

**National Security
Political Science 345
Northwestern University
Winter 2013, M/W 3:30-4:50
Harris 107**

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104 Scott Hall
Office Hours: Wed. 9:30-11:30 and by
appointment ([link](#))

Teaching Assistants:

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Course Description

This course explores basic issues in national security, the causes of war, and, most broadly, the threat and use of force by states and non-state actors to achieve their political and military objectives.

The course aims to convey basic theoretical concepts in security studies and apply them to cases. Much of the course will focus on contemporary issues and events, including international and regional security concerns associated with: military and nuclear strategy/proliferation; the causes and nature of terrorism and debates about the means with which to fight terrorism; the dynamics of asymmetric conflict such as the ones faced by United States today in Iraq and Afghanistan; humanitarian crises and international interventions; China's rise in international influence; and U.S.-European security relations.

The key objective is to give students the conceptual tools to understand theory, policy outcomes, and current events associated with national security (American or otherwise). Students will be encouraged to learn how to think and write along these three 'tracks' simultaneously. By the end of the course, students should be able to employ basic theoretical concepts to analyze national security policy as well as become critical consumers of policy and journalistic writing on the subject. Students are therefore expected to stay current with foreign policy developments by reading a major newspaper (the *Financial Times* is most highly recommended, but the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, or *Washington Post* will also do).

Course Requirements

This course entails a substantial amount of reading and preparation. Class attendance and section participation will be crucial components of the final grade. Exams will cover both lectures and readings. No late work will be accepted without a written medical excuse.

An in-class midterm will be held on Tues., Feb. 11. A second “final” exam on the second half of the course will be given during the exam week.

An 8-10 page paper will be due electronically and in hard copy format by the start of class on Mar 13. You must give your TA a topic sentence for the paper in the section following the Jan. 30 lecture, and a 3-4 page outline of the paper in section following the Feb. 27 lecture.

Final grades will be based on: attendance and participation: (25%), midterm (25%), paper (25%), and final exam: (25%). Final exams will be kept and made available for retrieval two weeks into spring quarter 2013 during Professor Caverley’s regular office hours, after which they will be discarded. If you are unable to pick up your exam at the scheduled time and place and before the two-week period has passed, inform the professor or your TA to arrange an alternative means of delivery.

Note that the schedule of lectures and readings may change based on the availability of guest lectures or even current events. If so, students will be informed at least a week in advance unless under exceptional circumstances.

Research Study Participation Requirement

Students enrolled in this course are required to complete a research assignment that can include up to 4 hours of research study participation. These studies require that students set up an appointment to complete participation at a laboratory on campus (or via an on-line survey). Students will learn how studies are conducted and will receive a synopsis at the conclusion of the quarter describing the study’s goal, result, and relevance to the class. Students who prefer not to participate in research as subject may opt for an alternative that entails reading any one chapter about political science research and writing a five page reaction paper. The typical chapter is about 20 pages and thus reading it and writing a five page paper should take approximately four hours. During the first week of the quarter, students will receive an e-mail asking them whether they prefer study participation or the alternative assignment. The e-mail will also include details on how to complete either requirement. Failure to complete the requirement during the quarter will result in an incomplete. Failure to complete the requirement during the following quarter will result in a failing grade for the class. Note that if you are enrolled in multiple classes that require participation, you only need to satisfy the requirement one time. Also, if you already completed the requirement in another course in a previous quarter, you are excused from the requirement.

Readings

All readings are posted on e-reserve or are available on the web via the Northwestern network. Course packs can also be ordered from Quartet Copies.

There are three required books:

Jack Levy and William S. Thompson, *The Causes of War* (Chichester: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010).

Robert Pape, *Bombing to Win, Air Power and Coercion in War* (Cornell UP, 1996).

Thomas Schelling, *Arms and Influence* (Yale UP, 2008).

Paper

Each student will write a paper in response to one of the two documents:

The White House, "National Security Strategy" (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, May 2010).

National Intelligence Council, "'Global Trends 2030: Alternative Worlds,'" (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 2012).

Drawing on the rest of the course, students should choose an aspect of the document that interests them, offer a thoughtful appraisal, and come to their own reasoned conclusion on any number of important issues of contemporary security policy. This is not a research paper; there is no need for any additional reading beyond those assigned for this course. It is an assessment of how effectively you can apply course material and readings to think about events and analysis outside of the class.

An initial 1-paragraph abstract of your paper's main point is due at the start of class following January 30. An intermediate outline of 3-4 pages is due at the start of the Feb 27 class. *Submission of these drafts counts towards your participation.* The final paper (8-10 pages) is due on March 11 at the start of class in both electronic and hard copy formats.

Academic Integrity

Any student who violates the University's principles of academic integrity will automatically fail this course and be referred to the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Studies' office for further action by the University. There are no exceptions. The Dean's policy for WCAS is available at:

<http://www.wcas.northwestern.edu/advising/academic.html>.

All student work may be analyzed electronically for violations of the university's academic

integrity policy and may also be included in a database for the purpose of testing for plagiarized content.

Accessibility

Any student with a verified disability requiring special accommodations should speak to the course instructor and to the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities (847-467-5530) as early as possible in the quarter, preferably within the first two weeks of the course. All discussions will remain confidential.

COURSE TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

7 Jan: **What is National Security? What is War?**

Levy and Thompson, *Causes of War*, Chapter 1.

Metz, Steven, “Decisionmaking in Operation IRAQI FREEDOM: Removing Saddam Hussein by Force” (U.S. Army War College Strategic Studies Institute, 2010). ([link](#))

PART I: WHAT ARE WE FIGHTING FOR?

9 Jan: **The Security Dilemma**

Levy and Thompson, *Causes of War*, Chapter 2 and 4.

14 Jan: **The “Liberal” Way of War**

Levy and Thompson, *Causes of War*, Chapter 5-6.

16 Jan.: **The Role of Norms and Ideas**

Finnemore, Martha. *The Purpose of Intervention: Changing Beliefs about the Use of Force* (Cornell University Press, 2003) Chapters 3 and 4.

21 Jan: **NO CLASS. MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY.**

PART II: THREATS AND ACTS OF VIOLENCE AS POLITICAL TOOLS

23 Jan: **What is Military Power?**

Biddle, Stephen. *Military Power: Explaining Victory and Defeat in Modern Battle* (Princeton University Press, 2006) 1-51. (in Blackboard)

28 Jan: **Grand Strategy and the Rise of China**

Goldstein, Avery. *Rising to the Challenge: China's Grand Strategy and International Security* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2005), pp. 1- 48, 118-135.

30 Jan.: **Coercion, Deterrence, and Compellence**

Schelling, Chapters 1-3.

Paper abstract due in section

4 Feb: **Bargaining, Appeasement, and Credibility**

Fearon, James. "Rationalist Explanations for War." *International Organization* (1995) vol. 49 (3) pp. 379-414

6 Feb: **Balance of Power and Alliances**

Kagan, Robert. "The End of the End of History: Why the Twenty-First Century Will Look Like the Nineteenth." *The New Republic* 238.7 (2008): 40-47.

11 Feb: **Midterm exam (in class)**

13 Feb: **Airpower and the Revolution in Military Affairs**

Pape, Chapters 1-3, 6, and 9

Cohen, Elliot. "A Revolution in Warfare." *Foreign Affairs* (1996) vol. 75 (2) pp. 37-54

18 Feb: **Asymmetric Threats**

Mueller, John. "Six Rather Unusual Propositions About Terrorism." *Terrorism and Political Violence* 17.4 (2005): 487-505.

Naim, M. "The Five Wars of Globalization." *Foreign Policy*, no. 134 (2003): 28-37.

20 Feb: **Counterinsurgency**

Kilcullen, David. *The Accidental Guerrilla*, pp 22-38 and 70-114.

25 Feb: **Nuclear Deterrence**

Schelling, Chapters 5 and 6

27 Feb.: **Nuclear Proliferation**

Sagan, Scott and Kenneth Waltz "Nuclear Zero Prophecies" *The National Interest* (2010). Read all 4 parts of the debate.

Paper outline due in section

4 Mar: **Failed States, Peacekeeping and Humanitarian Intervention**

Collier, Paul. *The Bottom Billion*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007. 99-134.

Easterly, William. "Foreign Aid Goes Military!" *The New York Review of Books* 55.19 (2008): 51-53.

PART III: WAR AND SOCIETY

6 Mar: **Civil-Military Relations**

Feaver, Peter. "The Civil-Military Problematique: Huntington, Janowitz, and the Question of Civilian Control." *Armed Forces and Society* 23 (Winter 1996): 149-178.

Quinlivan, James T. "Coups-Proofing: Its Practice and Consequences in the Middle East." *International Security* 24, no. 2 (Autumn 1999): 131-165.

11 Mar: **Fear and the State**

Friedburg, Aaron. "Why Didn't the United States Become a Garrison State?" *International Security* 16, no. 4 (1992): 109-137.

James, William. "The Moral Equivalent of War." *McClure's Magazine* 35 (May-Oct. 1910) pp. 463-468.

Paper due electronically and in hard copy format at start of class.

The Final Exam is on Tuesday, March 19th, 3:00-5:00 PM