French Experience in Counterterrorism," Survival (Spring 2003.)

Recommended Movie: Hate (La Haine)

**Week Six (October 31) Central and Southeast Europe**


Andrew Wilson, "Eastern Europe's Balancing Act," Current History (October 2010.)

Recommended Movie: Grand Illusion

**Midterm Exam (tentatively November 2) covering half of week one (Europe and Latin America), all of week two (Africa and Latin America), and all of weeks three, four, and five (Europe.)**

**Week Seven: (November 7 and 9) Korea**

Chalmers Johnson, Chapter on South Korea, Blowback.

Funabashi, Chapter 6, "Brotherhood," Peninsula Question.


Don Oberdorfer, Chapter 12, The Two Koreas.

Recommended Movie: Shiri

**Week Eight (November 14 and 16) China**

Fred Kaplan, "China's Geography," Foreign Affairs (2010.)

David Shambaugh, "How to Deal with the New China," Current History (September 2010.)

Patrick Tyler, Chapter on Reagan, A Great Wall.

**Ashley Tellis, Dogfight, Carnegie Endowment for Intl Peace (2011), pages 1 to 39.**

Recommended Movie: Hero

**Week Nine (December 21) Iran**
Olivier Roy, "Iran Poised Between the Nuclear Bomb and Bombardment," pages 121 to 140 in The Politics of Chaos in the Middle East.


Michael Scott Doran, "The Heirs of Nasser," Foreign Affairs (May/June 2011.)

Hersh, New Yorker (June 6, 2011.)

Recommended Movie: Syriana

**Week Ten (November 28 and 30) Turkey**


Menon, "US and Turkey: End of an Alliance," Survival (Summer 2007.)


Recommended Movie: Yol

**Review Session (December 4)**

**Final Exam (December 8) covering half of week one (Asia and Middle East), and all of weeks six through ten (Asia and Middle East.)**
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Paper Guidelines (submit current and past papers in an inexpensive pocket folder; consider writing your paper early, making an appointment and taking the draft to the writing center for suggestions; writing center might be required for later papers if earlier papers receive grades below a B.)

A. Movie Review Guidelines:

1. spend equal time discussing the movie and the assigned article; the paper should run three to four pages.

2. you might want to do a modest amount of research about the movie; you might want to read the corresponding article before you see the movie.

3. give an overview of the movie on the first page, and include a description of a specific five to ten minute passage in the movie (parenthetically insert the time into the movie, i.e. minutes 44 to 52.)

4. give an overview of the reading on the second page.

5. develop the connections between the movie and the reading on the third page; this discussion can spillover onto a fourth page.

B. Literature Review Guidelines

1. select a weekly session and the corresponding four articles; provide roughly equal time for your four authors in the paper even if the articles are of varying length.

2. be sure to introduce your authors on the basis of their overall sense of purpose in their articles, but then integrate and compare your authors; do not just present them one by one in a series of summaries; you can refer to your authors by name.

3. organize your discussion around three themes with corresponding subheadings;

4. begin the paper with an introductory overview that is not a perfunctory version of the bibliography, running around half a page;

5. invest tender loving care in the composition and editing; use an absolute minimum of citations, you are the writer, not the cutter and paster.

6. provide a cover page with your name, a visual aid, and bibliography;

7. the paper excluding the cover page should run six to eight pages using standard font, one inch margins, and double spacing.
**Student Information Sheet (Due on or before Saturday noon by email)**

Name

Email Address (please check your sandiego.edu email)

Cell Phone (optional)

Security Experience (none required)

Languages and level of proficiency (can you read newspapers in that language)

Rank regions (or countries or movies more specifically) of Greatest Interest (1 = least interest, 6 = greatest interest)

Africa

Latin America

West Europe (England and France)

Central and Eastern Europe (Germany and Central Europe)

NATO

Asia

Middle East