

Security Studies: Theories and Concepts

PSCI/IS 3104

Department of Political Science
Virginia Tech
Fall 2017

Paul Avey

Course Information

Course Time: T/R 9:30 – 10:45

Course Room: MCB 304

Contact Information

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Office Hours: T/R 2:00 – 3:15 pm (I am also available by appointment)

Course Description

This course provides an overview of security studies as a field of study. Part One introduces the key methods and approaches used to understand security issues. In Part Two the class explores major historical conflicts focusing on the role played by factors such as the international system, regimes, technological developments, and individuals. Part Three considers prominent issues in security studies. In Part Four we apply insights developed throughout the course to explore the security situation in key areas of the globe.

Grading

There are 200 total points in the class. Grades are based on class attendance, two discussion memos, participation, a film questionnaire, one midterm, and a final exam. Any late assignments will automatically lose 10% of the grade for each day that it is late. There are no extensions for any assignments except in the case of documented health or family emergencies. If you are not able to come to class the day an assignment is due for any other reason that you knew of in advance, including excused absences for athletics, religious holidays, etc., you must turn that assignment in *prior* to that class period.

Class Attendance (20 points)

I will take attendance each class. Students earn one point for each class they attend throughout the semester, up to a total of 20 points. Not counting the Introduction and Midterm classes, there are 26 classes in the semester. You may therefore miss up to six classes for student activities, family, health, or any other personal reason without penalty and without needing to get prior approval from me. This is not an opportunity to miss six classes early in the semester and then

ask for an excused absence later during that part of the course. I will not grant additional absences. In other words, if you think you will need to miss four classes for extracurricular or family activities you may only miss an additional two classes without losing points. If you miss six classes for personal reasons and then need to miss two classes for extracurricular, health, or family reasons you will lose two points for two of the classes missed for personal reasons.

Film Questionnaire (10 points)

We will watch one film in the class, *The Battle of Algiers*. On the day we begin watching the film I will hand out a short film questionnaire for you to complete. The questionnaire will be due the class after we finish the film.

Discussion Memos (20 points each)

There are two discussion memos throughout the semester. I will assign a question the week before each discussion class. Each student will then write a short (600-1,000 words) response to that question that outlines 1) your position on the issue, 2) why that position makes sense, and 3) why that position is superior to the alternative position(s). The responses are due at the beginning of each discussion class. You must put your word count on the page and the essays must be under 1,000 words to be graded. You may use references from outside of class but this is not required. You may use any citation method you prefer so long as the source is clear and you are consistent throughout the paper. Students should come to class prepared to participate in the discussion and defend their position to their colleagues.

Discussion Participation (5 points)

Throughout the semester we will discuss various issues, especially during the workshop (class 6), discussions (classes 9 and 24), and after the film (class 18). You do not need to talk every class or for the entire class period, but in order to get full credit you must at least occasionally participate.

Midterm Exam (50 points)

The midterm is a closed book and closed note exam that contains fill in the blank questions, short ID questions in which students identify a term and explain its significance, and one essay question. It will cover material in Parts One and Two of the course.

Final Exam (75 points)

The final exam is a closed book and closed note exam that contains fill in the blank questions, short ID questions in which students identify a term and explain its significance, and two essay questions. The final exam is cumulative but will be weighted towards material covered in the Parts 3 and 4 of the course.

Required Reading

There are two assigned books for this class. Both are available for purchase at the Virginia Tech bookstore or through online distributors. Please be sure to get the correct version as pages and information can change.

Alan Collins, *Contemporary Security Studies* 4th Edition (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016). All readings from this book are marked with AC.

Frank McDonough, *The Origins of the First and Second World Wars*, (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997)

All additional readings marked with an * are available through the Canvas course webpage. You can access Canvas at <https://vt.instructure.com/> or via the Quick Links tab on the Virginia Tech homepage. To access the readings click on the files tab and open the Class Readings folder.

A note on the readings. The amount of reading varies throughout this class, with some weeks having more than 100 pages assigned. Check the syllabus and plan ahead as necessary.

Academic Integrity

All students must abide by the Virginia Tech Honor Code. The Undergraduate Honor Code pledge that each member of the university community agrees to abide by states: “As a Hokie, I will conduct myself with honor and integrity at all times. I will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor will I accept the actions of those who do.” Students enrolled in this course are responsible for abiding by the Honor Code. A student who has doubts about how the Honor Code applies to any assignment is responsible for obtaining specific guidance from the course instructor before submitting the assignment for evaluation. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the University community from the requirements and expectations of the Honor Code.

For additional information about the Honor Code, please visit: <https://www.honorsystem.vt.edu/>

Please note that I take academic integrity very seriously and pursue all avenues if I detect violations.

Computer Policy

I do not allow the use of laptops, tablets, phones, or other electronic devices during class. There is growing evidence that electronic devices hinder learning for yourself and for those around you. First, recent research has shown that students taking longhand notes do better on conceptual questions than those taking notes on laptops. Second, not surprisingly, there is a tendency for anyone to multitask by checking email, watching videos, reading websites, etc. I’m guilty of this myself in meetings. Unfortunately, this sort of multitasking inhibits your learning. Third, and perhaps most importantly, use of a laptop or tablet can distract those around you and inhibit their learning. For discussion on these points see

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/national/wp/2014/08/26/ditch-the-laptop-and-pick-up-a-pen-class-researchers-say-its-better-for-note-taking/> AND
<http://chronicle.com/blogs/linguafranca/2014/08/25/why-im-asking-you-not-to-use-laptops/>.

Students with Disabilities

I am strongly committed to working with students who have any disability recognized under the Americans with Disabilities Act to ensure that they are able to fully participate in class activities.

If you feel you require reasonable accommodations please follow the process outlined by the Services for Students with Disabilities office, at: <http://www.ssd.vt.edu/>.

Course Outline

August 28 (T) Class 1 Introduction

Part 1: Concepts and Theories

August 31 *No Class* *No Class*
September 5 Class 2 Theory
September 7 Class 3 Anarchy and Force
September 12 Class 4 Realism
September 14 Class 5 Liberalism
September 19 Class 6 Workshop
September 21 Class 7 Constructivism
September 26 Class 8 Critical Studies
September 28 Class 9 Discussion

Part 2: Hot and Cold Wars

October 3 Class 10 World War I
October 5 Class 11 World War II
October 10 Class 12 Cold War
October 12 Class 13 Iraq
October 17 Class 14 Midterm

Part 3: Issues

October 19 Class 15 WMD
October 24 Class 16 Terrorism
October 26 Class 17 Film, I
October 31 Class 18 Film, II
November 2 Class 19 Drones
November 7 Class 20 Cyber
November 9 Class 21 Reputation
November 14 Class 22 Humanitarian Intervention
November 16 Class 23 Environment
November 28 Class 24 Discussion

Part 4: Regions

November 30 Class 25 Europe
December 5 Class 26 Asia
December 7 Class 27 Middle East
December 12 Class 28 A Clash of Civilizations?

Final Exam: December 18, 7:45 AM – 9:45 AM

Course Readings

August 29 (T) Class 1. Introduction

- No Reading

Part 1: Concepts and Theories

August 31 (R) No Class

- No Reading

September 5 (T) Class 2. Theory

- * Carl Zimmer, "In Science, It's Never 'Just' A Theory," *New York Times*, April 8, 2016, <http://www.nytimes.com/2016/04/09/science/in-science-its-never-just-a-theory.html>
- * Nate Silver, *The Signal and the Noise*, (New York: Penguin Press, 2012), pages 185-189, 194-197.
- * Tom Nichols, "How America Lost Faith in Expertise," *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2017, pages 60-73

September 7 (R) Class 3. Anarchy and Force

- * Thucydides, pages 48-49 (section 23), 400-408 (sections 84-116)
- * Robert J. Art, "The Four Functions of Force," *International Security*, Vol. 4, No. 4 (Spring 1980), 145-151

September 12 (T) Class 4. Realism

- AC, Charles Glaser, "Realism," pages 13-29
- *William C. Wohlforth, "The Stability of a Unipolar World," *International Security* Vol. 24, No. 1 (Summer 1999), pages 5-9, 23-28

September 14 (R) Class 5. Liberalism

- AC, Patrick Morgan, "Liberalism," pages 30-43

September 19 (T) Class 6. Workshop

- No Reading

September 21 (R) Class 7. Constructivism

- AC, Christine Agius, "Social Constructivism," pages 70-86
- Discussion Memo 1 handed out in class

September 26 (T) Class 8. Critical Security

- AC, David Mutimer, "Critical Security Studies: A Schismatic History," pages 87-107
- AC, Mark Laffey and Suthaharan Nadarajah, "Postcolonialism," pages 122-138

September 28 (R) Class 9. Discussion

- No reading
- Discussion Memo 1 due in class

Part 2: Hot and Cold Wars

October 3 (T) Class 10. World War I

- McDonough, pages 3-21

October 5 (R) Class 11. World War II

- McDonough, pages 43-89

October 10 (T) Class 12. Cold War

- * John Lewis Gaddis, “The Long Peace: Elements of Stability in the Postwar International System,” *International Security*, Vol. 10, No. 4 (1986), pages 99-142

October 12 (R) Class 13. Iraq

- * Hal Brands, “The Dangers of Being Grand: George W. Bush and the Post-9/11 Era,” pages 144-189.

October 17 (T) Class 14. Midterm Exam

- No Reading
- Exam during class

Part 3: Issues

October 19 (R) Class 15. Weapons of Mass Destruction

- AC, James J. Wirtz, “Weapons of Mass Destruction,” pages 294-310

October 24 (T) Class 16. Terrorism

- AC, Brenda Lutz and James Lutz, “Terrorism,” pages 311-326
- *Robert Pape, “It’s the Occupation, Stupid,” *Foreign Policy*, October 18, 2010

October 26 (Th) Class 17. Film, I

- No reading
- Start *The Battle of Algiers* in class
- Film questionnaire for *The Battle of Algiers* handed out in class

October 31 (T) Class 18. Film, II

- No reading
- Finish *The Battle of Algiers*

November 2 (R) Class 19. Drones

- * Daniel Byman, “Why Drones Work,” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 92, No. 4 (July/August 2013), pages 32-43
- * Audrey Kurth Cronin, “Why Drones Fail,” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 92, No. 4 (July/August 2013), pages 44-54
- Film questionnaire for *Battle of Algiers* due at start of class

November 7 (T) Class 20. Cyber

- AC, Myriam Dunn Cavelty, “Cyber-Security,” pages 401-416

November 9 (Th) Class 21. Reputation

- * Daryl G. Press, “The Credibility of Power: Assessing Threats during the ‘Appeasement’ Crises of the 1930s,” *International Security* Vol. 29, No. 3 (Winter 2004/05), pages 136-169
- * Max Fisher, “Do U.S. Strikes Send a ‘Message’ to Rivals?” *New York Times*, April 21, 2017, <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/04/21/world/do-us-strikes-send-a-message-to-rivals-theres-no-evidence.html>

November 14 (T) Class 22. Humanitarian Intervention

- AC, Alex J. Bellamy, “Humanitarian Intervention,” pages 327-342
- Discussion Memo 2 handed out in class

November 16 (Th) Class 23. Environment

- AC, Jon Barnett, “Environmental Security,” pages 229-246

November 28 (T) Class 24. Discussion

- No reading
- Discussion Memo 2 due in class

Part 4: Regional Challenges and Opportunities

November 30 (Th) Class 25. Europe

- *Sebastian Rosato, “Europe’s Troubles: Power Politics and the State of the European Project,” *International Security*, Vol. 35, No. 4 (Spring 2011), pages 45-86

December 5 (T) Class 26. Asia

- *Aaron L. Friedberg, “The Future of U.S.-China Relations: Is Conflict Inevitable?” *International Security*, Vol. 30, No. 2 (2005), pages 7-45

December 7 (Th) Class 27. Middle East

- *Seth G. Jones, “The Mirage of the Arab Spring: Deal with the Region You Have, not the Region You Want,” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 93, No. 1 (January/February, 2013), pages 55-63

- *Sheri Berman, “The Promise of the Arab Spring: In Political Development, No Gain Without Pain,” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 93, No. 1 (January/February, 2013), pages 64-74

December 12 (T) Class 28. A Clash of Civilizations?

- * Samuel Huntington, “The Clash of Civilizations?” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 72, No. 3 (Summer, 1993), pages 22-49
- * Stephen M. Walt, “The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order,” *Foreign Policy*, No. 106 (Spring 1997), pages 176-189

Final Exam

December 18, 7:45AM – 9:45 AM