

Professor Stefano Recchia
Office: Carr Collins 316A
Office Hours: Mon. and Wed., 3.00-4.00pm
Email: srecchia@smu.edu



PLSC 4381 National Security Policy

Fall 2019

MWF, 2.00-2.50pm

Hyer Hall 102

Course Description:

This course introduces students to contemporary national security studies, from a U.S.-centered and policy-oriented perspective. It addresses several questions, such as: Who are the key players in U.S. national security affairs, and how do they interact to shape policy? What are some of the principal U.S. national security challenges today? What policy options are available to tackle these challenges? In particular, how can the United States contribute to a more peaceful international environment, while advancing its core interests? The course is divided into four parts. The first part provides an overview of major theories and concepts, before introducing the main actors in U.S. national security policy. The second part focuses on classic, or traditional, issues in national security studies: the use of force between states, pathways to international peace, and nuclear weapons. The third part deals with “new” security issues, including civil war, terrorism, humanitarian intervention, cybersecurity, and migration. The fourth and final part explores challenges for U.S. national security emanating from particular regions of the world.

Course Objectives:

The course aims to help students: (1) Think critically about major issues in U.S. national security; (2) Gain a sophisticated understanding of the constraints and incentives that U.S. policymakers face; (3) Develop analytical and writing skills; (4) Acquire the ability to apply theories and concepts from the course readings to complex, real-world national security challenges; (5) Devise possible policy solutions and understand the trade-offs involved.

Readings:

All the readings listed on this syllabus are required, unless explicitly marked as recommended. Students need to consistently read the required texts *before the class for which they are assigned*, in order to benefit fully from the lectures and do well in this course. As to the recommended texts, students should aim to read at least one of them each week. There are two mandatory textbooks, listed below. Many of the required readings are taken from these textbooks.

Required Textbooks:

- Paul Williams and Matt McDonald, eds., *Security Studies: An Introduction*, third edition (New York: Routledge, 2018).
- Donald M. Snow, *Cases in U.S. National Security: Concepts and Processes* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield, 2019).

Course Requirements and Grading:

10%: Class attendance, participation and oral quizzes

25%: Midterm exam (on Oct. 7)

10%: Group presentations (on Oct. 21 and 23)

25%: Policy paper (outline due Nov. 11; final paper due Dec. 6)

30%: Final exam (on Dec. 17)

Class attendance, participation and oral quizzes

Class attendance is mandatory and, although this is primarily a lecture course, active and informed student participation is expected. Students who consistently come to class late, seldom contribute to discussion, or blather ceaselessly, will be downgraded.

If you need to miss a class due to a family bereavement, illness, or officially sanctioned University extracurricular activity, you must notify the professor in advance via email and provide appropriate documentation. Religiously observant students who will be absent on religious holidays should notify the professor via email at the beginning of the semester. Students who miss a class should make arrangements to obtain the lecture notes from another classmate.

Toward the beginning of class, often there will be an *oral quiz*: the professor will randomly select one or two students to answer a question about the required readings. The goal is simply to verify that students have completed the readings. A one or two sentence answer is sufficient.

Midterm exam

For the midterm exam, students will be required to answer five identification questions and write one short essay (choosing from two essay questions available), based on material from the first half of the course. The midterm will be held in class on October 7.

Group presentations

There is a required group project for this course. The class will be randomly divided into six groups. Students will find out by the end of September to which group they have been assigned. Each group will then explore a particular nuclear proliferation challenge, discuss available U.S. policy options, and propose a preferred policy. The particular proliferation challenges to be

addressed involve: i) Iran; ii) North Korea; iii) Russia; iv) India and Pakistan; v) China; vi) non-state actors. Each group will appoint two speakers, who together will make a 10-minute oral presentation to the class. Students may choose to structure their group's presentation as a debate between the two speakers. In addition, each group will present a concise two-page policy memo to the class on the day of their scheduled presentation (the memo may be written in bullet points). This group project will require students to engage in independent research and analysis.

Policy research paper

Students will be required to write a research paper on a national security policy issue of their choice (excluding nuclear proliferation, since this will already have been addressed in the group projects). Please, note that your paper should not simply present a historical overview and/or review of arguments from the literature; instead, you should analyze a particular case of contemporary policy relevance (and, ideally, flesh out some policy options that follow from your analysis). Strong papers will display the following characteristics: they will be well written; clearly identify the policy problem; present a sound argument based on logic and evidence; go beyond the lectures; and draw on at least six to eight scholarly sources (including articles from policy-oriented academic journals such as *International Security*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *The Washington Quarterly*, and *International Affairs*), in addition to reputable news media such as *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Economist*. Students will need to conduct independent research for this policy paper. To that end, they should acquaint themselves with the resources available in Fondren library and ask the reference librarian for guidance as needed.

A one-page outline of the paper is due in hard copy at the beginning of class on Nov. 11. A hard copy of the final paper is due at the beginning of class on December 6. The final paper needs to be *between six and eight pages long (excluding bibliography), double-spaced, and written in 12-point font*. Electronic copies will not be accepted.

Final exam

For the final exam, students will be required to answer two broad essay questions relating to national security policy (choosing from three questions available), drawing on theories and arguments from the second half of the course. The final will be held at 3.00pm on Dec. 17.

Office hours: Students are always welcome to attend the professor's office hours, if they have particular questions about the content of the readings or the lectures. Students should not come to office hours expecting to find out what exactly they need to know for the midterm and final exams. Beginning in week two of the course, students will be able to book their ten-minute office hour slot on the professor's website, at <http://www.stefanorecchia.net/teaching.html>

Laptop policy: Studies show that students learn less when they work with laptops in class. Therefore, to minimize distraction and maximize learning, the use of laptops, tablets and smartphones in class is not allowed unless you have a medical reason to use one.

PART I: CONCEPTS AND ACTORS

1. Foundations

Aug. 26: Introduction

Aug. 28: Political realism

- WILLIAMS, Chap. 1 (“Realisms”)

Aug. 30: Liberal internationalism

- WILLIAMS, Chap. 2 (“Liberalisms”)

Sept. 2: No class (Labor Day)

2. Conceptual and historical overview

Sept. 4: National security during the Cold War

- Melvyn Leffler, “National Security,” in Michael Hogan and Thomas G. Paterson, eds., *Explaining the History of American Foreign Relations*, 3rd ed. (Cambridge UP, 2016).
- [Recommended]: Andrew Preston. “Monsters Everywhere: A Genealogy of National Security,” *Diplomatic History* 38:3 (June 2014), pp. 477-500.

Sept. 6: The post-Cold War period

- William J. Clinton, “Advancing our interests through Engagement and Enlargement”, available online at: <https://fas.org/spp/military/docops/national/1996stra.htm#II>.
- WILLIAMS, Chap. 15 (“Human security”).

Sept. 9: Competing conceptions of security since 9/11/2001

- WILLIAMS, Chap. 7 (“Securitization”).
- Michael Ignatieff, “The Burden,” *New York Times*, Jan. 5, 2003 [skim].

3. Who shapes U.S. national security policy?

Sept. 11: The president and the bureaucracy

- Graham Allison and Philip Zelikow, *Essence of Decision: Explaining the Cuban Missile Crisis*, 2nd ed. (New York: Longman, 1999), pp. 255-258 and 294-312.
- Shoon Murray and Jordan Tama, "U.S. Foreign Policymaking and National Security," in Derek Reveron, Nikolas Gvosdev, and John Cloud, *The Oxford Handbook of U.S. National Security* (Oxford University Press, 2018) [skim].

Sept. 13: Congress, public opinion, and domestic interest groups

- Steven W. Hook, *U.S. Foreign Policy: The Paradox of World Power*, 3rd ed. (Washington, DC: CQ Books, 2011), Chaps. 5 and 7.

Sept. 16: The military

- Risa Brooks, "Civil-military relations," in Derek Reveron et al., *The Oxford Handbook of U.S. National Security* (Oxford University Press, 2018).

Sept. 18: Foreign allies: governments and publics

- Danny Hayes and Matt Guardino, *Influence from Abroad: Foreign Voices, the Media, and U.S. Public Opinion* (Cambridge University Press, 2013), Chap. 1.
- [Recommended]: Thomas Risse-Kappen, *Cooperation among democracies: The European Influence on U.S. Foreign Policy* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton UP, 1995), Chap. 2.

PART II: TRADITIONAL SECURITY CHALLENGES

4. War between states

Sept. 20: Causes of War I: Anarchy and insecurity

- WILLIAMS, Chap. 9 ("Uncertainty")

Sept. 23: Causes of War II: Individuals and domestic politics

- Frieden, Jeffrey A., David A. Lake and Kenneth A. Schultz, *World Politics: Interests, Interactions, Institutions* (New York: W.W. Norton, 2010), Chap. 4.
- [Recommended]: Robert Jervis, "War and Misperception," in Betts, *Conflict After the Cold War*, 5th ed. (New York: Routledge, 2017).

Sept. 25: Military strategy

- Michael Sheehan, "The Evolution of Modern Warfare," in John Baylis et al., eds., *Strategy in the Contemporary World*, 3rd ed. (Oxford University Press, 2010).
- [Recommended]: Beatrice Heuser, *The Evolution of Strategy: Thinking War from Antiquity to the Present* (Cambridge University Press, 2010), Chap.1

Sept. 27: Case study: The 2003 Iraq War

- Robert Jervis, "Explaining the War in Iraq," in Jane Cramer and Trevor Thrall, eds., *Why Did the United States Invade Iraq?* (New York: Routledge, 2012).

5. Paths to peace

Sept. 30: Power and institutions

- Joseph Grieco, G. John Ikenberry, and Michael Mastanduno, *Introduction to International Relations* (New York: Palgrave, 2015), Chap. 6.

Oct. 2: The theory and practice of collective security

- Thomas Weiss et. al., *The United Nations and Changing World Politics*, 8th ed. (Boulder, CO: Westview, 2017), Chap. 1.

Oct. 4: UN peacekeeping and peace-building

- WILLIAMS, Chap. 21 ("Peace operations").

Oct. 7: Midterm exam

6. Nuclear weapons

Oct. 9: Nuclear deterrence

- SNOW, Chap. 4.
- Scott Sagan and Kenneth Waltz, “Nuclear Instability in South Asia” and “Nuclear Stability in South Asia,” in Robert Art and Kenneth Waltz, *The Use of Force*, 7th ed. (Boulder, CO: Rowman & Littlefield, 2009), Chaps. 24, 25.

Oct. 11: Nuclear proliferation and counterproliferation

- SNOW, Chap. 5
- WILLIAMS, Chap. 22 (“Nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation”).
- [Recommended]: Scott Sagan, “Why Do States Build Nuclear Weapons? Three Models in Search of a Bomb,” *International Security* 21/3, 1996, pp. 54-86.

Oct. 14: Fall break

Oct. 16, 18: no class (make-up class scheduled for Nov. 2)

Oct. 21: Group presentations: nuclear proliferation challenges, part I

- ❖ i) Iran; ii) North Korea; iii) Russia.

Oct. 23: Group presentations: nuclear proliferation challenges, part II

- ❖ i) India and Pakistan; ii) China; iii) non-state actors.

7. Coercive diplomacy vs. regime change

Oct. 25: Coercive diplomacy

- WILLIAMS, Chap. 13 (“Coercion”).

Oct. 28: Economic sanctions

- Daniel Drezner, “Sanctions Sometimes Smart: Targeted Sanctions in Theory and Practice,” *International Studies Review* 13/1, 2011, pp. 96–108.

- [Recommended]: David Baldwin, "The Sanctions Debate and the Logic of Choice," *International Security* 24/3, 1999, pp. 80-107.

Oct. 30: China and East Asian Security (guest lecture by Prof. Michael Beckley)

- SNOW, Chap. 12.
- Aaron Friedberg, "The Debate over U.S. China Strategy," *Survival* 57/3, 2015, pp. 89-110.

Nov. 1: Regime change

- Alexander B. Downes, "Regime Change and Its Consequences," in Robert Art and Kelly Greenhill, eds., *The Use of Force: Military Power and International Politics*, 8th ed. (Boulder, CO: Rowman & Littlefield, 2015), Chap. 30.

PART III: "NEW" SECURITY CHALLENGES

8. Ethnic conflict, state failure, and civil war

Nov. 2, 11.00am: Explaining intra-state violence [note, this class is scheduled on a Saturday!]

- WILLIAMS, Chap. 25 ("Ethnic conflict").
- [Recommended]: Jack Snyder and Robert Jervis, "Civil War and the Security Dilemma," in Jack Snyder and Barbara Walter, eds., *Civil Wars, Insecurity, and Intervention* (Columbia University Press, 1999).

Nov. 4: Managing ethnic conflict

- Arend Lijphart, "Constitutional Design for Divided Societies," *Journal of Democracy* 15/2, 2004, pp. 96-109.
- [Recommended]: Chaim Kaufmann, "Possible and Impossible Solutions to Ethnic Civil Wars," in Richard Betts, *Conflict After the Cold War*, 2nd ed. (Longman, 2002).

9. Terrorism and irregular warfare

Nov. 6: Understanding terrorism

- SNOW, Chap. 3.
- WILLIAMS, Chap. 26 ("Terrorism").

Nov. 8: Insurgencies

- Michael L. Gross, *The Ethics of Insurgency* (Cambridge Univ. Press, 2015), Chap. 2.
- WILLIAMS, Chap. 28 (“Counterinsurgency”).

Nov. 11: Counterterrorism and counterinsurgency

- WILLIAMS, Chap. 27 (“Counterterrorism”).
- SNOW, Chap. 17.

10. Mass atrocity crimes

Nov. 13: Genocide and mass atrocities

- WILLIAMS, Chap. 24 (“Genocide and crimes against humanity”).

Nov. 15: Humanitarian intervention

- WILLIAMS, Chap. 16 (“The Responsibility to Protect”).

11: Transnational challenges

Nov. 18: Environmental security

- WILLIAMS, Chap. 35 (“Environmental change”).
- [Recommended]: Colin Kahl, *States, Scarcity, and Civil Strife in the Developing World* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton UP, 2008), Chap. 2.

Nov. 20: Cybersecurity (Guest lecture by Prof. Frederick Chang)

- SNOW, Chap. 16.
- WILLIAMS, Chap. 37 (“Cybersecurity”).

Nov. 22: Migration

- WILLIAMS, Chap. 32 (“Migration and refugees”).
- [Recommended]: Kelly Greenhill, *Weapons of Mass Migration: Forced Displacement, Coercion, and Foreign Policy* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell UP, 2010), pp. 12-63.

PART IV: REGIONS

12. Geographic hot spots

Nov. 25: The Middle East

- SNOW, Chaps. 8, 10.
- [Recommended]: Robert Malley and Jon Finer, “The Long Shadow of 9/11: How Counterterrorism Warps U.S. Foreign Policy,” *Foreign Affairs* 97/4, 2018, pp. 58-69.

Nov. 27, 29: no class [Thanksgiving]

Dec. 2: Russia and its “near abroad”

- SNOW, Chap. 11.
- Alexander Lanoszka, “Russian hybrid warfare and extended deterrence in eastern Europe,” *International Affairs* 92/1, 2016, pp. 175-195.

Dec. 4: Europe and transatlantic security cooperation

- Gale A. Mattox, “The Transatlantic Security Landscape in Europe,” in Derek Reveron et al., *The Oxford Handbook of U.S. National Security* (Oxford University Press, 2018).

Dec. 6: Conflict in Africa

- SNOW, Chap. 13.
- [Recommended]: Gorm Rye Olsen, “The ambiguity of U.S. foreign policy towards Africa,” *Third World Quarterly* 38/9, 2017, pp. 2097–2112.

13. Conclusion

Dec. 9: U.S. grand strategic options

- SNOW, Chap. 18.
- [Recommended]: Art and Greenhill, eds., *The Use of Force: Military Power and International Politics*, 8th ed. (Boulder, CO: Rowman & Littlefield, 2015), Chaps. 21, 22.

Dec. 17, 3.00pm-6.00pm: FINAL EXAM