

Government 341 Course Syllabus: “Seminar in International Politics: International Perspectives on Contemporary Security Issues” (Version of 8/10/05)

Class Time: Wednesdays 7:30-9:30 PM

Professor: Jacques E. C. Hymans (jhymans@email.smith.edu)

Office: Wright Hall 105. Office Tel: 413-585-3677.

Office Hours: Wednesdays 2:30-4, and by appointment.

Course description: This seminar explores the similarities and differences between American and foreign understandings of some of the central security challenges facing the world today. How do different Americans conceive of, and try to deal with, security threats such as weapons of mass destruction and terrorism? How do other political thinkers and actors around the world approach these threats? Is it possible to bridge the gaps between these approaches? Prerequisite: GOV 241 or permission of the instructor.

Grading and requirements:

(a) 7 1-page response papers on the reading, due via email BEFORE 4:00 PM on the day of the class in which we are discussing that reading (3% each: 21% total).

[These response papers should be divided into 2 sections of roughly equal length. Section 1 should describe a counterintuitive (i.e., a way of seeing things that you hadn't thought of before) point the author makes that you find convincing, and why you find it so. Section 2 should describe a counterintuitive point the author makes that you find unconvincing, and why you find it so. In describing these points, you should use direct quotes where possible, including specific reference to page numbers. **YOU MUST LIMIT THESE PAPERS TO 1 PAGE MAXIMUM. NOTE THAT YOU MAY TURN IN MORE THAN 7 PAPERS AND I WILL COUNT THE 7 HIGHEST GRADES YOU RECEIVE. IT IS ALSO A GOOD IDEA TO DO THESE PAPERS EVERY WEEK BECAUSE IT WILL HELP YOUR IN-CLASS PARTICIPATION SCORE.]**

(b) a 1-2 page description of the question to be asked in the final seminar paper (10%)

[This question should take something like the following form: “Mr. X offers variable Y as an explanation for outcome Z. But Ms. A disagrees, and offers variable B as an explanation for Z. Who is right?” **NOTE THAT YOU WILL HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR A REWRITE/REGRADE ON THIS IF YOU ARE NOT SATISFIED WITH YOUR FIRST EFFORT.]**

(c) a 4-5 page description of the key empirical tests for each hypothesis that will be addressed in the final seminar paper (10%)

[This should take something like the following form: “Mr. X offers variable Y as an explanation for outcome Z. To test this explanation, we need to look at at least 3 issues: his way of measuring variable Y, his way of measuring outcome Z, and his way of measuring the observable implications of the causal logic connecting Y and Z. My paper will consider how satisfactory these measures are in terms of their conceptualization and in their execution.” (Then repeat the procedure for Ms. A)]

(d) a 10-minute in-class powerpoint presentation of the findings of the final seminar paper (15%)

[This presentation should review your question and your empirical tests and then give a clear idea of what you have discovered in your research. Note that you will be graded on the quality of the powerpoint slides and your oral performance as well as the content of your ideas. We will spend some time in class reviewing good presentation techniques.]

(e) a 15-20 page final seminar paper (34%)

[This should flesh out the argument you made in your powerpoint presentation, which should serve as a useful outline for you. This paper should be emailed to me.

(f) class participation (10%)

[It is very important to have people come to the seminar ready to engage the readings and each other. At a minimum, you should come prepared to expand on the points you made in the 1-page memos.]

ADDITIONAL NOTES: ALL PAPERS MUST BE 12 POINT FONT, 1 INCH MARGINS ON ALL SIDES, AND 1 ½ OR DOUBLE SPACED. THERE IS A PENALTY OF 1 LETTER GRADE PER DAY LATE, EXCEPT FOR RESPONSE PAPERS— UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES CAN THESE BE TURNED IN AFTER 4 PM ON THE DAY OF THE RELEVANT CLASS.

Class Meeting Topics and Reading Assignments (all available at the bookstore and on reserve at Neilson, except for those that are available online):

Class meeting 1 (9/14): Introduction to the course.

Readings: no readings.

Class meeting 2 (9/21): Official US National Security Strategy.

Required reading: “National Security Strategy of the United States of America,” available at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/nsc/nss.html>

Class meeting 3 (9/28): US Neo-Conservatives’ Views.

Required reading: James Mann, *Rise of the Vulcans* (New York : Viking, 2004.)

Class meeting 4 (10/5): A US Traditional Conservative’s Views.

Required reading: Fareed Zakaria, *The Future of Freedom* (New York : W.W. Norton, c2003.)

Class meeting 5 (10/12): A US Liberal’s Views.

Required reading: Anne-Marie Slaughter, *A New World Order* (Princeton, N.J. : Princeton University Press, c2004.)

Class meeting 6 (10/19): A US Progressive’s Views.

Required reading: Michael Klare, *Blood and Oil* (New York : Metropolitan Books/Henry Holt & Co., 2004.)

Class meeting 7 (TUESDAY, 10/25): West European Views. SPECIAL VISITOR: DR. SASCHA MÜLLER-KRAENNER.

(NOTE THE CHANGE IN DAY TO TUESDAY. TIME TBA. MORE INFO

FORTHCOMING SOON.) Sascha Müller-Kraenner is Director for Europe and North America at the Heinrich Böll Foundation, as well as head of the Foundation's program on foreign and security policy/conflict prevention. The Heinrich Böll Foundation is associated with the political party Alliance 90/The Greens in Germany. He is also one of the founders of and a senior adviser to Ecologic – the non-profit Center for International and European Environmental Policy in Berlin.

Required reading: Robert Cooper, *The Breaking of Nations* (London : Atlantic Books, 2003.)

Class meeting 8 (11/2): A Russian Israeli's Views.

Required reading: Natan Sharansky, *The Case for Democracy* (New York : PublicAffairs, c2004.)

Class meeting 9 (11/9): Islamic Fundamentalists' Views

1-2 PAGE DESCRIPTION OF FINAL SEMINAR PAPER QUESTION DUE VIA EMAIL BY 4 PM TODAY.

Required reading: Gilles Kepel, *Jihad: The Trail of Political Islam* (Cambridge, Mass. : Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2002.)

Class meeting 10 (11/16): An Indian's Views.

4-5 PAGE DESCRIPTION OF KEY EMPIRICAL TESTS FOR FINAL SEMINAR PAPER DUE VIA EMAIL BY 4 PM TODAY.

Required reading: Arundhati Roy, *An Ordinary Person's Guide to Empire* (Cambridge, Mass. : South End Press, c2004.).

No class on 11/23: Thanksgiving recess.

Class meeting 11 (11/30): Chinese Views.

Required reading: Michael Pillsbury, *China Debates the Future Security Environment* (Washington, DC: National Defense University Press, 2000), available online at

<http://www.ndu.edu/inss/books/books%20-%202000/China%20Debates%20Future%20Sec%20Environ%20Jan%202000/CDFSE.pdf>

Class meeting 12 (12/7): Powerpoint presentations by students on final seminar papers.

Required reading: none.

Class meeting 13 (12/14): Culminating discussion of future security challenges and responses.

Required reading: none.

Thursday, December 22, 5:00 PM: Final seminar papers DUE via email.