Tentative Syllabus for Political Science 142M: Regional Security (Fall 2015)  

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Office and Hours: Mondays after class at Roundtable Pizza 700 to 800 pm  

Course Description: This course examines contemporary security challenges in four regions of the world--Europe, Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East. We explore a variety of security topics, including domestic politics, diplomatic history, military technology, drug trafficking, terrorism and insurgency, nuclear weapons, energy security, and others. Attending class and doing the readings carefully and on schedule are fundamental to success in the class.  

Readings: Students have on average three readings per week over the course of the quarter (around 30 readings total, typically journal articles from Survival, the New Yorker, and Foreign Affairs, with a few readings from websites.) Every reading for this course should be available for free. In the event an article cannot be provided free and full text by the library, a substitute will be arranged.  

Grades: Tentatively, there will be regular quizzes (some conducted in class and some take home), two exams, and one literature review, each worth around 25 per cent of the grade. Quizzes are intended to help students by reducing the amount of material that needs to be reviewed for the exams and by raising the average grade for the class since focused assignments are normally less challenging than exams and long papers. The lowest quiz score for the semester will be dropped, except for the last two quizzes on the Mideast, but there are no make-up quizzes. Always be prepared to summarize the first of the required readings for a particular week on Monday and the third of the required readings for Wednesday, unless otherwise announced. On Monday of the last week of class, be prepared to summarize the first two readings and on Wednesday of the last week of class, be prepared to summarize the second two readings.  

Papers: Papers must integrate rather than simply summarize the material. Papers will run 6 to 8 pages, will draw on five readings from five different sections of the syllabus with at least one reading per region, and will not require any outside research. All papers should be typed and double spaced with normal font (unless requested otherwise), should be organized with subheadings, and should have a
visual aid and bibliography on the cover page, with footnotes or endnotes as well. Papers can be submitted at any time but only directly to the teaching assistant or to the instructor in person, and no later than the Final Exam time and place. They may not be emailed and may not be submitted to the department office. Late papers and make up exams are only permitted with documentation of an emergency.

**Preview**


**Week One (Week of September 28): Introduction**

Packer, "The Other France," New Yorker (August 31, 2015.)

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

Ferguson, "How South Korea Could Acquire and Deploy Nuclear Weapons," NPEC Website (2015.)

Hokayem, "Iran, the Gulf States and the Syrian Civil War," Survival (December 2014 to January 2015.)

**Week Two (Week of October 5): France and UK and Germany**

Cassidy, "The David Kelly Affair," New Yorker (December 8, 2003.)

Lewis and Tertrais, Deterrence at Three, Survival (August September 2015.)

Packer, "The Quiet German," The New Yorker (December 1, 2014.)

Recommended Movie: Lives of Others and Battle of Algiers

**Week Three (Week of October 12): Europe and Russia**

Ash, "The Crisis of Europe," Foreign Affairs (September/October 2012.)

Gessen, "Letter from Moscow: The Accused," New Yorker (March 23, 2009.)

Freedman, "Ukraine and the Art of Limited War," Survival (December January 2015.)
Recommended Movie: Eastern Promises

**Week Four (Week of October 19): India**

Wolpert, Chapter 22, A New History of India.

Kaplan, Chapter 7, Monsoon.


Recommended Movie: Slumdog Millionaire

**Week Five (Week of October 26): China**

Evan Osnos, "Born Red," New Yorker (April 6, 2015.)

Kaplan, Chapter 2, "China's Caribbean," Asia's Cauldron.

Raine and Le Miere, "Mapping the History," Regional Disorder: The South China Sea.

Recommended Movies: Hero, Fearless, IP Man

**Week Six (Week of November 2): Japan and the Koreas**

Johnson, Chapter on South Korea, Blowback.

Funabashi, Chapter 1, The Peninsula Question.


Recommended Movies: Zaitochi the Blind Swordsman and Shiri

**Week Seven (Week of November 9): Mexico**


Goldman, "Crisis in Mexico: The Missing 43," New Yorker (June 8, 2015.)

Recommended Movie: Herod's Law
**Week Eight (Week of November 16): South and Central America**

Johnson and Jonson, "Ending the Forever War," Survival (February March 2013.)

Anderson, "The Commandantes Canal," New Yorker (March 10, 2014.)

Filkins, "Iran, Argentina, and a Stunning Allegation," New Yorker (July 20, 2015.)

Recommended Movies: Sin Nombre and The Dancer Upstairs

**Week Nine (Week of November 23): Second Exam (Monday)**

No Class on Wednesday before Thanksgiving; substitute one of the recommended movies for class session.

**Week Ten (Week of November 30): The Middle East**


Filkins, "Letter from Turkey," New Yorker (March 12, 2012.)

Fromson and Simon, "ISIS: Dubious Paradise of Apocalypse Now," Survival (June July 2015.)

Recommended Movies: Gatekeeper and Kingdom of Heaven

**Week Eleven (Thursday, December 10, 700 pm): Papers Due**