Course Description

The course reviews the principal features of international security as currently practiced. It traces the evolution of contemporary policy and other determining circumstances through the sequence of formative experience whereby current international security conditions developed. Understanding the consequence of formative experience is indispensable for adequate comprehension of the prevailing concepts, organizing principles, military deployment patterns, legal regulations, and political relationships that determine the current state of international security.

The course begins with the circumstances and choices that shaped security policy after World War II. Contemporary security policy has deeper historical roots, but developments during the Cold War shaped the concepts, institutions, force structures, arms control agreements, and political debates that are particularly important today. Although it is common to assert that we are in a new era, anyone who does not understand the formative events and enduring legacy of that period will not understand the contemporary problems covered in the second half of the semester. Reviewing history from contemporary perspective is a revisionist perspective from the point of view of those who lived through the events in question, but it is legitimate and important to use the advantage of retrospect to understand current circumstances.

The course is intended to be useful and appropriate for all people of whatever national affiliation. There is heavy emphasis on the experience of the United States and of Russia as principal successor to the Soviet Union because the historical interaction between these two countries has disproportionately affected the international security conditions that all other countries now experience. Understanding this experience is a necessary foundation for any more focused national security perspective a student might wish to develop.

Requirements

This course is designed to help students develop the broad knowledge and analytical capabilities needed to understand complex policy issues, as well as the oral, written, and interpersonal skills needed to participate effectively in policy debates. Students will maintain the highest standards of professional behavior and will adhere to the University of Maryland’s Code of Academic Integrity, Code of Conduct, and other education policies (http://www.ugst.umd.edu/courselatedpolicies.html).

To prepare students to be effective participants in security policy debates, class participation counts for 20% of the grade and will be evaluated in several different ways. Students are expected to prepare thoroughly, attend consistently, and engage actively in class discussions. Please e-mail me in advance if you must miss class for any reason.
Students should attend at least three special events related to international security policy (e.g., CISSM forums, other such events on campus or downtown, Congressional hearings, movies, webinars, etc.). For each event, they should post a reaction paragraph or two on the class discussion board connecting it to what we are reading and discussing in class. Please also e-mail me your reaction paragraphs I can track them. They will be graded as a check or a plus for participation.

Students are also encouraged to use the on-line forum to continue discussions begun in class; to share relevant news, articles, and event announcements; and to pose questions about readings that they want to discuss during the next class. Use of this forum will also factor into participation grade.

Students will sign up to write several short (1200 words) analytical memos in response to questions posed and readings assigned in the syllabus. (Arguments and evidence from outside readings can be incorporated but are not required). At least one memo should be submitted before spring break and one after it. Memos should be e-mailed to me by 11 am on the day of the session to which they pertain. No memos will be accepted after the relevant class session.

Each memo will be graded on five main criteria.
1) Does it have a clear, coherent, compelling, and creative central argument?
2) Is that central argument well supported?
3) Are counter-arguments and/or alternative points of view weighed?
4) Are important and interesting policy implications drawn from the analysis?
5) Is the memo professionally written — grammatically correct, appropriate tone, fact checked, numbered pages, etc.?

For guidance on writing clear, effective policy memos, see the sample 720 memo and George Orwell’s essay on “Politics and the English Language,” both of which are in the class resource folder. Students may rewrite one analytical memo and have the average score recorded. The rewrite must be submitted NLT two weeks after the initial grade and comments were received. No rewrites will be accepted after the last class session.

We will be doing a joint policy exercise and other activities with a group of students from the Moscow-based Institute for U.S.A. and Canada Studies (ISKRAN) the week of April 9-15. This year’s topic will be reducing nuclear risks from North Korea while strengthening the nonproliferation regime.

Active participation is essential to the success of the exercise, so students who want to be full participants should make arrangements to be available for all of the joint sessions and to devote time to the drafting of the initial memo and the post-exercise memo. 720 students unable to do that will write a third individual memo in lieu of the joint policy exercise group memo. They are still encouraged to attend the social events we arrange for the ISKRAN group, including the movie night and the CISSM-ISKRAN dinner.

After Spring break, students participating in the joint policy exercise will write one or two team “food for thought” memos laying out how they define the policy problem of the joint exercise and some cooperative options they would like to explore with their Russian counterparts. The “food for thought” memos should be exchanged with ISKRAN counterparts by March 30th.
The ISKRAN group will attend class on April 10th. We will start with an informal lunch and conversation from 12:30-1:30 pm, all-class discussion of the policy issues from 1:30-3:00 pm and initial team meetings from 3:00-4 pm. The most important interactions of the joint policy exercise will occur on Thursday, April 12th from 1:30 pm through 5:45 pm. If you have a class that Thursday afternoon, please make sure that your professor will excuse you before committing to do the joint policy exercise rather than the third short memo. All 720 students are invited to CISSM’s 30th anniversary celebration on April 14th. They are also encouraged to socialize and sightsee with the Russian group outside of the scheduled activities.

After the visit, the MSPP teams will write a memo for me summarizing the policy objectives they had for the ISKRAN meetings, the points of agreement and disagreement that emerged from those meetings, and the recommendations that they would give U.S. policymakers for how to move forward with Russia on the topic. I will give each memo a base grade, and then award individual students bonus points based on their own evaluation of the exercise and their team-mates’ evaluations of their contributions. This memo is due two weeks after the joint policy exercise, on April 26th.

The final synthetic policy memo (2000 words) will integrate concepts and evidence from multiple class sessions (assigned readings and discussions) and additional research if desired. It can build on ideas developed through one of the short analytical memos or the joint policy exercise. If students focus on a security policy problem that has not been a featured topic for this course, they need to show how what they have read, heard, and learned in this class helps them think through that policy problem. The memo should explain to a national leader (US president or other country) or to the UN Secretary General why the issue you have chosen should be a top priority for international security, what the key elements of an effective response would be, and how the world could move from where we are toward the desired outcome. It should assess the strengths and weaknesses of current policy and recommend the five most important things that should be done to better address that problem. It will be due one week after the last class session.

Grading breakdown:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation (in-class, on-line forum, special events)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Analytical Memos</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>1st memo</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2nd memo</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>3rd memo or joint policy exercise memo</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final memo</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>due 4 pm May15</td>
<td>30%</td>
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Readings and Resources

The central reading for the historical part of the course is McGeorge Bundy, Danger and Survival. Although the book is out of print, Francesca Perry (room 4130, fperry1@umd.edu, ext. 57611) has used copies that she will sell for $5 and repurchase at the end of the semester.
The campus bookstore has copies of two recommended books. Several chapters of John Lewis Gaddis, *The Cold War: a New History* are assigned and the whole book is relevant. Since the course deals extensively with nuclear issues, the bookstore also has Richard Garwin and Georges Charpak, *Megawatts and Megatons*, which is useful for students who have a particular interest in nuclear weapons and energy technologies.

The course also relies heavily on articles and reports, many of which are available on the internet, and links have been provided whenever possible. The remainder of the assigned readings will be placed on reserve using the Canvas system. To access these readings, go to https://elms.umd.edu and enter your user name and password (the same ones that you use to access your University of Maryland email account), and then click on PUAF 720. Depending on class interests and developments in current policy debates, I may supplement or substitute readings as the semester progresses.

**Schedule**

(1) **Introduction (January 30)**

**Reading:** McGeorge Bundy, *Danger and Survival*, pp. 3-130, especially pp. 3-11; pp. 45-63; and pp. 98-130

**Question for reflection:** Was the development of nuclear weapons inevitable once the basic physical principles were understood? What does this imply for current efforts to control the spread of nuclear weapons and other advanced technologies with military applications?

(2) **Determinants of International Order (February 6)**

**Readings:**

Bundy, pp. 130-196
United Nations Charter, [http://www2.ohchr.org/english/docs/UNcharter.pdf](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/docs/UNcharter.pdf)

**Memo Question:** How did the US and USSR move in five short years from being victorious allies in World War II to heading opposing alliances in the Cold War? What lessons would you draw about ability of major powers with a mix of common and competing interests to cooperate on shared security problems?
(3) **Nuclear Weapons, Coercive Diplomacy, and Deterrence** (February 13)

**Readings:**

Bundy, *Danger and Survival*, pp. 197-462  

**Memo question:** Were the size and operational configuration of the nuclear forces originally deployed by the United States and the Soviet Union strategically justified?

(4) **Arms Control** (February 20)

**Readings**

Nancy W. Gallagher, “Competing Logics for Arms Control to Stabilize Deterrence,” Chapter Three of *Strategic Logics for Arms Control*  
Bundy, *Danger and Survival*, pp. 463-583  
Thomas Schelling, “What Went Wrong with Arms Control?” *Foreign Affairs* 64:2 (Winter, 1985)  
Gray, Colin S., “Arms control does not control arms,” *Orbis* 37:3 (Summer 1993), 16p

**Memo question:** Did arms control make a meaningful contribution to security during the Cold War, or was it either a waste of time or a dangerous delusion?

(5) **Limited War vs. Civil Conflict: Vietnam and Afghanistan in the Cold War** (February 27)

**Readings:**


**Memo Question:** Why weren’t the United States and the Soviet Union able to prevail over much weaker adversaries in Vietnam and Afghanistan? What, if any lessons, would you draw about the relative importance of military power and political legitimacy when foreign powers intervene in civil conflicts because they see them as part of a larger security problem?
(6) **The Incomplete Ending of the Cold War (Mar 6)**

Readings:

Bundy, *Danger and Survival*, pp. 584-617

Memo question: What explains the peaceful ending of the Cold War? In retrospect, how well were the fundamental security problems resolved?

(7) **Civil Violence/Human Security (Mar 13)**

Readings:

Edward W. Luttwak, “Give War a Chance,” *Foreign Affairs*, (July/Aug 1999), pp. 36-44


Memo question: Is the control of civil conflict within sovereign states a general international interest?

** Spring Break (March 20) **

(8) **Proliferation (March 27)**

Readings:


Memo Question: Is cooperative nonproliferation, coercive counter-proliferation, or some combination of those strategies that best way to address concerns about nuclear programs in countries like Iran and/or North Korea?

(9) Nuclear Weapons in the 21st Century (April 3)

Readings:


Memo Question: In setting policy objectives for the U.S. and Russian nuclear weapons programs, what is the appropriate priority of interest among preserving deterrence, threatening pre-emption, assuring strict managerial control over reduced arsenals, and/or eliminating nuclear weapons? Recent events in Ukraine make U.S.-Russian nuclear cooperation more difficult, but do they also make it more or less important?

(10) ISKRAN Visit (April 10)


Schedule of joint activities (tentative)

April 3  Food for thought memos to ISKRAN (send to dentrik@umd.edu)

April 10  Lunch and get-acquainted conversation  12:30-1:20 pm
Joint discussion of the policy problems 1:30-3:00 pm
Preliminary team discussions 3:00-4:00 pm

April 11  Pizza dinner and Video: “A Walk in the Woods”  7:00-8:30 pm

April 12  CISSM Forum:  12:00-1:15 pm
Joint Policy Working Groups 1:30-4:00 pm
Joint Policy Presentation       4:15- 5:15 pm

April 14
CISSM 30th Anniversary Celebration       Riggs Alumni Center  4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

April 14-15
Sightseeing – ISO volunteers to spend one or both days with some of the ISKRN students.

(11) Security in Asia (April 17)

Readings


Memo Question: How should the United States respond to China’s growing economic, military, and political power?

(12) Security in the Middle East (April 24)

Readings:


Bahgat Korany, “The Middle East since the Cold War: Torn between Geopolitics and Geoeconomics,” in Louise Fawcett, ed., International Relations of the Middle East (Oxford, 2005), pp. 59-76

Kenneth M. Pollack, “Fight or Flight: America’s Choice in the Middle East,” Foreign Affairs (March 1, 2016).

Memo Question: Does the United States have a viable strategy for security in the Middle East that does not require open-ended military commitments?

(13) Terrorism (May 1)

Memo Question: Should terrorism be a primary international security priority?

(14) Future of Global Security (May 8)
Readings
John Bolton, “Should We Take Global Governance Seriously?” *Chicago Journal of International Law* 205 (Fall 2000), pp. 205-221
