Course Syllabus

Jump to Today

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INR 6136 - American Security Policy

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American Security Policy
INR 6136
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Overview:

American security policy was once considered relatively simple in that most thought of i solely in terms of military threats against the United States either foreign or domestic although economic warfare was recognized as possible, i.e. blockades and embargoes. Civil War ended most of the concern about internal threats although questions of law an order continued in many parts of the United States. Suppression of the American Indian was considered a minor issue nationally given the disparity in numbers and firepower ultimately.

By the 1880s, the U.S. was more conscious of its role in the world although isolationism remained a strong current in national politics but that now competed with those who felt U.S. had a destiny in the world to match that of the great powers of Europe. However, th nation's physical isolation made such ventures unlikely although the United States had l active in various parts of the world when its interests were at stake including the pirates the Barbary Coast of North Africa and the trade possibilities presented by the Western Pacific Rim (then known as the Far East even though it was west of the U.S.). U.S. natu resources and growing population guaranteed awareness of its military potential but mo national energy went into the opening of the Western United States and exploitation of t resources found there. For example, the United States was aware of warfare in Europe saw that as essentially not of interest.

The Spanish-American War in 1898 introduced the United States to the world as an imp power – a posture strenuously debated within American politics. By the end of the war, t U.S. had acquired an empire in the Pacific and the Caribbean. The result was U.S. colo and engagement in the politics of the various regions. The U.S. agreed to leave the Philippines in 1945 while U.S. forces withdrew from Cuba after the war (while retaining Guantanamo Bay as protection for the Panama Canal) but remained in Puerto Rico unc changed status as a U.S. territory. World War One placed the U.S. despite its wishes or frontlines of international security. After joining the Allies in defeating imperial Germany, U.S. militarily largely withdrew back to the homeland. The U.S. remained internationally engaged on some issues such as naval treaties limiting the size of ships and fleets but rejecting membership in the League of Nations (helping insure its ultimate failure). The r of aggressors in Europe and Asia saw the U.S. initially on the sideline for reasons of domestic politics and a sense of disengagement from world problems. One unanswerab question is whether the U.S. would have declared war on Germany after the Japanese a on Pearl Harbor in the absence of a German attack. Instead, Nazi Germany declared w the United States which resolved the question. Hitler apparently viewed the U.S. as only slowly impacting the outcome of the war – a miscalculation of the first order.

World War 2 did two things; it devastated most of the major powers and raised the U.S. the peak of relative military power relative to all comers especially given its monopoly ov nuclear weapons. On the ruins of Europe and Japan along with other damaged states s as China and the Soviet Union, the U.S. held most of the cards especially given the uncertainty about how many nuclear weapons the U.S. possessed after the two bombin

Japanese cities. In reality, effectively none but that information was closely held. During war, the U.S. pushed for international forums to prevent the next world war (a reversal c views after World War One) – Europe was uncertain it could survive another such encou These organizations had the purpose of keeping the U.S. engaged in world problems ra than retreating back to Fortress America. Technology rendered such isolationism untena in terms of national security. Through a long series of events, the situation resulted in a developed world largely split between adherents of the Soviet Union or the United State with the less developed world a forum for competition as the European empires collapse and the imperial powers withdrew back to their homelands.

The resulting Cold War was the dominant international fact of life for nearly two generat The terminology of a Cold War implied a struggle to the death but one in which the two s powers did not directly fight each other but rather operated through a series of surrogate For the US, this played out in the Korea War, the Vietnam War, and a series of skirmishe Asia, Africa and Central America. The fear was that direct super power conflict would escalate into nuclear conflict. Much effort both politically and intellectually went into maintaining a situation of continual conflict without raising the level of nuclear conflict. The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1989-1991 led to the peaceful end of the Cold War - a unique event when a major empire collapses without a war ensuing or as the result of some other catastrophic event. The fall of the Soviet Union though has been characteriz by the current Russia president as 'The breakup of the Soviet Union was the greatest geopolitical tragedy of the 20th century.' Putin's actual quote may be somewhat differen the message is clear that Russia suffered greatly and his mission is to recover from that debacle, **http://www.politifact.com/punditfact/statements/2014/mar/06/john-bolton/did-vladimir-putin-call-breakup-ussr-greatest-geop/** **(http://www.politifact.com/punditfact/statements/2014/mar/06/john-bolton/did-vladimir-putin-call-breakup-ussr-greate geop/)** . What all this means is that a globalizing world is becoming more diverse in tern the threats that the national security apparatus and political leadership must address in time. Threats come in traditional forms in terms of military forces and other elements of national power but more importantly the threats from non-state actors have moved to th along with the extension of national security threats into the realm of organized crime w operates internationally

Thus, this course on U.S. security policy looks much different from what was taught whe started at UCF in 1972. There continues to be a military component but national securit

encompasses explicitly areas that formerly were either not relevant or dealt with only by private sector if they existed prior to the past 15 years. September 11, 2001 changed Americans' view of their personal security but what truly changed for the government ar military is how to respond to such threats especially as they morph into different areas. Efforts at ramping down the war in Afghanistan has placed the military in a strain becau the war may be heating up again. The question is whether the US is now in the "forever some had feared after the attacks on the U.S. in 2001. The terminology used now is the "long war" but the implication is that the U.S. may be returning to a world not dissimilar i sense of conflict to that of the "100 years war" earlier in Europe, http://www.history.com /topics/hundred-years-war. That conflict basically ended through exhaustion rather than victory. The "long war" raises the same question, what is the end game? See Mark T Be & Douglas A Borer (2007) The Long War: insurgency, counterinsurgency and collapsing states, Third World Quarterly, 28:2, 197-215, DOI: 10.1080/01436590601153572 **http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/01436590601153572** **(http://dx.doi.org/10.1080 /01436590601153572)** .

Policy makers now have to predict an environment that incorporates traditional style mil threats such as the Russians and the Chinese while the more nebulous threats posted l cyber criminals whose actions may be more devastating than the military threats. More states develop the capacity to engage in cyber war each day, raising the difficulty of thre identification and response in real time. Nuclear proliferation remains an agenda item w biological weapons grow more potentially deadly as the technologies proliferate across globe. The margin between benign and horrific in some areas is razor thin. Restructurin national security apparatus including the military services becomes a US priority with litt certainty about what the future looks like. The situation in the Ukraine and the rise of ISI demand attention while China continues its rise to what the Chinese see as their natura historical position as a world power.

Nations confront the necessity for conducting their foreign policies across a broad spect of issues by involving a variety of instruments. National security at the most general leve means protecting the United States against all foreseeable threats not just military The spectrum of security threats ranges from economic coercion, cyber war to weapons of n destruction (WMD) including biological, chemical and nuclear, and climate change. The is considered a real problem by the military in terms of generating future conflicts amon states for scarce resources such as water and imparting operations. Environmental sec

has become an official concern of the Department of Defense (DoD) for more than a de predating the Obama administration.
One major tool available in all states but Costa Rica is the military itself; an institution organized to inflict violence on behalf of the state across a wide diversity of contexts rar 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 purposes; s 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 m operations other than war (MOOTW), see http://www.au.af.mil/au/awc/awcgate /pub1/appendix_e.pdf. One historical example is West Point in its original configuration academy produced many of the engineers who built the dams and railroads that assiste United States growth economically and geographically. That was a deliberate decision b academy's founders including President Thomas Jefferson who saw the possibilities of institution that would meet both civilian and military needs.

In this course, we will explore these issues within the context of the United States. Ame security policy is a direct reflection of the desires and needs of the specific society it pro a fact which makes it different from those goals sought by other societies but at the sam time very similar. The differences relate to the individual societies and the values they represent. Because of its enormous coercive power, important issues exist regarding wl controls the military and their likely obedience to the lawful authority. For many societies 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 military previously intervened to protect what they saw as the secular nature of the state Egypt where the military intervened in July 2013 to overthrow a democratically elected government.
American traditions, however, emphasize civilian control over the military, an issue that becomes more complicated as military technologies become more exotic, expensive an powerful. The separation between the military and the society it defends can prove to be source of national weakness if the gap grows too wide. For example, General Douglas McArthur was ordered to return to the United States from Korea in 1951 by President H Truman in a test of the civilian leadership's capacity to require military obedience. There were some who argued General McArthur should resist what they saw as a "temporary

political authority," temporary or not, in the American context obedience to a lawful orde the expectation which McArthur fulfilled despite those calls for deliberate disobedience. McArthur's willingness to comply reinforced an essential part of American military and political tradition unlike a number of states which fear possible military intervention into national politics and their refusal to obey civilian government directives.

As an instrument of American security policy, the American military has to adapt to char 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 milita seeing military service as a burden sometimes necessary but not the expected or desire norm. In our discussions, we will trace out the changes encountered by the military over 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 a had after every previous war up until World War II. The Soviet threats was considered o such importance that the American military after WWII was rapidly expanded to first figh Korea War starting in 1950 and then contend with the Soviet threat globally. With the Co War's end in 1991, the military fully entered into a period of dramatic change in which th Soviet Union disappeared and the United States ascended to the status of the world's dominant military power.

This unipolar status remains more tenuous than one might expect given the possibility o ongoing Revolution in Military Affairs (RMA). The outcome of a RMA is by definition diffi to predict because the effect can be to destroy the technological dominance of the exist militaries. The United States is attempting to navigate between the shoals of excessive reliance upon obsolete technologies and the fantasies of super weapons that do not in f work and may leave the United States more vulnerable than previously. That voyage tak us into the twenty first century and the brave new world of space operations and cyberw American security policy has entered a period of dramatic change in which old road mar are gone and the new are not yet in place. The threats are more diverse than ever as globalization takes form.

Course Goals: 1) Students will learn relevant perspectives and the analytic tools neede understand American security policy, its historical and ideological foundations, policy processes and challenges. 2) Students will further their knowledge of key facts relevant the study of American security policy. 3) Students will improve their writing, research an

analytic skills.

Design of the Course:

This course is derived from an earlier face to face version of the course but has been adapted to the online environment. What that means is that students will be expected tc participate in a series of discussions dealing with the readings and the research you are expected to produce in the context of the course. This is not a course in busy work whe you generate something every day as you can see from the grade structure and module organization. Modules will be set up along with discussions to open every eight days or through the course, this allows time enough to read the materials assigned and engage informed discussion. Everyone must post in the first four days of the assigned discussio Individuals will be assigned specific articles which they will analyze and present to the c through a discussion that corresponds to the topic for which the article is assigned. Artic assignments will be developed by Wednesday of the first week of class, there will norma be two per time interval. The first week will two fold, asking you to provide a short parag identifying yourself in terms of program you are in, what your interest in U.S. security pc is, and what your goals are once you complete whatever degree program you are in presently. The schedule for the discussions is listed below and also in Module 1.

1: May 16th-May 23rd, you must post by May 19th
2. May 24th - May 31st, you must post by May 27th
3. June 1st - June 8th, you must post by June 4th
4. June 9th - June 16th, you must post by June 12th
5. June 17th - June 24th, you must post by June 20th
6. June 25th - July 2nd, you must post by June 28th
7. July 3rd - July 10th, you must post by July 6th

Grade Structure:

Grades are a product of several activities; most are based on your writing and analysis different aspects of American security policy. Remember time frames are compressed tl term so falling behind is not a viable option.
200 points - class discussion, article analyses - class discussions are 10 points first discussion, 20 points each of the rest, 35 points per article analysis
200 points –First Cut Strategic Threat Analysis– due June 2nd
200 points – Second Cut Analysis of Capabilities General and Specific – due June 23rd

400 points –Third Cut Strategic Threat Analysis Specific – due July 14th

Late assignments are graded down ten percent a day.

Grades in the course will be A, B, C, etc. with no plus or minus grades.

Academic Integrity:

Plagiarism and Cheating of any kind on an assignment will result at least in an "F" for th assignment (and may, depending on the severity of the case, lead to an "F" for the entir course) and offenders may be subject to appropriate referral to the Office of Student Co 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 papers 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 g illegitimately or to bend or break rules for one person that will not apply to everyone.

NOTE: All submissions must be done in MS Word format; otherwise, I am unable to ope 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 restricti means no WordPerfect, MS Works or other word processing programs are accepted.

Readings:

So, the course will be moving fast – the readings only can hint at what is out there in ter literature. We will deal with both academic and policy literature but there are other sourc the news media that may be relevant to your analysis. We have only 9 weeks total to sc the surface. A series of articles and monographs provides the framework and content w which we will work. There is no text assigned for this course.

Communicating within the Course

In this class our official mode of communication outside class discussions is through em For questions about specific class items or other information, you can contact me by em roger.handberg@ ucf.edu. All communication between student and instructor and betwe student and student should be respectful and professional. You must also create and us Knight's Email account at www.knightsemail.ucf.edu for separate official communication

from the university. Under university policy, the instructor is prohibited from communicat official information about student performance except through Knight's email (the email system is free).

Project Requirements including due dates:

The topics to be researched here include the threat environment the United States conf over the immediate future and the options that appear to exist going forward. The cours assumes you are familiar with the structure of the U.S. government and the national sec establishment. The submissions will be completed in three stages labeled First Cut, Sec Cut, and Final Cut.
The **First Cut (due June 2nd)** involves an analysis of the most critical national security threats confronting the US over the immediate future. You are to rank the specific threat terms of severity of the challenge posed and then the probability of occurrence. Your analysis will be a **minimum of 1500 words with at least ten references that you hav read**. Your analysis must be detailed, succinct and to the point. You turn in the First Cut through the course website. You must use the referencing system employed by the **American Political Science Review** which you can Google (the guide appears in a nu of locations). References can be a selection of documents, reports, academic articles a books, and relevant news items (few of these). This First Cut is where you identify gene threats and begin the task of honing in on the important threats that must be addressed

The **Second Cut (due June 23rd)** paper involves your assessment of U.S. capabilities terms their applicability in dealing with security threats. Remember the spectrum of pote threats is always broader than capabilities but states must make choices in how they wi respond. This analysis should be informed by your initial analysis as to the actual threat the threats and the capabilities match up or does the U.S. need to make major changes increase in effort in order to deal with the environment you envisioned. The Second Cut be a **minimum of 2000 words with at least 20 references germane to the analysis**.

The **Third Cut (due July 12th)** builds upon the two previous analyses, you are to identi and analyze the most critical (1) national security threat the US faces over the next ten years. Your analysis must explain and justify your choice in terms of its credibility and likelihood. The second part of your analysis is to develop what the US strategic respons should be to defeat or ameliorate this specific serious threat. The document will be a **minimum of 3000 words with whatever references you feel support your analysis**

recommendations. Late papers are graded down 10 percent a day.

Schedule

Week of: Topic:

May 16- Course Introduction and Historical Context, Organizational Structure & Change vertical and horizontal

May 24- Changing Tools, Volunteer Military, Revolution in Military Affairs (RMA), Specia Operations

June 1- Complications: Failed States, Economic Challenges, Resource limitations,

June 9- Security Threats - Asia Pivot, Crimea, ISIS and Instability

June 17- Nonmilitary Threats & Vulnerabilities – Urbanization and poverty globally
June 25- Security Threats – Technology Driven, Weaponized Space, Cyber War, Ballisti Missiles

July 3 Security Threats – Natural, Disease Vectors, Climate Change

Date	Details	
Mon May 23, 2016	**Financial Aid Verification Assignment (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1177362/assignments/4557344)**	
Tue May 24, 2016	**US in decline? (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1177362/assignments/4605989)**	due by 1
Thu Jun 2, 2016	**First Cut (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1177362/assignments/4557345)**	due b
Thu Jun 23, 2016	**Second Cut (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1177362/assignments/4557347)**	due b
Tue Jul 12, 2016	**Third Cut (https://webcourses.ucf.edu/courses/1177362/assignments/4557348)**	due b