Course Syllabus

Course Information

POEC 6369
National and International Security Strategies and Policies

Professor Contact Information

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Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites, and/or Other Restrictions

None

Course Description

Concerns about national and international security have been an important driver of both domestic and foreign policy at least since the early years of the 20th century. Enormous amounts of political attention and economic resources have been poured into establishing and maintaining systems intended to secure the nation, its allies, and its interests against a variety of real and perceived threats. This course will examine the nature of the security problem, some of the more important implications of the strategies and policies designed to solve it, and the possibilities for developing and implementing alternative approaches that might more effectively achieve security goals at far lower cost in blood and treasure.

Topics include: the meaning of security; national and international security and military force; the nature and impact of war --- nuclear and conventional; terrorism and other 21st century threats to security; alternative non-military approaches to security; achieving a more prosperous and secure world.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

Understand the multi-dimensional nature of the security problem.

Understand the political and economic impacts of military-based security strategies and policies, as well as their power and limitations.
Develop an appreciation for the impact of inherent human fallibility on the nature of effective policy in dealing with national and international security issues, including terrorism.
Learn how military and nonmilitary aspects on national and international security compete with and connect to each other.

Learn to think more creatively about potential nonmilitary --- even nonviolent --- alternative strategies and policies for achieving security.

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**Required Textbooks and Materials**


**Suggested Course Materials**

**READING LIST: (The readings marked with * are required)**

I. MILITARY FORCE AND THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

A. Setting the Stage: The Historical Background --- To understand where we stand today and what we might most usefully do now in terms of security strategy and policy, it is important to begin by understanding both the real meaning of security and how the relationship between military force and security has changed over time.

* The Peacekeeping Economy, Chapter 1 “The Hopeful Science”.


* "Realities of the Nuclear Age: Growing Sources of Threat", L.J. Dumas, *International Journal of Mental Health* (Spring, Summer, Fall 1986)


B. The Experience of War --- Most of the American population has never directly experienced war. That is true even of most of the millions of Americans who have been in the U.S. armed forces. What has war been like for those on the receiving end?

VIDEOTAPE: "The Siege of Leningrad" from the PBS series, The Unknown War (about WWII in the USSR)


*The Fate of the Earth, J. Schell (Avon Books: 1982), Parts I & II.


Hiroshima, Hersey, J. (Bantam, 1959).

II. IS AGGRESSION INNATE, IS WAR INEVITABLE? ---- It has often been argued that aggression and violence are innate in humankind, making war inevitable. There are two separate though related issues here: 1) Do humans possess inborn drives toward aggression and violence so strong that they will inevitably result in violent behavior? 2) Does any such tendency toward violence imply that there will always be periodic spasms of mass, organized violence that we call war?


* Why Nations Go to War, J. Stoessinger, Fifth ed. (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1990), Ch. 8 "Why Nations Go to War".


III. TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY THREATS TO SECURITY --- With the end of the Cold War, the dissolution of the Soviet Union and the disappearance of the Warsaw Pact in the last decade of the 20th century, the nature of the greatest threats to national and international security changed. Some threats, like the threat of intentional full-scale global nuclear war, have
receded. Others have increased, such as the threat of regional nuclear war and accidental nuclear war posed by nuclear proliferation, and the possibility of terrorism with weapons of mass destruction.

A. Terrorism

*The Technology Trap:

Chapter 2, “Dangerous Technologies and the Terrorist Threat”.

Chapter 3, “Losing Control (of Dangerous Materials)”

*Terrorism and Development:: Using Social and Economic Development to Inhibit a Resurgence of Terrorism, Cragin, Kim and Chalk, Peter (RAND, 2003).

*War After September 11, Gehring, Verna, editor (Rowman and Littlefield, 2003).


Nuclear Terrorism: The Ultimate Preventable Catastrophe, Allison, Graham (Times Books, 2004)

B. The Threat Posed by the Interaction of Human Error, Malevolence and Dangerous Technologies

The Technology Trap:

*Chapter 1, “Human Fallibility and the Proliferation of Dangerous Technologies

*Chapter 4, “Accidents Do Happen”

*Chapter 5, “Accidental War with Weapons of Mass Destruction”

*Part III: “Why It Can Happen Here: Understanding the Human Factor” (Chapters 6 &7)

*Part IV: “Solutions’ That Do Not Work” (Chapters 8, 9 &10)

* Chapter 12: “Escaping the Trap: Four Steps for Preventing Disaster”

IV. ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF MILITARY SPENDING --- The nations of the world continue to spend an enormous amount of money and resources on the military each year. The U.S. alone spends almost as much as all of the other nations combined. The long-term effect of this expenditure on the economic prosperity and security of the U.S., other developed nations, and less developed countries has important implications for national and international security strategy and policy.

The Peacekeeping Economy:


* Chapter 10: “Demilitarized Security, Development, and Terrorism”

* Chapter 8: “Removing Barriers to Demilitarized Security: Managing the Transition

The Overburdened Economy, Dumas, L.J. (University of California Press, 1986): Chapters 3, 4, 6, 7, 11.


Arming the South: The Economics of Military Expenditure, Arms Production and Arms Trade in Developing Countries, Brauer, Jurgen and Dunne, .Paul, editors (Palgrave, 2002): Chapter 1-5.


V. ALTERNATIVE SECURITY STRATEGIES ---- Security is critical to our ability to carry on our normal economic and political activities, as well as to our general wellbeing and quality of life. Given the high cost and risk involved in continuing to pursue strategies and policies that rely primarily on the threat or use of massive military force for security, what alternative approaches are available that might be less costly, less risky, and perhaps more effective?

A. Economic Peacekeeping

The Peacekeeping Economy

*Chapter 3: “The Core Principles of Economic Peacekeeping”

*Chapter 4: “Making It Happen: Building A Peacekeeping Economy in the ‘Real World”’

*Chapter 5: “Making It Stronger: Organizations and Institutions”
*Chapter 6: “Does Globalization Contribute to Economic Peacekeeping?”

*Chapter 11: “Bringing It All Together: Toward a More Prosperous and Secure World”


B. Democratic Peace


The Self-Restraining State: Power and Accountability in New Democracies, A. Schedler, L. Diamond and M.F. Plattner, editors (Lynne Rienner Publishers, 1999), Chapters 1-3, 6, 7, 10, 11, 14, 15, 17, 19

C. Non-Offensive Defense

* Preventing War in the Nuclear Age, Dietrich Fischer (Rowman and Allanheld Publishers, 1984), Chapters 3, 4 and 5.


D. Civilian-Based Defense


The Peacekeeping Economy

*Chapter 9 “Extending Demilitarized Security: Economic Peacekeeping and Nonviolent Action”

SUPPLEMENTARY BOOK REVIEW LIST

Each student will be responsible for reading and presenting a review and critique of ONE of the following books. The book to be presented will be assigned. An effort will be made to accommodate individual student preferences. Also, books not on this list can be reviewed WITH SPECIFIC PERMISSION.

DO NOT PREPARE A REVIEW AND CRITIQUE WITHOUT FIRST GETTING APPROVAL.

(Choose ONE book to review: * indicates a preferred book)

Atrocities and International Accountability: Beyond Transitional Justice, edited by Edel Hughes, William Schabas, and Ramesh Thakur (United Nations University, 2008) [312 pages]

*Beyond Market Forces: Regulating the Global Security Industry, James Cockayne, et.al. (Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner, 2010) [333 pages]

*Bridging the Divide: Peacebuilding in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict, Edy Kaufman, Walid Salem, and Juliette Verhoeven, editors (Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner, 2007) [323 pages]

Building Peace After War, Mats Berdal (Routledge, 2009) [186 pages]

Challenges to Peacebuilding: Managing Spoilers During Conflict Resolution, edited by Edward Newman and Oliver Richmond (United Nations University, 2006 [329 pages]

China and India: Cooperation or Conflict?, W.P.S. Sidhu and Jing-dong Yuan (Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner, 2010) [205 pages]

Confronting the Bomb: A Short History of the World Nuclear Disarmament Movement, Lawrence Wittner (Stanford University Press, 2009) [254 pages]

*Dissent from War, Robert Ivie (Herndon, VA: Kumarian Press, 2007) [288 pages]

*Dying to Kill: The Allure of Suicide Terror, Mia Bloom (NY: Columbia University Press, 2005) [251 pages]

Forced Labor: Coercion and Exploitation in the Private Economy, edited by Beata Andrees and Patrick Belser (Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner, 2009) [229 pages]

The Geopolitics of American Insecurity: Terror, Power and Foreign Policy, Francois Debrix and Mark Lacy, editors (Routledge, 2009) [222 pages]


Guerilla Diplomacy: Rethinking International Relations, Daryl Copeland (Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner, 2009) [311 pages]


Men, Militarism, and UN Peacekeeping: A Gendered Analysis, Sandra Whitworth (Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner, 2007) [225 pages]


*The Power Curse: Influence and Illusion in World Politics, Giulio Gallarotti (Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner, 2010) [207 pages]

The Responsibility to Protect: Ending Mass Atrocity Crimes Once and For All, Gareth Evans (Brookings Institution Press, 2009) [349 pages]


To Make the Earth Whole: The Art of Citizen Diplomacy in an Age of Religious Militancy, Marc Gopin (Rowman and Littlefield, 2009) [240 pages]

*Too Poor for Peace? Global Poverty, Conflict and Security in the 21st Century, edited by Lael Brainard and Derek Chollet (Brookings Institution Press, 2007) [175 pages]

Toward Nuclear Zero, Raimo Varynen and David Cortright (Routledge, 2010) [182 pages]


Unconquerable Nation: Knowing Our Enemy; Strengthening Ourselves, Brian Michael Jenkins (RAND, 2006) [191 pages]

UN Peacekeeping in Africa: From the Suez Crisis to the Sudan Conflicts, Adekeye Adebajo (Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner, 2011) [240 pages]

*Uniting Against Terror: Cooperative Nonmilitary Responses to the Global Terrorist Threat, edited by David Cortright and George Lopez (MIT Press, 2007) [274 pages]


Women Building Peace: What They Do, Why It Matters, Sanam Naraghi Anderlini (Boulder: Lynne Rienner, 2007) [257 pages]

Grading Policy

Grading is based on a 25-30 page research paper (typed, double-spaced with pages numbered) prepared on an approved topic (60%), an in class analytical oral book review (of one of the books listed in the Supplementary Book Review List at the end of the Reading list or another instructor approved book) (20%) and participation in the class discussions (20%). To the extent that websites are cited as sources in the research paper, care should be taken that they are websites that engage in serious quality control (for example, the New York Times, the World Bank, on-line academic journals are fine; wikipedia is not). Poor attendance that affects participation or required presentations will be penalized.

Course & Instructor Policies

The research paper is due one week after the last day of class. Permission of the instructor is required in advance in order for the student to hand in the research paper after that date and receive a grade of “incomplete”. Early submission is always acceptable.

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.