

International Security
POSC350-01
St. John Fisher College—Spring 2019
TTh 9:30-10:50am, Basil 210

Contact Information

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Course Description. This course covers the theory, policy, and politics of international security. Orthodox approaches to security have emphasized classic “high politics” in the form of great power conflict but we now live in a era when great power war is almost (but not quite) inconceivable. This course introduces a set of theoretical approaches that helps us understand why great power conflict is so rare in the 21st century and then spends the remainder of our time dealing with topical issues like nuclear proliferation, health and disease, terrorism, and human security.

Course Objectives. This course provides a foundation for additional study of political science and international relations at the undergraduate and potentially graduate level. After completing this course, you will:

- 1) understand the major theoretical approaches to international security and how/when to apply them;
- 2) have an appreciation for the few certainties in international security and the difficulties that policymakers face when trying to produce absolute security;
- 3) be aware of the evolving nature of threats, in particular how/why non-traditional threats have for the moment replaced great power conflict; and
- 4) be a better writer and thinker by receiving critical feedback on your prose and analysis.

POSC400. If you entered the College under the 2015-2016 academic catalog (or later), and you are a political science major, then you will be required to pass POSC400. This includes building an electronic portfolio during your time at SJFC. Please make sure that you’re selecting the POSC template when you set up your e-portfolio in Google sites. You should consider archiving your Research Proposal from this course on that site. You will find it most helpful to complete POSC 400 during your senior year.

Course Requirements and Evaluation

Break-down of course grades:

Midterm (2/28)	25%
Response Questions	10%
Research Proposal (due 2/26)	20%
Final Paper (due 4/25)	25%
Participation	20%

Attendance. Attendance is a requirement if you wish to do well in this course. In-class notes, discussion, and lecture material are the basis for the course's exams.

I give you *two allowed absences*, no questions asked. You will be responsible for course material and discussion content for days that you miss. For absences beyond the given *two allowed absences*, you must provide some sort of documentation, excluding in certain circumstances as discussed with me. Missing *more than three courses* without good cause, e.g., illness, religious holidays, family deaths, will result in a 2% grade reduction per absence. It is possible to earn a failure due to absence (FA) grade in this course.

Participation. Individual participation is worth 20% of your grade. Simply showing up for class is not sufficient to earn participation points. You are expected to attend classes regularly and participate in discussions. I want you to talk so that you engage with the material and your classmates. It is not any more complicated than that. You are free to ask about current events, readings you did not understand, et cetera. This way we can learn interactively.

Nota Bene. It is essential that you complete the readings in the course. If it becomes apparent that the class is not keeping up with the readings, I reserve the right to administer surprise quizzes. If this occurs, I will redistribute the relative weight of the course assignments.

Midterm Exam. The midterm exam covers all topics discussed in class from our introduction on Tuesday, January 15 (1/15) to the day of the exam on Thursday, February 28 (2/28).

Research Proposal. You will complete a 2-page research proposal on a subject of your choosing. A strong proposal requires five essential elements: 1) a refined research question; 2) an argument for why the question is of socio-political importance; 3) a brief discussion, derived from outside research, on possible/alternative answers to your question; 4) a statement on how you would conduct the necessary research to answer your question; and 5) a note on possible obstacles/barriers to conducting your question, such as difficulty in locating/accessing sources. We will discuss each of these elements in detail during our class sessions. Proposals are due via Blackboard's Turnitin tool before class on February 26th (2/26).

Final Paper. Using your research proposal and my comments on it, you will complete a 5-page research paper. You should follow the [rubric](#) guidelines as well as any additional instructions offered during our class period. Final papers are due via Blackboard's Turnitin tool before class on April 25th (4/25).

Response Questions. You are required to submit three questions prior to each class, based on reading material, via Blackboard under the “Response Questions” tab, for a total of 22 submissions @ 4 points per submission (88 points). For those of you who simply *submit* all 22, I will add an additional 12 points to your total (100 points possible).

Course Policies

Makeup exams. You are not automatically entitled to a makeup examination, which are only given in cases of compelling and well-documented excuses, e.g., acute illness, religious observances, athletic events. Oversleeping is not included on that list. You must also have documentation from a physician (not a nurse) or the appropriate administrator at the College. If you have sufficient cause to warrant a makeup exam, I will determine the date and time of the exam.

Late submissions. If you submit work late, I reserve the right to fail you (with a zero) on that particular assignment. If you find yourself needing more time to complete assignments, please proactively contact me via email and ask for an extension.

Grading. I encourage you to come see me if you have questions about a grade for an assignment. However, I do ask that you wait one week (a cooling off period). During that time, please re-read your assignment and be prepared to defend your position by incorporating relevant course materials.

Course Feedback. Aside from the formal evaluation at the end of the term, I welcome and encourage feedback throughout the semester on course structure, readings, lectures, et cetera. If you would like to see additional topics covered, please let me know and I will give it consideration. Comments, suggestions, and criticisms will have no bearing (positive or negative) on your grade. You may leave anonymous feedback via Google Form by: 1) signing in to the course Blackboard site; 2) clicking the “Content” tab; 3) clicking “Feedback.”

Academic Integrity. You will likely fail the course if I catch you cheating on exams. Plagiarism will result in an automatic F on with no opportunity to redo the assignment. A second violation of plagiarism will result in course failure. Academic dishonesty is intellectual theft, and I treat it as such. You should review the College’s [Academic Honesty Policy](#) and [Academic Integrity Portal](#).

Concern for Others. If you have a concern about another classmate in this class or any other setting on SJFC’s campus, please communicate this to your professor. Outside Resources. Aside from visiting me outside of class, St. John Fisher also offers other support services, such as:

Center for Academic Excellence. The [Center](#) provides advice on improving academic performance, tutoring services, disability services, career services, math and writing services, and plenty of online resources. Phone: (585) 385-8147.

Special Accommodations. If you have a disability, which may require classroom or test accommodations, please see me as soon as possible or meet with Disability Services, which coordinates accommodations and services for students with disabilities. Questions should be directed to the Coordinator of Disability Services in the Disability Services Office and Test Center: Kearney 300; (585) 385-5252; and [website](#). Late notification will delay requested accommodations.

Course Schedule and Readings. You are responsible for all reading assignments. Come prepared to discuss them, and please make sure to have them handy during class. This means that you should have a print copy or an electronic means of access, e.g., e-reader or tablet. As well, follow closely in class and watch Blackboard for updates. The syllabus could change.

All readings are available through the syllabus via links, which are marked in blue (below). Clicking on the Further Reading “doc” will bring you to a Google Doc of additional readings on each course topic. These links will remain active beyond the length of the course, so you can use them for independent research, capstones, and the like. Clicking “Notes” brings you to a Google Doc that raises general and specific questions related to the readings for each topic. Ideally, you will click this link before you read for class, as a reading guide. These will also serve as study guides because I update them after each lecture.

Course Outline

January 15, Introduction

Frontline. (2010). “[The Wounded Platoon.](#)” *Public Broadcasting Service*. May 18.

I. Anarchy, the State, & Violence

Further Reading, Notes

January 17, Anarchy & the State

John Mearsheimer. (2001). “[Anarchy and the Struggle for Power.](#)” In *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*. New York, N.Y.: W. W. Norton & Co.

Timothy Mitchell. (1991). “[The Limits of the State: Beyond Statist Approaches and Their Critics.](#)” *The American Political Science Review* 85(1), 77-96.

January 22, The State & War

Charles Tilly. (1985). “[War making and state making as organized crime.](#)” In P. Evans, D. Rueschemeyer, & T. Skocpol (Eds.), *Bringing the State Back In* (pp. 169-191). Cambridge, MA: Cambridge University Press.

Miguel Angel Centeno. (1997). “[Blood and Debt: War and Taxation in Nineteenth-Century Latin America.](#)” *American Journal of Sociology* 102(6), 1565-1605.

Jeffrey Herbst. (1990). “[War and the state in Africa.](#)” *International Security*, 14(4), 117-139.

January 24, States & Security

Michael C. Desch. (1996). “[War and Strong States, Peace and Weak States?](#)” *International Organization*, 50(2), 237-268.

Seth G. Jones. (2008). “[The Rise of Afghanistan’s Insurgency: State Failure and Jihad.](#)” *International Security*, 32(4), 7-40.

Frontline. (2015). “[Inside Assad’s Syria.](#)” *Public Broadcasting Service*. October 27.

II. State Conflict

Further Reading, Notes

January 29, Polarity & Alliances

- Thomas J. Christensen & Jack Snyder. (1990). "Chain Gangs and Passed Bucks: Predicting Alliance Patterns in Multipolarity." *International Organization*, 44(2), 137-168.
- William C. Wohlforth. (2009). "Unipolarity, Status Competition, and Great Power War." *World Politics*, 61(1), 28-57.
- Neil Holloran. (2015). "The Fallen of World War II." *Vimeo*. May 20.

January 31, The Security Dilemma

- Robert Jervis. (1978). "Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma." *World Politics* 30(2), 167-214.
- Randall L. Schweller. (1996). "Neorealism's Status-Quo Bias: What Security Dilemma?" *Security Studies*, 5(3), 90-121.

February 5, The Democratic Peace?

- Bruce Russett, Christopher Layne, David E. Spiro, & Michael W. Doyle. (1995). "The Democratic Peace." *International Security*, 19(4), 164-184.
- Mark Peceny, Caroline C. Beer, & Shannon Sanchez-Terry. (2002). "Dictatorial peace?" *The American Political Science Review*, 96(1), 15-26.

February 7, A Capitalist Peace?

- Dale C. Copeland. (1996). "Economic Interdependence and War: A Theory of Trade Expectations." *International Security*, 20(4), 5-41.
- Patrick J. McDonald. (2007). "The Purse Strings of Peace." *American Journal of Political Science*, 51(3), 569-582.
- Erik Gartzke. (2007). "The Capitalist Peace." *The American Journal of Political Science*, 51(1), 166-191.

February 12, Nukes

- Michael Riordan. (1982). *The Day After Midnight: The Effects of Nuclear War*. Cheshire, United Kingdom: Cheshire Books.
- Scott D. Sagan. (1996). "Why Do States Build Nuclear Weapons? Three Models in Search of a Bomb." *International Security*, 21(3), 54-86.
- Akshat Rathi. (2016). "Why it's so difficult to build a hydrogen bomb." *Quartz*. January 7.
- Adam Taylor. (2016). "Two Charts that Put North Korea's Latest Nuclear Test in Perspective." *The Washington Post*. January 7.
- Ana Swanson. (2015). "What it would look like if the Hiroshima bomb hit your city." *The Washington Post*. August 5.
- German Lopez & Bill Rankin. (2014). "Map: The world has set off at least 2,400 nuclear weapons since 1945." *Vox*. October 1.

III. Civil-Military Relations

Further Reading, Notes

February 14, Societies, States, and the Army

- Peter D. Feaver. (1996). "The civil-military problematique: Huntington, Janowitz, and the question of civilian control." *Armed Forces and Society*, 23(2), 149-178.
- Ronald Krebs. (2004). "A school for the nation? How military service does not build nations, and how it might." *International Security*, 28(4), 85-124 (or read Posen). *Security*, 18(2), 80-124.

February 19, Civil-Military Relations & the Use of Force

- Stephen Peter Rosen. (1995). "Military Effectiveness: Why Society Matters." *International Security*, 19(4), 5-31.

Midterm Review, Midterm, & Spring Break¹

February 21-28, & March 5-7

¹ We will discuss your research proposals on February 21st and review for the midterm on February 26th, which is the day that your research proposals are due before the start of class via Blackboard's Turnitin tool. You will take your midterm on Thursday, February 28th. After that, you're on break, so no class on March 5 & 7. Relax!

IV. Political Violence

Further Reading, Notes

March 12, Terrorism

John Mueller. (2004). “A False Sense of Insecurity?” *Regulation*, 27(3), 42-46.

March 14, Ethnic Conflict

John Mueller. (2000). “The Banality of Ethnic War.” *International Security* 25(1), 42-70.

Pankaj Mishra. (2007). “Exit wounds: The legacy of Indian partition.” *The New Yorker*.
August 13.

March 19, Civil War

James D. Fearon & David D. Laitin. (2003). “Ethnicity, Insurgency, and Civil War.” *The American Political Science Review*, 97(1), 75-90.

Karen Yourish, K.K. Rebecca Lai, & Derek Watkins. (2015). “How Syrians are Dying.”
The New York Times. September 14.

Megan Specia. (2018). “How Syria’s Death Toll Is Lost in the Fog of War.” *The New York Times*. April 13.

March 21, Gender & Violence

Nicole Detraz. (2012). *International Security and Gender*. Cambridge, United Kingdom:
Cambridge University Press (read chs. 1).

V. Critical Theory & Human Security
Further Reading, Notes

March 26, Critical Security Studies & Securitization

Luca Mavelli. (2013). “[Between Normalisation and Exception: The Securitisation of Islam and the Construction of the Secular Subject.](#)” *Millennium*, 41(2), 159-181.

March 28, Human Security

Roland Paris. (2001). “[Human Security: Paradigm Shift or Hot Air?](#)” *International Security*, 26(2), 87-102.

VI. Non-Traditional Security Studies
Further Reading, Notes

April 2, Counterintelligence

Mueller, Robert S. III. 2011. “[The Evolving Organized Crime Threat.](#)” *The Federal Bureau of Investigation*. January 27.

Geltzer, J., & Ryan Goodman. 2019. “[The Missing Piece of the Mueller Investigation.](#)” *Just Security*. March 29.

April 4, Demographics

Jack A. Goldstone, Eric P. Kaufmann, & Monica Duffy Toft (eds.). (2012). *Political Demography How Population Changes Are Reshaping International Security and National Politics*. Boulder, C.O.: Paradigm (read ch. 2, 4, & 8).

April 9, Environmental Security

Val Percival & Thomas Homer-Dixon. (1998). “[Environmental Scarcity and Violent Conflict: The Case of South Africa.](#)” *Journal of Peace Research*, 35(3), 279-298.

April 11, Disease

Christian Enemark. (2005). “Infectious Diseases and International Security: The Biological Weapons Convention and Beyond.” *The Nonproliferation Review*, 12(1), 107-125.

Frontline. (2013). “Hunting the Nightmare Bacteria.” *Public Broadcasting Service*. October 22.

April 16, Cyber Security

Lene Hansen & Helen Nissenbaum. (2009). “Digital Disaster, Cyber Security, and the Copenhagen School.” *International Studies Quarterly*, 53(4), 1155-1175.

April 23, Trends in Security

Institute for Economics & Peace. “Global Peace Index 2018 Snapshot.” *Vision of Humanity.org*.

Final Paper²

April 25

² We will not meet for class today. Instead, work on your final papers, which are due at the end of the day, 11:59pm, on April 25th (4/25), via Blackboard’s Turnitin tool.