

Class meets: TR 9:30-10:45 AM
Classroom: MM 101
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Office: 317 D Jenkins
Office Hours: TR 10:45 AM-12:25 PM;
and by appointment

POL 349 O: US Defense Policy Spring 2010

Description: This course examines key problems of national security in the post-Cold War/post 9 11 environment. Of particular concern will be the structure and functioning of the US defense establishment and its interactions with those of its most probable adversaries and allies. Readings and lectures will acquaint students with the constraints on, and options open to, policy planners, and with the institutional elements of the decision-making process.

How to Study: Outlines for each unit and will be posted on Blackboard. A unit represents a topic, not a specific date. Some units, such as strategy, are longer than others. Remember that outlines are...outlines. They do not purport to contain everything that is in the reading or lectures: if they did, they would not be outlines. Use them as study guides. You may also wish to bring your laptop to class, access the outlines, and insert additional material from the lectures and discussions as they occur. If you choose this method, be sure to back up everything. For those who prefer to take notes by hand, the outline for the unit being discussed will be shown on the classroom screen.

Please do not ask me whether the exams are based on the lectures or the reading or the outlines. I would not ask you to do any of these if I didn't think they were meaningful and important. You are expected to be familiar with all of the material. You get out of a course what you put into it: no more, and no less.

Course Requirements: Since this course will be taught in the form of readings plus class discussions, regular attendance is absolutely necessary. Although I don't take attendance except at the beginning of the semester, so that I can learn your names, it will quickly become obvious who is present and who is not. There is a positive correlation between regular attendance and higher grades. This course is not available for honors credit or writing credit.

Exam Format and Grading There will be two hour exams, to count 30% *each* of the final grade, plus one final exam, one and one-half hours in length, to count 40% of the final grade. A perfect score on each of the hour exams would be 30; for the final exam, a perfect score would be 40. Your final grade is calculated by adding these together: $30 + 30 + 40 = 100$. B- = 80-83.49; B = 83.5-86.99; B+ = 87-89.99, etc. Grades are not rounded up. The exams are not cumulative, but you are expected to have internalized what you learned earlier even though later exams will not ask questions specifically based on material covered in earlier units. Both the hour exams and the final will be composed of (a) a longer-essay section and (b) a short-answer section. You will have some choice on these: three essay topics of which you are to choose two, and eight short-answer choices of which you are to answer five. On all exams, each essay has a maximum score of 10 points. On the hour exams, each of the five short answers is has a maximum score of two points. On the final, each has a maximum score of four points, so you will have the opportunity to add a bit more information. Do only the number of questions asked; if you accidentally do more, cross out the one/s you don't want graded. If not, the first five will be counted.

Extra Credit There will be two extra credit questions each at the end of each exam, worth ½ point apiece for each full question (some may have more than one part).. Hence, one can potentially supplement one's grade by three points. These will be based on late-breaking material sent to you via email and perhaps discussed in

class as well. Do not expect these to be easy: extra credit is given for extra knowledge; it does not amount to free points. Retroactive extra credit for individuals has been deemed discriminatory and therefore illegal by the courts, and is not available.

Make-Up Exams Make-up exams will be given only to those who have serious emergencies and notify me prior to the exam. Medical excuses must be accompanied by a note from a physician or from the campus health service. If you are in an auto accident, you must provide a copy of the accident report. The hour exam make-up will be given immediately after the final exam. There will be no exceptions to this.

The Final Exam As stipulated in the UM fall course schedule, the final exam for section O classes will be given on Thursday May 16 from 8 AM -10:30 AM. (final from 8-9:30 AM; make-ups from 9:30-10:30 AM). This cannot be changed. Please check your calendars now. If your presence is necessary at a family occasion, you have already purchased a non-refundable air ticket, or there is any other reason why this date is inconvenient, you should drop this course and substitute another as soon as possible. Since no one ever plans on needing a make-up, do not schedule any other appointments for and portion of the 8-10:30 AM period until you've taken all the hour exams. The location is our regular classroom, MM 101.

Getting Your Final Grade: There are four ways

1. bring a stamped, self-addressed postcard or envelope with you to the final exam. I'll send it out to you, including your grade on the final exam, the same day I finish grading. This is the fastest way to get your grade, and generally the least trouble for you.
2. consult Blackboard, about the same time, Wednesday 19 May, that myUM releases your grade. All exams will be shown.
3. consult myUM (neither this nor method 4 will give you your grade on the final exam)
4. wait for the registrar to send you your grades.

If you choose option 3 or 4, it is assumed that you do not want to know your grade on the final, and they will not be given out. Your grade is your grade, and will be changed only if a mathematical error has been made. Under no circumstances will retroactive extra credit work be assigned. See above under extra credit heading. According to university policy, a grade of incomplete may be given only to students who are in passing status and who are unable to take an examination because of exceptional circumstances such as serious illness. This will be strictly adhered to.

Required Text

Strategy in the Contemporary World, 2nd edition, edited by John Baylis *et al*, which contains articles by most of the eminent authorities in their respective subfields. These will be supplemented by readings (see below) Since data on US defense policy quickly become outdated, using articles enables us to stay as current as possible.

Finding What You Need Blackboard has the syllabus, filed under Syllabus (duh!), and outlines for each unit, under Course Documents. Seven of the readings are chapters in the text, Baylis et al. There is one website to consult, the units on the defense budget. All other readings are on Blackboard under Assignments. Some of these can also be accessed through Richter e-journals or directly from the web. That's it.

Important: Be sure that the information technology people have your email address. A listserv has been created for the course, and I will use it to communicate with you regularly. The required readings noted below will be supplemented with newspaper articles, journal articles, and reports that have just been posted on the web. I will forward these to you and we will discuss them in class.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

Week or Day of Topic

Jan 19 Unit 1 **Introduction: The Domestic Structure of National Security**

Reading: access the course website on Blackboard; read the syllabus and “If you care about your grade” carefully

Jan 26 Unit 2 **Strategy and Tactics**

(2a) the foundation

Readings:

(a) Peter Paret, “Clausewitz,” in Peter Paret, ed., *Makers of Modern Strategy*, Princeton University Press, 1986, pp. 186-213.

(b) John Shy, “Jomini.” in *Ibid.*, pp. 143-185.

(c) Michael Sheehan, “The Evolution of Modern Warfare,” in Baylis, pp. 42-65

(d) Thomas Mahnken, “Strategic Theory,” Baylis, pp. 66-81.

(2b) contemporary applications

Readings:

(a) Eliot Cohen, “Technology and Warfare,” Baylis, pp. 141-159

(b) IISS, “Obama’s War in Afghanistan,” *Strategic Comments*, December 2009.

Feb 16 **Hour exam I**, on all units completed to date: readings + lectures

Feb 18 Unit 3 **The Defense Budget and Strategic Planning**

Reading

(a) the FY 2010 (begins 10/01/10) budget request is due just at the time we will be addressing this topic, and will be available at www.defenselink.mil Stay tuned!

Feb 25 Unit 4 **Arms Control**

Readings

(a) C. Dale Walton and Colin Gray, “The Second Nuclear Age...” Baylis, pp. 209-227.

(b) John Baylis and Richard Smith, “The Control of Weapons of Mass Destruction”, Baylis, pp. 209-252

(c) Keir Lieber and Daryl Press, “The Nukes We Need: Preserving the American Deterrent,” *Foreign Affairs*, Nov/Dec 2009, pp. 30-51

(d) IISS, “New Impetus for Nuclear Security,” *Strategic Comments*, October 2009.

Mar 4 Unit 5 **Lessons Learned (?) From Past Wars**

Readings:

(a) Harry Summers, *On Strategy: A Critical Analysis of the Vietnam War* Presidio Press, Novato, CA. 1982, pp. 11-20.

(b) Paul Fussell, *Wartime: Understanding and Behavior in the Second World War*, Oxford University Press, New York, 1989, pp. 129-143.

(c) Stephen Biddle, “Iraq, Afghanistan, and American Military Transformation,” Baylis, pp. 274-294.

Mar 13-21 **SPRING VACATION:** no classes

Mar 23 Unit 6 **Intelligence and National Security**

Readings:

- (a) Richard Betts, "Intelligence 'Failures'," *World Politics*, October 1978, pp. 679-693.
- (b) International Institute of Strategic Studies (London), "US Intelligence Reform," *Strategic Comments*, vol. 13, issue 5, November 2007.

Mar 30 **Hour Exam II**, on all units completed to date

Apr 1 Unit 7 **Military Recruitment and Retention**

Readings: Michael O'Hanlon, "Who Will Fight For Us?" *Orbis*, Spring 2009, pp. 405-418.

Apr 8 Unit 8 **The United Nations and Defense Policy**

Reading: Theo Farrell, "Humanitarian Intervention and Peace Operations," Baylis, pp. 313-334.

Apr 15 Unit 9 **Terrorism, Limited War, and Counterinsurgency**

Readings:

- (a) James Kiras, "Irregular Warfare, Terrorism, and Insurgency," Baylis, pp. 161-191.
- (b) Max Abrahms, "What Terrorists Really Want," *International Security*, Spring 2008, pp. 78-105.
- (c) Charlie Savage, "Loosening of FBI Rules Stirs Privacy Concerns," *New York Times*, October 29, 2009.

Apr 22 Unit 10 **Chemical and Biological Warfare**

Reading:

- (a) Federation of American Scientists, "Chemical Warfare"
- (b) Centers for Disease Control, "Biological Warfare"

Apr 27 Unit 11 **Non-State Actors and International Security**

Reading:

- (a) Mark Cancian, "Contractors: The New Element of Military Structure," *Parameters*, Autumn 2008, pp. 61-77.
- (b) James Risen and Paul Mazzetti, "Blackwater Guards Tied to Secret CIA Raids," *New York Times*, December 11, 2009.

April 29 Unit 12 **Conclusions: International Order and the Limits of Power**

Readings:

- (a) James Wirtz, "A New Agenda for Security and Strategy?" in Baylis, pp. 395-355
- (b) Lawrence Freedman, "The Future of Strategic Studies," in Baylis, pp. 356-370
- (c) Josef Joffe, "The Default Power: the False Prophecy of America's Decline," *Foreign Affairs*, September-October 2009, pp. 21-35.

May 1-4 (Saturday-Tuesday) **Reading Days**

May 6 (Thursday) **Final Exam** 8 AM-9:30 AM, in MM 101, our regular classroom. Makeups immediately thereafter. Have a good summer!