CRISIS AREAS IN WORLD POLITICS

This course will examine the most critical areas in contemporary world politics. While the emphasis will be placed on American involvement in each crisis, an effort will also be made to acquaint the student with its historical and political background. Students are required to read each weekly assignment before class in order to allow meaningful dialogue after the lecture. There will be a midterm and a final exam.

TOPIC 1  LOOKING INTO THE ABYSS: THE CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS
*John G. Stoessinger, Nations at Dawn, Sixth Edition, Chapter 12

TOPIC 2  THE WAR AGAINST TERROR: SADDAM HUSSEIN, OSAMA BIN LADEN, & THEIR LEGACIES
*Paul Pillar, “Intelligence, Policy, and the War in Iraq,” Foreign Affairs, March/April 2006

TOPIC 3  THE HOLOCAUST: REFLECTIONS ON GERMANY’S PAST AND FUTURE
April 17  READINGs: *Thomas Keneally, Schindler’s List, Entire Book.
*John G. Stoessinger, Why Nations Go to War, Tenth Edition, Chapters 1, 2 and Epilogue

TOPIC 4  THE MIDDLE EAST: THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT
April 24  READINGs: *John G. Stoessinger, Why Nations Go to War, Tenth Edition, Chapter 7

May 1, MIDTERM EXAM
TOPIC 5 RUSSIA, THE FALL OF COMMUNISM, & BEYOND
  *George F. Keanan, “Communism in Russian History,” *Foreign Affairs*, Winter 90/91

TOPIC 6 A. THE UNITED STATES AND CHINA TODAY & TOMORROW
  *Andrew Nathan, “The Tiananmen Papers,” *Foreign Affairs*, Jan/Feb 2001

B. JAPAN: PHOENIX RISING?

TOPIC 7 SOUTH AFRICA & RWANDA & DARFUR: PROFILES IN BLACK & WHITE
  *“Terrorist Threat in Africa,”* *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2004

TOPIC 8 THE BALKANS, THE WORLD'S TINDERBOX & INDIA AND PAKISTAN: NUCLEAR ROULETTE

TOPIC 9 DIPLOMACY, THE UNITED NATIONS, AND CONCLUDING REFLECTIONS
June 5 READINGS:  *Stanley Meisler, *The United Nations: The First Fifty Years*, *Entire Book*

June 11, FINAL EXAM
7:00-11:00pm