American Public University System

The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind

School of Security and Global Studies
NSEC504
International Security
Credit Hours: 3
Length of Course: 8 Weeks
Prerequisite: NSEC500

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Instructor Information

***Instructor*:**   [insert name with credentials]
Biography: [insert APUS biography link]
Please contact your instructor through the Messages tab in the classroom.
After the class is over, instructor contact information: [insert mycampus address]

Course Description (Catalog)

During this course, the student analyzes the domestic and international contexts that shape the behavior of state and non-state actors, and which affect the formulation of national security policies. The course provides an

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assessment of major social, cultural, political, military, economic, technological, and historical issues that influence the international context; the roles and influence of international organizations and non-state actors; and the key transitional challenges to national security such as weapons proliferation and terrorism. The student will examine the issues and national security interests of the U.S. in regions of the world, how the U.S. has carried out its foreign policy in those regions to protect its national security, and the security interests of the nations in those regions. This course will prepare the student to conduct strategic assessments of selected organizations, regions, states, and other actors on the international stage.

Course Scope

As part of the core requirement, this course introduces the student to critical elements of the discipline. Students will participate in weekly Discussion Forums that correlate to weekly readings. Students will write an analytical research paper and will write a comprehensive final assignment.

Course Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

CO-1: Assess the economic, political, social military, technological and other factors contributing to contemporary threats to international security

CO-2: Appraise international security structures

CO-3: Examine international security community activities in light of contemporary threats and existing security structures

CO-4: Analyze future international security challenges.

CO-5: Develop future scenarios and perspectives reflecting current obstacles and limitations to international security.

Course Delivery Method

This course, delivered via distance learning, will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course materials and access to an online learning management system will be available to each student. Online assignments are due by Sunday at 11:55 pm ET and include all written assignments, examinations, and research papers submitted for grading. Weekly Forum questions (accomplished in groups in a Forum) require an initial response by Thursday at 11:55 pm ET, with all other required responses due by Sunday at 11:55 pm ET. The assigned faculty will support the students throughout this eight-week course.

Course Resources

The **required** text for this course is:

Patrick M. Morgan, *International Security: Problems and Solutions*. Washington D.C.: CQ Press: 2006. ISBN: 1-56802-587-4 (paperback)

Required Readings

- External websites and other assigned readings are found in the Lessons area of the classroom.
- Weekly Lesson Notes and videos or audio files are found in the Lessons area of the classroom.

Evaluation Procedures

The course grade is based on the following assessments:

Discussion Forums – 20 percent

Each week, a discussion question is provided and posts should reflect an assimilation of the readings. Students are required to provide a substantive

initial post by Thursday at 11:55 pm ET and respond to 2 or more classmates by Sunday 11:55 pm ET. Forum posts are graded on timeliness, relevance, knowledge of the weekly readings, and the quality of original ideas.

Assignment #1 (Research question or Policy backgrounder) – 15 percent

Option One:
The purpose of this assignment is to make a plan for your research. It will take a few steps for you to get to a complete proposal. It must include: research question/introduction, hypothesis, methodology, literature review, conclusion, and proposed source of data. Your proposal should be about 8-12 pages, double spaced, TNR 12.

Option Two:
The purpose of this assignment is to write a policy brief including an history and a current summary of the important issues needed to make decision on a specific topic of your choosing (using the list in the assignmnents tab). Your policy backgrounder should be about 8-12 pages, double spaced, TNR 12.

Assignment #2 (Research paper or Policy recommendations) – 35 percent

Option One:
The research paper will build on the proposal assignment from week two (with improvements based on the instructor's comments) and should be at least 10 additional pages of data/findings/analysis of your topic -- not including the cover page, the reference list, and any appendices – for a total of 18-20 pages. Please use a specific political science research method.

Option Two:
The Policy recommendations will build on the backgrounder from week two (but not recopy or repeat it). Continuing with the same threat area that you chose in Assignment #1, provide a list of policy options (with specific recommendations) to include identification and definition of issues, conceptualization of creative alternative solutions, anticipation of reactions and objections, advantages and disadvantages of each policy option, and an-depth analysis on technical aspects of program policies and implementation

processes. This assignment should be about 12-15 pages, double spaced, TNR 12.

Assignment #3 – 30 percent

Option One:
This assignment is a take-home essay assignment of two questions, 4-5 pages each, to test knowledge and assimilation of the course objectives. Please refer to the required text and readings from this course. You may supplement with other readings, but do not supplant the course readings. You will be required to know the course scholarship and literature.

Option Two:
This assignment builds on the previous two. Using your previous area threat/backgrounder/policy options, explain to your key policymaker what role each player on the national security stage will play in the implementation of your policy recommendation in Assignment #2 (think about our subjects for each week of this course). This assignment should be about 10-15 pages, double spaced, TNR 12.

Assignments	Percentage
Assignment #1	15 percent
Assignment #2	35 percent
Forum Discussion Posts	20 percent
Assignment #3	30 percent
TOTAL	100 percent

8 – Week Course Outline

Week	Topic	Learning Objective(s)	Readings	Assignments

1	What is Security?	CO-1, 2	Kay, chapter 1

See week one lessons | Week One Forum Discussion |
| **2** | Why do states go to war? | CO-1, 2, 3 | Kay, chapters 2, 4, and 5.

See week two lessons | Week Two Forum Discussion

Paper Proposal Due |
| **3** | Power and Cheap Victories | CO-3 | Kay, Chapter 6

See week three lessons | Week Three Forum Discussion |
| **4** | Deterrence and Arms Control | CO-3 | Kay, Chapter 7

See week four lessons | Week Four Forum Discussion |
| **5** | Collective Security | CO-3,4 | Kay, Chapters 3 & 8

Bellamy and Williams, intro and chapter one.

See week five lessons | Week Five Forum Discussion |

6	Negotiation, Mediation, and Peacekeeping	CO-3,5	Bellamy and Williams, ch. 3-7. See week six lessons	Week Six Forum Discussion Research Paper Due
7	Peace enforcement and Peacebuilding	CO-4,5	Bellamy and Williams, ch. 8-17. See week seven lessons	Week Seven Forum Discussion
8	Obstacles to peace	CO-4,5	Kay, chapters 9 and 10. Bellamy and Williams, conclusions. See week eight lessons	Week Eight Forum Discussion Final Assessment

Policies

Please see the Student Handbook to reference all University policies. Quick links to frequently asked question about policies are listed below.

Drop/Withdrawal Policy
Plagiarism Policy

Extension Process and Policy
Disability Accommodations

Citation and Reference Style
Attention Please: Students will follow the Turabian/Chicago Style as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to the University.
See http://www.apus.edu/Online-Library/tutorials/chicago.htm. All written submissions should be submitted in Times New Roman 12pt font with 1" margins, typewritten in double-spaced format. Graduate-level work is expected to be free of grammar, usage, and style errors.

Late Assignments
Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution. Routine submission of late assignments is unacceptable and may result in points deducted from your final course grade.

Netiquette
Online universities promote the advancement of knowledge through positive and constructive debate – both inside and outside the classroom. Forums on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and "flaming." Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting – basic academic rules of good behavior and proper "Netiquette" must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the rewards and excitement of learning which does not include descent to personal attacks or student attempts to stifle the Forum of others.

- **Technology Limitations:** While you should feel free to explore the full-range of creative composition in your formal papers, keep e-mail layouts simple. The Sakai classroom may not fully support MIME or HTML encoded messages, which means that bold face, italics, underlining, and a variety of color-coding or other visual effects will not translate in your e-mail messages.

- **Humor Note:** Despite the best of intentions, jokes and <u>especially</u> satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add "emoticons" to help alert your readers: ;-), :), ☺

Online Library

The Online Library is available to enrolled students and faculty from inside the electronic campus. This is your starting point for access to online books, subscription periodicals, and Web resources that are designed to support your classes and generally not available through search engines on the open Web. In addition, the Online Library provides access to special learning resources, which the University has contracted to assist with your studies. Questions can be directed to **librarian@apus.edu**.

- *Charles Town Library and Inter Library Loan:* The University maintains a special library with a limited number of supporting volumes, collection of our professors' publication, and services to search and borrow research books and articles from other libraries.
- *Electronic Books:* You can use the online library to uncover and download over 50,000 titles, which have been scanned and made available in electronic format.
- *Electronic Journals:* The University provides access to over 12,000 journals, which are available in electronic form and only through limited subscription services.
- *Tutor.com*: AMU and APU Civilian & Coast Guard students are eligible for 10 free hours of tutoring provided by APUS. Tutor.com connects you with a professional tutor online 24/7 to provide help with assignments, studying, test prep, resume writing, and more. Tutor.com is tutoring the way it was meant to be. You get expert tutoring whenever you need help, and you work one-to-one with your tutor in your online classroom on your specific problem until it is done.

Request a Library Guide for your course (http://apus.libguides.com/index.php)

The AMU/APU Library Guides provide access to collections of trusted sites on the Open Web and licensed resources on the Deep Web. The following are specially tailored for academic research at APUS:

- Program Portals contain topical and methodological resources to help launch general research in the degree program. To locate, search by department name, or navigate by school.
- Course Lib-Guides narrow the focus to relevant resources for the corresponding course. To locate, search by class code (e.g., SOCI111), or class name.

Turnitin.com

Faculty require assignments be submitted to Turnitin.com. Turnitin.com will analyze a paper and report instances of potential plagiarism for the student to edit before submitting it for a grade. The instructor will post information in the classroom on student procedures.

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Selected Bibliography

Boyne, Shawn, Paul Pillar, and Michael German. Law vs. War: Competing Approaches to Fighting Terrorism. (July 2005). http://www.au.af.mil/au/awc/awcgate/ssi/boyne_law_terr.pdf

Cronin, Patrick M. "Global Strategic Assessment 2009: America's Security Role in a Changing World". Institute for National Strategic Studies. 2009.

Huntington, Samuel. "The Clash of Civilizations". Foreign Affairs. 2001.

Muller, Jerry Z. "Us and Them". The Enduring Power of Ethnic Nationalism. Foreign Affairs. (March/April, 2008)

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