Political Science 142M: Regional Security (Fall 2014)

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Office Hours: Mondays OR Wednesdays TBA 700 to 800, Roundtable Pizza

Course Description: This course examines contemporary security at the intersection of comparative politics and international relations. We visit four regions of the world (Latin America, Asia, Europe, and the Middle East) and consider a variety of security topics—domestic politics, diplomatic history, military technology, drug trafficking, terrorism and insurgency, nuclear weapons, and energy security, among others. Consistent attendance is expected (and necessary to do well.) Students from majors other than political science and international relations are welcome as long as they are committed to the course.

Readings: Students read four journal articles or book chapters per week. Most of the readings are on UCSD Reserve (password RW142M).

Exams and Quizzes: There will be two exams (Wednesday November 19 and Monday November 24.) Quizzes running around 10 minutes (normally on the readings) and take home short papers may be assigned at any time and those scores will be factored into the exam grades normally with the same weight as an exam question. Quizzes are intended to help students (by reducing the amount of material that would need to be reviewed for the exams, by raising the average grade for the class since single question quizzes tend to be less challenging than exams with multiple questions, and by helping students stay on schedule.) There are no make-up quizzes regardless of the circumstances; missing one quiz will normally not affect a grade. Always be prepared to summarize the first of the four required readings on Monday of the corresponding week and the third of the four required readings on Wednesday of the corresponding week.

Papers: Students will write a literature review on some of the readings of the last two weeks of the semester running 6 to 8 pages. Papers are not accepted by email, early papers are rewarded (one to two grade notches) and late papers are penalized (one grade notch per day.) All papers should be typed and double spaced, with normal font. More guidance will be provided, be sure to follow the guidance precisely.
Grades: Each of the two exams (including corresponding quizzes) will count 37.5 per cent of the grade. Papers will count 25 per cent of the course grade.

Readings:

Week One (Week of October 6): Overview
Nicoll, "Scotlands Vote on Independence," Survival (June July 2014.)
Johnson and Jonson, "Ending the Forever War," Survival (February March 2013.)
Filkins, "What We Left Behind," New Yorker (April 28, 2014.)
Recommended Movie: Slumdog Millionaire

Week Two (Week of October 13): France
Johnstone, Chapter, "La Nouvelle Republique," The Politics of Euromissiles.
Kepel, "The Battle for Europe," The War for Muslim Minds.
Anderson, "Letter from Timbuktu," New Yorker (July 1, 2013.)
Recommended Movie: Hate or Battle of Algiers

Week Three (Week of October 20): Europe
Ash, "The Crisis of Europe," Foreign Affairs (September/October 2012.)
Papic, "The Divided States of Europe," STRATFOR (June 28, 2011.)
Freedman, "Ukraine and Crisis management," Survival (June July 2014.)
Recommended Movie: Grand Illusion or The Lives of Others

Week Four (Week of October 27): China
Tyler, Chapter on Reagan, A Great Wall.
Shirk, Chapter 3, China: Fragile Superpower.
Kaplan, Chapter 2, Asia's Cauldron.
Recommended Movie: Hero or Fearless

**Week Five (Week of November 3): Asia**

Singh, Chapter 6, "India's Destructive Decades," India at Risk.
Curtis, "Japan's Destructive Hawks," Foreign Affairs (March/April 2013.)
Gompert, "North Korea: Preparing for the End," Survival (June July 2013.)
Funabashi, Chapter 6, The Peninsula Question.
Recommended Movie: Shiri or Dodeskaden

**Week Six (Week of November 10): Mexico**

Krause, "The Ugly Legacy of the Mexican-American War," Foreign Affairs (Nov/Dec 2013.)


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


Recommended Movie: Herod's Law or El Mariachi

**Week Seven (Week of November 17): Latin America and First Exam**


Chipman and Smith, "Framing Regional Security," Survival (Dec/Jan 2010.)

Recommended Movie: Sin Nombre or Dancer Upstairs
November 19 Exam will tentatively cover Europe and Latin America readings and lectures and any recommended movie of your choice. There are no make up exams except for compelling and documented circumstances.

Week Eight (Week of November 24): Second Exam and Thanksgiving

November 24 Exam will tentatively cover Asia and Mexico readings and lectures. There are no make up exams except for compelling and documented circumstances. No Class on Thanksgiving Wednesday in exchange for having seen one recommended movie.

Week Nine: (Week of December 1): Turkey

Filkins, "Letter from Turkey," New Yorker (March 12, 2012.)
Taspinar, "The End of the Turkish Model," Survival (April May 2014.)
Ozkan, "Turkey, Davutoglu and Pan Islamism," Survival (Aug-Sep 2014.)
Recommended Movie: Lawrence of Arabia

Week Ten (Week of December 8): Middle East

Jamai, "The Crusader," New Yorker (October 7, 2006.)
Hessler, "Revolution on Trial," New Yorker (March 10, 2014.)
Recommended Movie: Gatekeeper or Kingdom of Heaven

Week Eleven (Week of December 15): Final Paper Due

Papers are due Wednesday December 10 in Class (two notch reward, B plus becomes A); Monday December 15 in location TBA (one notch reward B plus becomes A minus); or during Final Exam time in Final Exam room (no grade bonus.) Papers will not be accepted after December 18 unless circumstances are compelling, documented, and require an Incomplete Grade for the course.