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INR4114 - American Security Policy
Roger Handberg

Syllabus
Fall 2012

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Overview

Nations confront the necessity for conducting their foreign policies across a broad spectrum of security issues by involving a variety of instruments. National security at the most general level means protecting the United States against all foreseeable threats involving coercion. The spectrum of security threats ranges from economic coercion, cyber war to weapons of mass destruction (WMD) including biological, chemical and nuclear, and climate change. The latter is considered an emerging problem by the military in terms of generating future conflicts among states for scarce resources such as water.

One major tool available in all states but Costa Rica is the military; an institution organized to inflict violence or coercion on behalf of the state across a wide diversity of contexts ranging from internal defense to nuclear holocaust. However, militaries due to their tight organizational cohesion and discipline have also been found by many states to be very useful for other purposes. Thus, militaries are employed for a wide range of social and economic uses; some far removed from the context of war such as conducting humanitarian operations or completing social and economic improvements within the society itself also

known as "operations other than war (OOTW)." One historical example is West Point in its original configuration – the academy produced many of the engineers who built the dams, levees and railroads that helped the United States grown economically and geographically. That was a deliberate decision by the academy's founders who saw the possibilities of an institution that would meet both civilian and military needs. For example, the Corps of Engineers constructs and maintains the levees along the Mississippi River. Robert E. Lee, later commander of the Confederate Army, supervised construction of such levees, an early form of national building but for domestic purposes.

In this course, we will explore these issues within the context of the United States. American security policy is a direct reflection of the desires and needs of the society it protects, a fact which makes it different from those goals sought by other societies but at the same time very similar. The differences relate to the individual societies and the values they represent. Because of its enormous coercive power, important issues arise regarding who controls the military and their likely obedience to the authority. For many societies, the military becomes an independent political actor fully capable and willing to intervene in national politics. Military coups are part of the national politics such as in Turkey where the military previously intervened to protect what they saw as the secular nature of the state. Overcoming such traditions is critical if democracy is to flourish. Egypt in the aftermath of the Arab Spring is grappling with the question of the military's role in democratic politics. American traditions, however, emphasize civilian control over the military, an issue that becomes more complicated as military technologies become more exotic, expensive and powerful. The separation between the military and the society it defends can prove to be a source of national weakness if the gap grows too wide. For example, when General Douglas MacArthur was ordered to return to the United States in 1951 by President Truman that was a critical test of the capacity of the civilian leadership to command obedience. There were some who argued McArthur should resist what they saw a "temporary political authority," temporary or not, in the American context obedience to a lawful order was the expectation which MacArthur followed despite the calls by some to resist by deliberate disobedience. MacArthur's willingness to comply became an essential part of the American military and political tradition unlike a number of states which fear possible military intervention into national politics and refusal to obey civilian government directives. U.S. presidents have often been military officers at earlier points in their careers but none came directly from the military. In fact, now, more recent presidents have had no military experience which raises questions about their interactions with the military.

As an instrument of American security policy, the American military has to adapt to changing domestic and international contexts, which either accentuate or depreciate the military's value within the society. Historically, American society has been very hostile to the military in its views; seeing military service as a burden sometimes necessary but not the norm. In our discussions, we will trace out the changes encountered by the military over the past century, a period during which the United States entered fully onto the world stage despite strong desires to remain aloof from such entanglements (i.e., isolationism). This meant for example that the United States military did not shrink down to insignificance as it had after every previous war up until WWII. The Soviet threat was such that

the downsized American military after WWII was rapidly expanded to fight the Korea War in 1950 and then contend with the Soviet threat globally. With the Cold War's end in 1991, the military fully entered into a period of dramatic change in which the Soviet Union disappeared and the United States ascended to the status of the world's dominant military power. This unipolar status is more tenuous than one might expect given the possibility of an ongoing Revolution in Military Affairs (RMA). The outcome of a RMA is by definition difficult to predict because its effect can be to destroy the technological dominance of the existing militaries. The United States is navigating between the shoals of excessive reliance upon obsolete technologies and the fantasies of super weapons that do not in fact work and may leave the United States more vulnerable than previously. That voyage takes us into the twenty first century and the brave new world of space operations and cyberwar. American security policy has entered a period of dramatic change in which old road markers are gone and the new are not yet in place. The threats are more diverse than ever as globalization takes form. American budget issues raise the question of what capacities to pursue and how much money should be dedicated to military spending. there are no automatic answers despite much rhetoric to that effect. Societies always draw lines as to how much should be spent in order to pursue other societal priorities.

Textbooks and Other Readings:

Two textbooks are required for this course but in addition, you are expected to access the web links in the modules and those provided in web links section of the website. Given the power of the web to allow access to additional materials, we will use sources off the web although some may come as articles in journals which are available through the UCF Library website as on line journals. Readings and assignments are denoted in the modules.

Donald M. Snow – National Security for a New Era, 4th edition (Longman)

Elinor C. Sloan - Modern Military Strategy: An Introduction (Routledge)

Course Objectives:

Students will acquire a general understanding of the historical foundations, present context and future development of American security policy as an arena for human activities. As part of that process, students will:

1. Develop understanding of the field's historical development.

2. Understand the influence of technology and politics upon the development of American security policy. Military policies and activities are immersed in politics often to the professionals' dismay but a reality that must be addressed. According to Clausewitz (crudely paraphrased): "war is the extension of politics by other means."

3. Develop an understanding of the international implications of various national security activities. Military forces can be used for internal security but in the American context historically, they have been focused on the external-international environment. In fact in American politics, the military historically has been restricted in its ability to function domestically.

4. Become aware of the organizational forums and processes (public, private and international sectors) through which national security policy is developed and implemented in pursuit of national goals.

5. Analyze the changing parameters of security policy as we move through the 21 st century especially the rapidly changing nature and impact of technology and economics.

6. Demonstrate the ability to access information regarding ongoing security policy development and implementation.

7. Become aware of the impact of geography on security policy, a factor that has historically protected the United States from many external enemies but now shrinking in certain ways.

Communicating within the Course

In this class our official mode of communication is through the course email located inside WebCT and through the Course Announcements Discussion site. All communications between student and instructor and between student and student should be respectful and professional. It is the student's responsibility to check the "course mail" tool or "course announcements" discussion site frequently. You must also create a Knight's Email account at www.knightsemail.ucf.edu for separate official communication from the university. Under university policy, the instructor is prohibited from communicating official information about student performance in the course except through Knight's email (the email system is free).

Grade Structure:

Grades are determined through a variety of student activities including one examination taken on line through the Assessment function, three assignments completed on the web, a web link search for extra credit, and a course project proposal and subsequent course project submitted on line. The overall weight assigned to each section is shown below with a brief description provided for each facet. Due dates are provided in the assignments section on the course homepage. A total of 1000 points plus a possible 50 points extra credit will be assigned across the semester with each graded segment assigned a point value.

Final grades will be recorded as A, B, C., etc rather than incorporating pluses and minuses. Grades are posted through the course website and are accessible as soon as the materials are graded.

Plagiarism and Cheating of any kind on an examination, quiz, or assignment will result at least in an "F" for that assignment (and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "F" for the entire course) and offenders may be subject to appropriate referral to the Office of Student Conduct for further action. See the UCF Golden Rule for further information. I will assume for this course that you will adhere to the academic creed of this University and will maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. In other words, don't cheat by giving answers to others or taking them from anyone else. I will also adhere to the highest standards of academic integrity, so please do not ask me to change (or expect me to change) your grade illegitimately or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone.

- Examination – 20 %
- Assignments – 30 % total (total of three assignments across the term)
- Course project proposal – 10 %
- Course project – 40 %
- Introductory Assignment – 5% - extra credit –only opportunity for extra credit provided during the term, once closed, no more extra credit opportunities will be offered.

NOTE: All assignments and other submissions must be done in **MS Word format**; otherwise, I am unable to open the document. This may lead to a delay in grading the materials while you resubmit the assignment. A second occurrence will result in a " **zero** " for the assignment. **This restriction means no WordPerfect, MS Works or other word processing programs are accepted.**

The Examination can incorporate both essay and short answer formats. Students will be queried as to their understanding of the processes engaged in developing American Security policy. The Assignments will test student understanding of different information and concepts discussed in the modules and in the readings. The Introductory Assignment involves students completing a course-related biography and demonstrating certain techniques related to successfully completing the course. This is the only extra credit assignment available during this course so please do not ask for additional extra credit opportunities.

The Web Link Annotation as part of the Extra Credit involves students locating Internet links not already identified in the course. Their assignment becomes annotating (describing and evaluating) in general terms the particular site's content, usability and then make some assessment as to its validity, usefulness and reliability as a possible source of information.

Simply put, is the link worth accessing or not? Much of the material on the Web is of dubious reliability, becoming a critical content evaluator and consumer of information is an important part of the course.

Topics are discussed in the modules. Each assignment is a minimum of 1000 words, maximum of 2,000. Minimum of 5 references, text materials do not count as a reference. Format to be used APA except no abstracts at beginning of assignment. Wikipedia is not an acceptable reference, first use entails going a grade down; second, failure of the assignment or project.

Course Project

In this segment of the course, all students are to participate by completing a substantive paper on a topic within the realm of American security policy, see list of topics below. The student, based upon agreement with the instructor, chooses a specific project or topic from a prescribed list of topics. The possibility obviously exists depending upon the number of students that individual students will produce duplicate projects or topics. That situation provides the opportunity for instructor comparison between the individual projects. Individual students are graded on the originality and thought of the project for which they are responsible. Topics selected can range over a variety of topics related to American security policy. General topic areas can include research on:

1. **Cyber warfare,**
2. **Questions related to staffing the military (draft or purely volunteer recruitment are among the options),**
3. **future U.S. military strategy in relation to China, U.S. is pivoting toward Asia, what does that mean.,**
4. **Policy regarding use of unmanned aerial vehicles, armed or not,**
5. **Does Counter insurgency policy work or under what conditions does it work?,**
6. **U.S. security policy in relation to terrorism, which is separate from counter insurgency and larger in scope, and**

7. **Other topics must be explicitly agreed to by the instructor in writing through the course website.**

One can also examine programs and projects in other national militaries, providing an opportunity to expand your horizons beyond the U.S. military. We are considering policy questions rather than tactics per se although ongoing and historical events can be used as illustrations but the focus is on current and future American security policy rather than historical reconstructions of past wars and events.

Topic selections must be chosen and submitted through the Assignments portion of the website by 2300 hours, 21 September 2012 and posted to the drop box on the course website. The project proposal involves a prospectus of at least 750 words explaining what the student proposing to study and what sources have been preliminarily found available to complete the project successfully. You must provide a minimum of five references. This means you must provide a clear statement of the exact topic being analyzed. Failure to turn in an acceptable proposal will result in an "F" for the entire project and for the course. Remember Wikipedia is not an acceptable reference, use of Wikipedia as a source will result in a grade deduction equivalent to 10 percent of the total points for the assignment or course project. After review by the instructor, students can begin their project. Changing your topic after it is accepted must be done by the closing date of the First Examination (see schedule for exact date and time).

Course projects:

- **Must be a minimum of 2,000 words to a maximum of 3,000 words,**
- **15 references, only half can be solely web although library journal articles accessed through the web are not considered web only.**
- **Use American Psychological Association (APA) format – see UCF Library website for information as to format (note however, no abstracts at beginning of paper).**
- **Any changed topic must be approved by the instructor; otherwise, the changed topic will not be accepted. Other changes in the original topic in terms of scope or focus but still the same general topic, for example, should be emailed to the instructor for his approval. NO CHANGES WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER 1 NOVEMBER AT 2300 HOURS. This is in order that sufficient time exists to complete your project.**

- **Late projects or assignments are graded down a letter grade a day until an F grade is reached. However, failure to complete a satisfactory project will result in an "F" for the course regardless of the number of points earned in other portions of the course.**

Course Schedule:

The specifics of the course schedule in terms of content is handled through the Schedule of Assignments page and the modules listed therein. You must read the modules in order to know what textbook chapters and other materials are assigned. Students are expected to be current on readings and assignments since they are available twenty four/seven.

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Schedule of Assignments
Fall 2012

Module Number	Module name	Date Open	Date Close	Assignment
0	Getting Started	20 August	14 September at 2300 hours	Complete extra credit in Module 0 including posting web annotation to the drop box and complete class discussion
1	What does National Security Mean Today?	20 August	4 September at 2300 hours	Read materials, start work on project proposal and Assignment 1
2	Introduction - Historical, World War Two and the Cold War	4 September	September 11 at 2300 hours	Read Materials and respond to Discussion: "The military intervention in Iraq in 2003 fit the criteria established by the

				Powell Doctrine?"
Project Proposal	Picking your topic	23 August	21 September at 2300 hours	Submit project proposal to drop box labeled "Project Proposal"
3	Historical – Post Cold War, the End of Isolation?	September 12	September 21at 2300 hours	Complete Assignment 1
4	Changing Nature of War and Peace	22 September	6 October at 2300 hours	Read materials assigned in module
5	The Revolution in Military Affairs?	7 October	15 October at 2300 hours	Read materials and respond to Discussion Group: "Are we in an RMA?"
Examination	Test	16 October	20 October at 2300 hours	Complete examination on line
6	New Modes of War, Traditional Questions	21 October	28 October at 2300 hours	Complete readings
7	Defense Spending, when is Enough, Enough?	29 October	5 November at 2300 hours	Complete readings & Respond to Discussion Group: How realistic is BMD? Complete Assignment 2
8	Staffing the Military	6 November	13 November	Complete readings

			at 2300 hours	
Project	Project	10 November	14 November at 2300	Turn project report in through drop box
9	Cyber War as Prelude or Alternative to War to Kinetic War	14 November	30 November at 2300 hours	Complete readings
10	The Future of War: How Safe is Safe and Predicting the Future	1 December	6 December at 2300 hours	Complete readings & Respond to "Cyber war requires government control of internet within the U.S.?" Complete Assignment 3

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