Political Science 142I: US National Security (Spring 2017)

Dr. Randy Willoughby (rwilloug@sandiego.edu)

Office Hours: Tuesdays (or Thursdays) 630 to 730 Roundtable Price Center

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Course Description: This course explores several modern challenges to US national security and the policies we have adopted in response. We will spend the first half of the quarter examining the history and contemporary state of nuclear weapons, including missile defense, strategy and arms control, disarmament, and nonproliferation. We then spend the second half of the quarter examining conventional military forces, including operational and other dimensions of warfare, budgets and the defense political economy, the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, and terrorism associated with Al Qaeda and the Islamic State. The course is designed to complement another one on comparative regional security in Europe, East Asia, Middle East, and Latin America; but neither course is a prerequisite to the other. Although the workload for this course is not as lethal as the topics, students should avoid it if they are understandably uninterested in these morbid subjects or unable to attend class consistently and do the readings on schedule.

Readings: Students typically read three journal articles or book chapters per week. Some of the readings are from two books that should be purchased; some can be found on the UCSD library electronic reserve site; and some are from sources that
can be consulted by way of simple on line searches. The two books that should be purchased for the course are: Ronald Powaski's *Return to Armageddon*, and David Kilcullen’s *Blood Year*. The Powaski book examines the evolution of American nuclear strategy over the period from 1980 to 2000; the Kilcullen book explores US counterterrorism in Iraq and Afghanistan from 2004 to 2015.

**Exams and Quizzes:** There will be regular quizzes and three exams; there are no make up quizzes but the weakest quiz score will be dropped. Quizzes and exam questions have the same weight and test student command of readings, lectures, and discussions. Each of the three exams (and associated quizzes) will count around 25 per cent of the course grade.

**Literature Reviews:** Students will write one literature review drawing on readings from the syllabus due no later than the scheduled final exam time and place. Students will combine a specified number of readings from the syllabus and construct discussions among the authors around themes of your choice. Guidance will be provided. Papers are worth 25 per cent of the course grade.

**Readings** *(Readings with an asterisk should be on UCSD library reserve; the Powaski and Kilcullen books should be purchased; and the remaining readings should be accessible on line.)*

**Week One (April 4 and 6): Introduction**

*Schmidle, “General Chaos,”* New Yorker (Feb 27, 2017.)

Sokolsky, Part II, Underestimated (second edition, on line.)

Kilcullen, Blood Year, Chapters 1 through 3.

**Week Two (April 11 and 13): Ballistic Missile Defense**

*Keegan, Chapter 8, Secret Weapons, Intelligence in War.*


*Wu, “China’s Anxiety about a US Missile Defense,”* Survival (Oct Nov 2013.)
**Week Three (April 18 and 20): Nuclear History and Strategy**

Schulte, “Tactical Nuclear Weapons in NATO and Beyond,” in Nichols et al, Tactical Nuclear Weapons and NATO, Army War College (April 2012, on line.)

*Spinardi, “Why the Navy Went for Hard Target Counterforce,”* International Security (Fall 1990.)

*Doyle, “Better Ways to Modernise the US Nuclear Arsenal,”* Survival (August September 2016.)

**First Exam Tuesday April 25**

**Week Four (April 27): Nuclear Arms Control and Disarmament**


Debating the New Start Treaty,” Council on Foreign Relations (July 22, 2010, on line.)

**Week Five (May 2 and 4): Nuclear Proliferation**


Lavache, “French Proliferation in Comparative Perspective,” Unpublished (2007, link to be provided.)

*Fitzpatrick, Chapter One, Overcoming Pakistan’s Nuclear Dangers,”* pages 13 to 46, Adelphi Paper IISS Number 443 (2014.)

**Week Six (May 9 and 11): Russia and China**

*Trenin, “The Revival of the Russian Military,”* Foreign Affairs (May June 2016.)

*Fruhling and Lasconjarias, “NATO, A2/AD, and the Kalingrad Challenge,”* Survival (April May 2016.)

*Biddle and Oelrich, “Future Warfare in the Western Pacific,”* International Security (Summer 2016.)
**Week Seven (May 16): Conventional Forces**

*Pape, The True Worth of Airpower, Foreign Affairs (March April 2004.)*

**Second Exam May 18**


**Week Eight (May 23 and 25): Political Economy**

*O’Hanlon, The 650 Billion Dollar Budget, Chapter 4, pages 37 to 76.*

Blakeley, “Analysis of the FY 2017 Defense Budget…” pages TBA, CSBA (August 5, 2016, on line.)

*Singer and Friedman, Cybersecurity and Cyberwar, pages 120 to 143.*

**Week Nine (May 30 and June 1): Iraq and Afghanistan**

*Boot, Chapter 11 on Afghanistan, War Made New.*

Kilcullen, Chapters 4 through 10.

**Week Ten (June 6): Conventional Forces**

Kicullen, Chapters 11 through 17.

Mogelson, “The Avengers of Mosul,” New Yorker (Feb 6, 2017.)

**Third Exam: June 8**

**Papers: No Later than Thursday, June 15, 700 pm.** Papers must be submitted in a class session or at the start of the final exam session to the instructor or to the teaching assistant, hard copy only. Papers submitted by email or to the department will not be accepted.