COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will explore U.S. national security and foreign policy. The goal is to familiarize students with factors affecting policy decisions in this area, and the dilemmas confronting policy makers. Foreign and security policy decisions are influenced by history, domestic and bureaucratic politics, and allied concerns, among other things. The course is divided into three parts: U.S. national security and foreign policy from 1945 to the present; the policy process; and current challenges in foreign and security policy. We will examine U.S. policy during the cold war to establish a framework for understanding the policy challenges the U.S. faces today. We will also explore issues ranging from the U.S. national security structure, diplomacy, intelligence, the use of force, and the role of morality in U.S. policy. The course will use a combination of readings, case studies, and guest speakers examine these issues.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

1. Class Participation

This course is a seminar; attendance and participation are essential. Students are expected to complete assigned readings prior to the class session, and to be prepared to discuss the topics under consideration. Students should also stay informed about international events by reading a major newspaper every day. Keep in mind that participation involves more than talking in class. Some people who voice their opinions freely may actually contribute less than those who say insightful things less frequently. Quantity is not quality.

2. Policy Memorandums

You will be expected to write a one-page policy memorandum on two of the cases examined during the course. Memos are due at the beginning of the class session on which the case will be discussed. In the memos, you are expected to assess the key issue at stake in the case, and to propose an appropriate course of action to address the issue as you see it. Separate
instructions will be handed out on this assignment.  NOTE: you must submit a memorandum on either case #1 or #2; after that, you may choose which cases you wish to write on.


Students will be expected to write a 5-page paper, typed and double-spaced, after the second section of the course. The paper will address the U.S. policy process. Instructions for the paper will be handed out separately. The paper will be due at the beginning of class on October 8.

4. Group Projects

Students will also participate in two group projects during the term. For the first project, the class will be divided into six to eight policy groups, depending on class size. Each group will submit a 5-7 page paper and make a 10-15 minute oral presentation on U.S. policy toward a geographical region or a set of issues. Group presentations will be made in class on two dates: October 15 and October 29. All papers are due on October 15.

The second group project will be a policy presentation of U.S. options and priorities in its relationship with Pakistan, which will be made in class on November 12. Members of the class will be assigned to different parts of the U.S. government, and will be expected to advocate policy priorities in the U.S.-Pakistani relationship from the perspective of their institution or office. This will be part project, part simulation, with the end goal to engage the class as a group in a discussion about policy trade-offs when key priorities intersect and clash. Further instructions will be provided a few weeks prior to this project.

5. Final Examination

There will also be a take-home final exam assignment designed to cover the entire course. The final will be due on December 10 at 4:30 pm.

Grades will be based on the following:

Class Participation: 15%
Memos: 10% (5% each)
Short Policy Process Paper: 15%
Group Project and presentation: 15%
Pakistan Presentation: 15%
Take-home Final Examination: 30%

POLICIES

Assignments will be penalized one half grade for each day they are late. Students must contact me prior to assignment due dates if they wish to request extensions.
ACCOMMODATION POLICY AND ACADEMIC HONESTY

Students who are in need of disability-related academic accommodations must register with the Office of Disability Services (ODS), 804 University Avenue, Room 309, 315-443-4498. Students with authorized disability-related accommodations should provide a current Accommodation Authorization Letter from ODS to the instructor and review those accommodations with the instructor. Accommodations, such as exam administration, are not provided retroactively; therefore, planning for accommodations as early as possible is necessary. For further information, see the ODS website, http://disabilityservices.syr.edu/.

I expect students to abide by the academic rules and regulations established by Syracuse University. These require students to "exhibit honesty in all academic endeavors. Cheating in any form is not tolerated, nor is assisting another person to cheat. The submission of any work by a student is taken as a guarantee that the thoughts and expressions in it are the student's own except when properly credited to another. Violations of this principle include giving or receiving aid in an exam or where otherwise prohibited, fraud, plagiarism, or any other deceptive act in connection with academic work. Plagiarism is the representation of another's words, ideas, programs, formulae, opinions, or other products of work as one's own, either overtly or by failing to attribute them to their true source" (Syracuse University Bulletin 2003-2004: p. 2).

I take this extremely seriously. It is your responsibility as a student to understand what plagiarism is and how correctly to reference documents and attribute other peoples’ arguments that you are citing. If you have any questions about what constitutes plagiarism, see the definition and examples at Syracuse University’s website: http://academicintegrity.syr.edu. If you have questions about how to make references in papers, consult any of the standard references on writing, such as The Elements of Style.

REQUIRED BOOKS AND ARTICLES

Books are available at Follett’s Orange Bookstore in the Marshall Street Mall.


Case Reader, available at the bookstore.

Course Packet, available at Campus Copy in Marshall Street Mall.

GROUP PRESENTATION TOPICS:
U.S. Policy toward:  Western Hemisphere  
Europe and Eurasia  
Africa  
East Asia and the Pacific  
South and Central Asia  
Middle East and North Africa

The Role of Nuclear Weapons in U.S. policy  
Climate Change and Energy policy
COURSE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

1. August 27: Introduction and Overview

PART I: NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN POLICY SINCE 1945

2. September 3: U.S. Foreign Policy, 1945-1972
   Timeline: The Early Cold War
   Readings:

   Timeline: Cold War and Beyond
   Readings:
   Steven W. Hook and John Spanier, *American Foreign Policy Since World War II*, chs. 6-12, pp. 136-298.

PART II: THE POLICY PROCESS

4. September 17: Actors and Tools: The President and the Executive Branch
   Readings:

Case: Arms Control and Nuclear Non-Proliferation

5. September 24:  Congress, Public Opinion, and Lobbying

Readings:


Case:  Arms Control and Nuclear Non-Proliferation (Continued)


6. October 1:  Intelligence and National Security

Readings:


Mike McConnell, “Overhauling Intelligence,” *Foreign Affairs (July/August 2007)*, 49-58 [online].


Richard Betts, *Enemies of Intelligence*, Ch. 2, pp. 19-52, [packet].

Case:

Richard L. Russell, “Fog of War: NATO”  Pew Case Study #253 (10 pp.)
PART III: FOREIGN AND SECURITY POLICY CHALLENGES

7. October 8: The Use of Force and Alternatives

SHORT PAPER DUE

Readings:

  Peter J. Boyer, “The New War Machine,” *New Yorker, June 30, 2003*, 55-71 [online]

Case:

Howard Diamond, “The One-Hundred Hour War,” Pew Case Study #469 (28 pp).

8. October 15: Group Presentations

ALL GROUP PAPERS DUE

Groups: U.S. Policy toward Europe and Eurasia; East Asia and the Pacific; Africa; The Role of Nuclear Weapons in U.S. policy

Readings:

  Dimitri Trenin, “Russia Redefines itself and its Relations with the West,” *Washington Quarterly (Spring 2007)* 95-105 [online].

(continues)

9. October 22: International Terrorism

**Readings:**

Marc Sageman, “Understanding Terror Networks,” *Foreign Policy Research Institute*, November 1, 2004 [online].

**Case:**

* [For purposes of memo assignment, but not course discussion]

10. October 29: Group Presentations

Groups: U.S. Policy Toward: South and Central Asia; Middle East and North Africa; Western Hemisphere; Climate Change and Energy Policy

**Readings:**

*Quadrennial Defense Review, February 6, 2006* (113 pp.) Skim. [online].
R. Nicholas Burns, “America’s Strategic Opportunity with India,” *Foreign Affairs* November/December 2007), 131-146 [online]

(continues)
Shibley Telhami, “America in Arab Eyes,” *Survival (Spring 2007)*, 107-122 [online].

11. November 5: **Iraq and Afghanistan**

**Readings:**

Jack Keane, “Iraq: Why We are Winning,” American Enterprise Institute (August 2008) [online].


Description and Instructions to be handed out in class

**Background Readings:**

Seth Jones, “Pakistan’s Dangerous Game,” *Survival (Spring 2007)*, 15-32 [online].

Guest Speaker: Bill Smullen

Readings:

Joseph Nye, Jr., *Soft Power*, ch. 2, pp. 33-72. [packet]
http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/nss/BillsfinalwithcolorSept.15.pdf

Case:

“Donald Rumsfeld and Prisoner Abuse at Abu Ghraib,” Electronic Hallway (21 pp.)

14. December 3: Conclusion

Readings:

Brent Scowcroft, “The Dispensable Nation?” *The National Interest* (July/August 2007), 4-6 [online].

TAKE HOME FINAL EXAM DUE WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 4:30 PM