

INTS 3215: Major Issues in International Security

Dogus Aktan

Winter, 2020

Course Time and Location

Tuesday / Thursday
2:00 pm - 3.50 pm
Room: 3015

Contact Information

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Office Hours: Sie Complex 118B W:10-12, TR:10-12
and by appointment

1 Course Description and Objectives

This course presents and analyzes the fundamental security issues in international politics. The course aims to familiarize students with the basic arguments in the study of international security, and equip them with the tools to evaluate, and analyze them.

The primary goals of the course are: 1) Present major issues in the realm of modern international relations. 2) Evaluate the current arguments, and positions in the current debates. 3) Provide students with opportunities to critically engage with research, as well as current events.

2 Required Text and Readings

There is no required textbook for this course. Required readings will be available through the course's Canvas page, or through the school library.

3 Grading

Your final grade is based on your performance in three areas: response papers; exams; and class participation. Specific assignments and their relative contri-

tribution to your final grade follow:

Current Events, Class Discussion – 40% Every student will have to give a brief overview of the readings (5 to 7 minutes) ,and lead the class discussions at least once through the quarter. And they will be assigned to present at least one current event topic, and lead the discussion on it.

Response papers – 40% Each student has to write two brief (1000 to 1500 words. not including citations) to critically engage the readings assigned in the class. Essays can focus on a particular reading, or a subject covered in the course. Students may choose their own topic with my prior approval.

Participation - 20 % Active participation, and not just attending to class is required to get a good a good grasp of the material involved in this course

4 Assignment and Exam Policy

All assignments and exams must be completed on time in order to pass this course. Make ups will only be granted under extraordinary circumstances such as documented and verified medical or family emergencies. All documentation corresponding to such emergencies should be forwarded to the professor. Personal reasons are insufficient excuses for making up missed assignments, exams, or quizzes.

All assignments must be submitted via Canvas. I do NOT accept assignments via e-mail.

I do not grade on a curve. Each student's work will be evaluated independently based on its quality. It is possible for every student in the class to get an A. However, getting such high marks will require hard work on your part. Here is how grades should be interpreted, as well as how a letter grade translates to a 0-100 numeric scale.

A (94 and higher) = The student performed far beyond my expectations, displaying a grasp of the analytical and empirical material as well as creativity or insight beyond the material itself.

A- (93-90) = I was impressed by the student's performance. The student has strong analytical, theoretical, and empirical skills.

B+ (89-87) = The student met all of my expectations in the course.

B (86-84) = The student met most of my expectations, but demonstrated weakness in either analytical or empirical skills.

B- (83-80) = The student demonstrated weakness in analytical and empirical skills, but clearly attempted to prepare for assignments.

C (79-70) = The student demonstrated disregard for the course requirements.

D (69-60) = The student demonstrated negligence or disrespect in their assignments.

F (Below 60) = The student violated a class policy, did not attend class, or did not perform to a level that I knew they were attending.

If a student wishes to dispute their grade on an assignment, they must contact me within 48 hours of receiving their grade and set an appointment to discuss it. At this appointment they must bring a typed summary of the reasons why they believe the grade is unfair. I will then reevaluate the assignment on the basis of these reasons. All revised grades are final, and they may be lower than the original grade.

5 Class Format and Policy

The class format throughout will combine lecture and discussion, but the balance will hopefully shift from the former to the latter as the students gain familiarity with key perspectives and build confidence. While lectures are necessary, they are far from the best way to encourage and retain learning. Consequently, I expect students to come to class prepared and willing to engage with me, their classmates and the material. Attendance is required and makes a significant portion of your participation grade. However, showing up to class is not sufficient to get a good participation grade and I expect active participation from all students. I understand some students might be too shy to speak up in the class even when they are attentive and interested. For those students, I offer the option of a submitting an extra assignment to demonstrate their understanding of the material. Students willing to take this option must commit before the end of week 4.

6 Disability Services

Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability or medical condition should contact the Disability Services Program (DSP) to coordinate reasonable accommodations. DSP offices are located on the 4th floor of Ruffatto Hall at 1999 E. Evans Ave. Staff are available by calling 303-871-2372 / 2278/ 7432. Additional information is available online

at www.du.edu/disability/dsp, including the Handbook for Students with Disabilities. If you qualify for academic accommodations because of a disability or medical issue, please submit a DSP Faculty Letter to me in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed.

7 Academic Honesty

All work submitted must be your own and produced exclusively for this course. The use of sources (e.g. ideas, quotations, paraphrases) must be properly acknowledged and documented. For the consequences of violating the Academic Misconduct policy, refer to the University of Denver website on the Honor Code: <http://www.du.edu/honorcode>. See also <http://www.du.edu/studentconduct> for general information concerning expectations of the Office of Student Conduct. Your response paper will be verified using the University of Denver's VeriCite system to evaluate potential acts of plagiarism. Quizzes, the midterm exam, and final exam administered in class will be monitored for violations of the Honor Code and addressed accordingly.

8 Policy on Student Questions

I am always happy to answer student questions during office hours or over e-mail. I will generally reply to e-mails within 24 hours but make sure you send your questions in a timely manner. Keep in mind that most questions you may have (about assignments, policies, etc. . .) can be answered by simply taking a close look at the syllabus. Every student should read the entire syllabus carefully at the beginning of the class and before sending me a question. When you have finished reading the syllabus for the first time, send me an e-mail, telling me what your favorite animal is.

9 Class Outline

Week 1: Introduction and Overview

- Tuesday - Introduction, Logistics, and Overview
- Thursday - Defining the Field of Security Studies
 - Stephen Walt, “The Renaissance of Security Studies,” *International Studies Quarterly* Vol. 35, No. 2 (June 1991): 211-240
 - Edward Kolodziej, “Renaissance of Security Studies? Caveat Lector!” *International Studies Quarterly* Vol. 36 (December 1992): 421-438

Week 2: Defining Security

- Tuesday - What is Security?
 - Barry Buzan, “New Patterns of Global Security in the 21st Century,” *International Affairs* Vol. 67, No. 3 (1991)
 - Roland Paris, “Human Security: Paradigm Shift or Hot Air?” *International Security* Vol. 26, No. 2 (fall 2001)
 - Jessica Tuchman Mathews, “Redefining Security,” *Foreign Affairs* Vol. 68, No. 2 (spring 1989): 162-177
- Thursday- National Interest?
 - Krasner, Stephen D. 1978. *Defending the National Interest: Raw Materials Investments and U.S. Foreign Policy*. Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press. Chapter 1
 - Deborah Avant, “Do Realists Need to Check Their Idealism?” *Political Violence at a Glance*
<http://politicalviolenceataglance.org/2017/05/16/do-realists-need-to-check-their-idealism/>
 - Bruce Bueno de Mesquita, Chapter “National Interest”, in *Principles of International Politics*, 5th ed.

Week 3: : Technology and War

- Tuesday - Nuclear Weapons
 - Kenneth Waltz. 2012. Why Iran should get the bomb: Nuclear balancing would mean stability. *Foreign Affairs* (July/August)

- Kenneth Waltz and Colin Kahl. 2012. Iran and the bomb: Would a nuclear Iran make the Middle East more secure? Waltz replies. *Foreign Affairs* (September/October)
- Carol Cohn. 1987. “Sex and Death in the Rational World of Defense Intellectuals” *Signs*, Vol. 12, No. 4, Within and Without: Women, Gender, and Theory, (Summer, 1987), pp. 687-718
- Thursday, Drone and Cyber Warfare
 - Peter W. Singer. 2009. Robots at war. *Wilson Quarterly*
<https://www.wilsonquarterly.com/quarterly/winter-2009-robots-at-war/robots-at-war-the-new-battlefield/>
 - Erik Gartzke. 2013. The myth of cyberwar: Bringing war in cyberspace back down to earth. *International Security* 38, no 2 (Fall): 41-73
 - Christopher Whyte. 2018. “Dissecting the Digital World: A Review of the Construction and Constitution of Cyber Conflict Research.” *International Studies Review* 20 (3): 520-32.

Week 4: Terrorism and Counter-Insurgency

- Tuesday- Terrorism
 - Barbara Walter and Andrew Kydd. 2006. Strategies of terrorism. *International Security* 31, no. 1 (Summer): 49-80
 - Max Abrahms. 2006. Why terrorism does not work. *International Security* 31, no. 2 (Fall): 42-78.
- Thursday- Counter-Insurgency, and Foreign Interventions
 - Ethan Bueno de Mesquita, 2019 “Getting CounterInsurgency Wrong”. *Boston Review*.
<http://bostonreview.net/war-security/ethan-bueno-de-mesquita-getting-counterinsurgency-wrong>
 - Washington Post, The Afghanistan Papers: A secret history of the war
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/2019/investigations/afghanistan-papers/afghanistan-war-confidential-documents/>

Week 5: Great Powers, and Great Power Politics

- Tuesday- Imperial Overstretch vs. Military Primacy
 - Stephen Brooks, G. John Ikenberry, and William C. Wohlforth. 2013. Don’t come home, America: The case against retrenchment. *International Security* 37, no. 3 (Winter): 7-51

- Dan Drezner. 2013. Military primacy doesn't pay (nearly as much as you think). *International Security* 38, no. 1 (Summer): 52-79
- Thursday - Great Power Conflict- China and the US
 - Graham Allison, "The Thucydides Trap: Are the US and China Headed for War," *The Atlantic*, (September 24, 2015)
 - Jonatha Kirshner. 2018. "Handle Him with Care: The Importance of Getting Thucydides Right." *Security Studies*, September, 1–24.

Week 6: Great Powers cont.

- Tuesday- "Status" of "Great Power"
 - Jonathon Renshon, 2016, Status Deficits and War, *International Organization*, Vol 70
 - Michael McFaul; Stephen Sestanovich; John J. Mearsheimer, "Faulty Powers: Who Started the Ukraine Crisis?" *Foreign Affairs* (November/December 2014).
- Thursday- Russia, and its Centrality in the Study of Security
 - Paul Poast on Centrality of Russia
<https://twitter.com/ProfPaulPoast/status/1204745930144174080>
 - Andrew Kydd, 2001, "Trust Building, Trust Breaking: The Dilemma of NATO Enlargement", *International Organization*, Vol 55

Week 7: Climate Change, Environment, and Security

- Tuesday - Climate Change and Conflict
 - Mach, K.J., Kraan, C.M., Adger, W.N. et al. Climate as a risk factor for armed conflict. *Nature* 571, 193–197 (2019)
 - White House Memo on Climate Change and Security:
<https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2016/09/21/presidential-memorandum-climate-change-and-national-security>
- Thursday- Natural Resources and Conflict
 - Thomas Homer-Dixon. 1994. Environmental scarcities and violent conflict: Evidence from cases. *International Security* 19, no. 1 (Summer): 5-40

- Llewelyn Hughes and Austin Long. 2015. Is there an oil weapon? Security implications of changes in the structure of the international oil market. *International Security*, Vol. 39, No. 3 (Winter): 152-189

Week 8: Middle East

- Tuesday-US-Iran Rivalry and the Assassination of Qassem Soleimani
 - Thomas Ward. 2000. Norms and Security: The Case of International Assassination. *International Security*, Vol. 25, No. 1, 2000
 - Ariane M. Tabatabai, Annie Tracy Samuel. What the Iran-Iraq War Tells Us about the Future of the Iran Nuclear Deal. *International Security*, Vol. 42, No. 1, 2017
 - Valerie Morkevicius and Danielle Lupton, “Was the Killing of Qassem Soleimani Justified?” *Political Violence at a Glance*: <http://politicalviolenceataglance.org/2020/01/06/was-the-killing-of-qassem-soleimani-justified/>
- Thursday-Arab Spring and the Future of Middle East
 - Eva Bellin, “Reconsidering the Robustness of Authoritarianism in the Middle East.”, *Comparative Politics*, Vol. 44, No. 2 (January 2012), pp. 127-149
 - Michael Hoffman, “Breakaway Youth in Lebanon? (Think Twice)”. *Political Violence at a Glance*: <http://politicalviolenceataglance.org/2019/12/12/breakaway-youth-in-lebanon-think-twice/>

Week 9: Decline of “Liberal Order” and Democracy Across the World

- Tuesday-(Mis)information, Polarization, and Conflict
 - Kelly M.Greenhill and Ben Oppenheim. 2017. “Rumor Has It: The Adoption of Unverified Information in Conflict Zones”. *International Studies Quarterly*, 61.
 - Russian Meddling Is Only a Symptom. Tufekci, Zeynep . *New York Times*
 - The Election Has Already Been Hacked. Tufekci, Zeynep . *New York Times*
 - Facebook Said Its Algorithms Do Help Form Echo Chambers, and the Tech Press Missed It. Tufekci, Zeynep. *New Perspectives Quarterly*. Summer 2015

- Thursday-Democratic Peace, and Democratic Decline
 - Allan Dafoe et. al. “The Democratic Peace: Weighing the Evidence and Cautious Inference”. *International Studies Quarterly* (2013) 57, 201–214
 - David Waldner and Ellen Lust, “Unwelcome Change: Coming to Terms with Democratic Backsliding”. *Annu. Rev. Polit. Sci.* 2018. 21:5.1–5.21

Week 10: Threats From Within: State Repression, Ethnic Conflict

- Tuesday- Security Forces and One-sided Violence
 - Colaresi, Michael, and Sabine C. Carey. “To kill or to protect: Security forces, domestic institutions, and genocide.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 52, no. 1 (2008): 39-67
- Thursday - Recap and What We have Missed
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