Course Overview

We live in a globalizing world and, indeed, the forces of globalization continue to strengthen at an accelerating pace. The world’s economies are increasingly intertwined in a thick network of international finance, trade, and migration. Domestic governance is informed and influenced by other nations, institutions, and peoples like never before. As technological advancements ‘shrink’ the distance between individuals and nations, cultures are thrust together – sometimes for better, sometimes for worse.

Furthermore, globalization is inescapable for the average citizen, and particularly for Americans. Since the end of the Cold War in the early 1990s, the United States has occupied a dominant position in global affairs. Boasting the largest economy and most advanced military in the world, the US has intimately engaged itself in the politics, economies, and security matters of every region in the world. While this engagement offers both opportunities and obstacles, isolation – in its purest form – is no longer an option. What we are left with is an ongoing debate over how the US should pursue its security most effectively.

In this course, we will critically assess US security on a range of global and regional issues. With an emphasis on the changing nature of security in the 21st century, the first half of the course will analyze contemporary US security policy on such issues as nuclear proliferation, terrorism, climate change, and the use of drones in modern warfare. During the second half we will turn our attention to regional issues affecting US security, including Northeast Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa, the Middle East, South America, Russia, and Europe.

Expectations

Class will be conducted as a hybrid of lecture and seminar. The specific balance will be determined by the relative difficulty of a given day’s material, your level of preparation, and your active participation in discussions. All readings should be prepared prior to the day on which they are assigned. Regular attendance and participation are mandatory. The reputation of Oberlin students’ motivation and inquisitiveness leads me to have great expectations, so be great today.
Assignments and Grading

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<td>Reading Quizzes</td>
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<td>Final Paper Outline</td>
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<td>Participation</td>
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* No make-ups or late assignments will be accepted without a formal excuse (see below), or where otherwise stated.

**Midterm** – Scheduled for Tuesday, March 21, the midterm will cover everything read and discussed up to that point in the course. It will be a mixture of multiple choice, matching, short answer, and/or essay. A study sheet distributed the week before the exam will include key terms and the specific structure of the exam.

**Reading Quizzes** – In the second half of the course there will be 5 unannounced quizzes. These quizzes will be given *at the beginning of class*, assessing your comprehension and retention of the day’s required reading. To do well on the quizzes you should take notes, recording the author’s thesis and major points of argument, what s/he is arguing against, and the evidence/examples used to support the argument.

**Final Paper Outline** – During the last week of classes we will conduct a peer-editing session in which students will work in pairs to go over each other’s final paper outline. More information about this assignment will be given later in the semester.

**Final Research Paper** – You will write a 10-12 page research paper due on Tuesday, May 14 at 4pm. The topic of the research paper will be open to any issue in American security, and will be chosen in consultation with me early in the quarter. Selecting an extremely specific research topic will be crucial for doing well on this assignment, and originality is encouraged. More information will be provided in an assignment sheet that will be distributed early in the quarter.

**Participation** – Regular participation in class discussions is expected. The material for this course is not black and white, and uncovering the shades of gray requires thoughtful discussion. Note that participation is more than just attendance, and more than just asking questions about readings or lecture material. Participation involves adding something new to the discussion, such as sharing a particular interpretation of the material or expressing reasons for your opinions on the material.
**Attendance** – Regular attendance is required and will be taken daily. The lectures and class discussions are critical for developing an understanding of the broader themes we address, so missing class will leave you with an incomplete understanding of course materials. Therefore, each absence beyond the first will result in a 3% reduction of your final grade. Note that attendance is taken at the beginning of class: 2 tardies = 1 absence. Extreme circumstances will be accommodated on a case-by-case basis (usually through make-up assignments), but the following should be kept in mind:

- Non-emergency doctor and dentist appointments are not valid excuses; these should be made around your class schedule.
- Jobs, clubs, and other organizations do not take precedence over your class schedule.
- **In order to request a make-up for an absence, notification of the absence must have been given beforehand with a valid excuse (when possible).**

**Readings**

All course readings listed on the syllabus can be found on Blackboard.

*** I strongly encourage you to either print or download all readings from Blackboard early in the quarter. Like all digital resources it is not always reliable and has been known to be unavailable the day before quizzes. This will not be a valid excuse for coming to class unprepared.

**Disability Services**

If you have a documented disability that needs academic accommodation, please speak with Jane Boomer, Coordinator of Services for Students with Disabilities (G-27 Peters Hall) and with me as early in the semester as possible. All discussions will remain confidential.

**Academic Misconduct**

It is your responsibility to have a clear understanding of the Honor Code and what constitutes cheating, plagiarism, and all other aspects of academic dishonesty. If you are unsure about the boundaries of fair use, citation, etc, please do not hesitate to contact me. Additionally, you will be required to write out and sign the Honor Pledge (“I have adhered to the Honor Code in this assignment”) on each assignment in the course.
Class Schedule

Tues, Feb 5: Course Introduction

Thur, Feb 7: US Security During the Cold War
- Saull, “American foreign policy during the Cold War”

Tues, Feb 12: Post-Cold War Unipolarity

Thur, Feb 14: Globalization: From Security to Insecurity
- Fukuyama, “The End of History”
- Barber, “Jihad vs. McWorld”
- Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations?”

Tues, Feb 19: Foreign Policy Strategies: Part I
- United States National Security Strategy 2006
- United States National Security Strategy 2010
  - For both: only read presidential statements and the first overview sections; skim the rest, noting how they contrast
- Drezner, “Does Obama have a Grand Strategy?”

Thur, Feb 21: Foreign Policy Strategies: Part II
- Krauthammer, “Democratic Realism”
- Ikenberry and Kupchan, “Liberal Realism”

Tues, Feb 26: Democracy and Foreign Policy
- Ikenberry, “The Security Trap” (online)
- Kaufmann, “Threat Inflation and the Failure of the Marketplace of Ideas”
Thur, Feb 28: The Media and Foreign Policy

Tues, Mar 5: Terrorism
  • Kydd and Walter, “The Strategies of Terrorism”
  • Mueller, “Is There Still a Terrorist Threat?”

Thur, Mar 7: Drones
  • O’Connell, “The International Law of Drones”
  • WSJ, “US Unease Over Drone Strikes” (online)
    o [http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10000872396390444100404577641520858011452.html](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10000872396390444100404577641520858011452.html)

Tues, Mar 12: Nuclear Proliferation
  • Tannenwald, “The Nuclear Taboo”
  • Jervis, “Getting to Yes With Iran”

Thur, Mar 14: Missile Shield Debate

Tues, Mar 19: The Politics of Climate Change
  • Dimitrov, “Inside UN Climate Change Negotiations”
  • Borgerson, “Artic Meltdown”

Thurs, Mar 21: Midterm

SPRING BREAK

Tues, April 2: Northeast Asia: Managing the Rise of China
  • Schweller and Pu, “After Unipolarity”
  • Christensen, “The Advantages of an Assertive China”
Thur, Apr 4: **Northeast Asia: The Korean Peninsula**
- Bennett and Lind, “The Collapse of North Korea”

Tues, Apr 9: **Sub-Saharan Africa: States without Nations?**
- Jackson, “Juridical Statehood in Sub-Saharan Africa”
- Luttwik, “Give War a Chance”

Thur, Apr 11: **Sub-Saharan Africa: Class Discussion on Intervention in Mali**
- Readings TBA

Tues, Apr 16: **The ‘New Left’ in South America**
- Crandall, “The Post-American Hemisphere”
- Sweig, “A New Global Player”

Thur, Apr 18: **The Middle East: The Arab Spring**
- Berman, “The Promise of the Arab Spring”
- Jones, “The Mirage of the Arab Spring”

Tues, Apr 23: **The Middle East: The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict**
- Krebs, “Israel’s Bunker Mentality”
- Kuperwasser and Lipner, “The Problem is Palestinian Rejectionism”

Thur, Apr 25: **The Middle East: A Debate on US Foreign Policy in Israel/Palestine**

Tues, Apr 30: **Russia: US Response to Attenuated Relations?**
- Shleifer and Treisman, “Why Moscow Says No”
- Gustafson, “Putin’s Petroleum Problem”
Thur, May 2:  Europe: Partners in Security?

- Kagan, “Power and Weakness”
- Cooper, “Hubris and False Hopes”

Tues, May 7:  Final Paper Outline Workshop

- Bring 5 hardcopies of your outline to class

Thur, May 9:  Where do we go from here?

- Brooks, Ikenberry, and Wohlfforth, “Don’t Come Home, America”
- Posen, “Pull Back”

Tues, May 14:  Final Papers Due

- Place a hardcopy in my department mailbox (Rice 216) no later than 4pm.
- Late Penalty: 20% per day