Spring 2019  
POIR 680 – International Security and Foreign Policy

Instructor

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School of International Relations

Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description

The range of material that might be included in this seminar is vast, so an effort will be made to balance overall coverage with the need to look in more depth at some especially salient areas in the literature. The seminar unfolds in five parts. Each will be described in turn.

Part I, which consists of one session, takes an initial look at the subfields of international security and foreign policy analysis within the discipline of International Relations.

In Part II, the subfield of international security is addressed over the course of five sessions. We begin with a selective overview of international security and then shift to realism, the most time-honored approach, as it has developed over the last few decades into contemporary variants. Political psychology, which is trending upward in its role regarding security studies, then is reviewed. Ideas about security from constructivism and the Copenhagen School are considered next. The section finishes up with some influential developments, such as engagement with the concept of intervention and identity politics.

Part III consists of five sessions that address the subfield of foreign policy analysis. We once again begin with a selective overview and move on to how leaders struggle with changing course in response to error, along with foreign policy at a regional level. The section concludes with two sessions that cover a range of recent developments in foreign policy analysis.

In Part IV, cybersecurity and ‘big data’ in particular, along with new directions in general, are explored over two sessions. Cyber security and ‘big data’ come first. The second session focuses on a wide range of potential new directions.

Part V of the course is a session that takes a final look at international security and foreign policy. In sum, what have we learned in an overall sense?
Course Requirements

Take-Home Mid-term Examination (available February 27 – due March 8 at 5 p.m.) 15%

Take-Home Final Examination (available April 24 – due May 5 at 5 p.m.) 25%

Term Essay (due April 24, two-page outline due April 3) 30%

Seminar Leadership 15%

Class Participation 15%

Review sheets (i.e., study guides) will be provided on email so you can prepare effectively for the take-home mid-term and final exams. All of the material from the assigned readings and class discussions will be tested on the exams. The mid-term will appear on email on February 27 and a ten-page, double spaced answer is due by 5 p.m. on March 8. The respective dates for the final exam are April 24 and May 5. The final exam will be 15 double spaced pages.

The term essay, limited to 25-double spaced pages (i.e., text and notes), is due in class on April 24. The format is straightforward. I expect you to focus in greater depth on any one of the major subjects we cover on a weekly basis. A two-page outline and bibliography for your paper is due on April 3 or there will be a 20% penalty. This should be sent to me for review and approval via email. Please do visit with me as you begin to put together your outline. I expect to see a proposal for a paper that offers constructive criticism and some ideas for synthesis in a significant area of the literature on international conflict, crisis and war. The paper may take the form of a review essay, case study, formal model or aggregate data analysis; choice of method will depend upon the problem under study.

Each student will take a turn as seminar leader at one point during the semester. The date at which you will serve as seminar leader will be determined by a lottery held in the first class session. (Trades between students are permitted but must be approved in advance by the instructor.) The seminar leader is expected to (a) prepare a set of discussion points about the material that I then put up on Blackboard on the Thursday preceding class; and (b) take primary responsibility for leading the discussion throughout the seminar session. The discussion points are due to me (i.e., at patrickj@usc.edu by email attachment) at the beginning of the week before your session as seminar leader. For example, if you are seminar leader for February 13, your material is due on February 6.

A successful seminar will involve a mixture of discussion including both theory and its application to the real world. Thus the seminar leader should try to provide a series of provocative questions and issues that bring together the reading material for the week under more encompassing themes.
Your participation is very important to the success of this seminar. Thus a grade for participation in sessions other than those for which you are seminar leader also is included.

All assignments are subject to change as noted in class, although none is expected at this time.

Be sure to back up all of your computer files. Do not turn in your only copy of any requirement.

The grading scale is as follows: A (90-100); B (80-89); C (70-79); D (60-69); F (< 60).

**Americans with Disabilities Act**

If you have special needs as addressed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and need assistance, please notify the Office of Disability Services, A048 Brady Commons, 882-4696, or me, immediately. Reasonable efforts will be made to accommodate your special needs.

**Make-up Requirements**

There will be no make-up assignments or tests for unexcused absences. Acceptable excuses, meaning medical or family emergencies and official university-related business, must be provided either to me in person, in writing, or by phone before an absence and in writing afterwards in order to be considered. Students who are unable to complete a requirement for legitimate reasons that do not quality as excused under university guidelines, and who notify me ahead of time may, at my discretion, complete a requirement belatedly. Any requirement turned in on the day that it is due but after the time specified will face a 20% penalty. Each additional late day will mean a further 20% deduction.

**Policy on Academic Ethics and Honesty**

The academic work of all students must comply with all policies that appear in the Schedule of Classes and the University Catalogue. Academic honesty is fundamental to the activities and principles of a university. All members of the academic community must be confident that each person’s work has been responsibly and honorably acquired, developed and presented. Any effort to gain an advantage not given to all students is dishonest whether or not the effort is successful. The academic community regards academic dishonesty as an extremely serious matter, with serious consequences that range from probation to expulsion. When in doubt about plagiarism, paraphrasing, quoting or collaboration, consult the course instructor.
Required Books


Other Required Readings

All other reading will be made available through Blackboard as needed.

Schedule

Part I: Overview

January 9 International Security and Foreign Policy Analysis

Part II: International Security

16 A Selective Overview of International Security


Realism and Security Studies


Political Psychology


Constructivism and the Copenhagen School


Influential Developments in International Security


Part III: Foreign Policy Analysis

20 A Selective Overview of Foreign Policy Analysis


27 Decision-Making


Note: Midterm exam available – due March 8 at 5 p.m.

March 6 Foreign Policy at a Regional Level


13 Class Cancelled (Spring Break)

20 Developments in Foreign Policy Analysis, I


27 Class Cancelled (ISA Conference)
April 3 Developments in Foreign Policy Analysis, II


**Note:** Two-page outline of term essay is due.

**Part IV: New Directions**

10 Cyber Security and ‘Big Data’


Part V: What Have We Learned?

24 A Final Look at Conflict, Crisis and War

(Review all previous reading.)

Note: Term Essay Due

Note: Final exam available – due May 5 at 5 p.m.