COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course serves as an introduction to enduring and contemporary questions in international security, a field that is fundamentally about the threat and use of force by states and non-state actors to achieve their political and military objectives. We will seek answers to questions such as: What are the causes of war and conditions of peace? Are the constraints imposed by the structure of the international system the most important factors influencing state behavior, or are variables at the unit level—such as regime type or the characteristics of individual leaders—more important? Does the spread of nuclear weapons to more states make the world a safer or more dangerous place than a world in which only a handful of countries possess them? Would the acquisition of nuclear weapons by “rogue” states threaten the security of the United States, and can this be prevented? Why are some states better at fighting wars than other states? How do states and non-state actors (such as terrorists) use force to persuade their enemies to take—or refrain from taking—a particular action? Is this kind of violent persuasion—known as coercion or deterrence—effective? Finally, what are the dynamics of asymmetric conflict such as the United States faces today in Iraq and Afghanistan? In pursuing answers to these questions, we will attempt to integrate theory and history: we will sample from the existing theoretical literature on a particular topic and then examine historical cases in order to observe these theories in action and compare their relative explanatory power.

Unlike in past years, there will be no simulation on nuclear proliferation this year owing to the smaller class size.

PREREQUISITES

There is no formal prerequisite for the course. POLSCI 106D is designed both as a follow-up to POLSCI 93D and a gateway to more advanced courses on security in the Political Science department. Students who have taken POLSCI 93D and/or possess a rudimentary knowledge of IR theory (realism, liberalism, etc.) will have a slight advantage, mainly in the first section of the course. Students unfamiliar with these theories should consult the articles by Snyder and Walt (which also contain suggestions for further reading) listed under Lecture #2. I assume some familiarity with 19th and 20th century European history, as well as World Wars I and II. Suggested historical readings may be found at the end of the syllabus for those needing additional background.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The course is organized into two 50-minute lectures per week, plus one 50-minute discussion section led by a Teaching Assistant. The readings and lectures are not substitutes: they are designed to complement each other. To do well in the class, you will need to do the reading assigned for each session, attend the lectures, and be able to discuss both in section. You should also stay abreast of current events that pertain to the subject matter of the course, such as the insurgencies in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the status of Iran’s nuclear program, by reading a major newspaper like the New York Times or the Washington Post, both of which are available for free online.

Course grades will be based on the following criteria:

- **Participation** (20%): Participation consists of attendance and involvement in lecture and section. Participation means you contribute to discussion regularly and intelligently. We will circulate questions before each week’s sections that will serve as a basis for discussion, and may ask you to write brief (one or two paragraphs) reaction papers to facilitate discussion. If for some reason you have to miss your regular section, you should attend a section at different time (see below for times and locations). Notify your TA and the TA whose section you will attend instead by e-mail.
• **Mid-Term Take-Home Examination I** (20%), due February 15: Essay question based on the first part of the course on IR theory and the causes of war, handed out in class on February 8. A HARD COPY must be turned in at the start of lecture on February. E-mailed papers will not be accepted without instructor’s permission.

• **Mid-Term Take-Home Examination II** (25%), due March 22: Essay question based on the second part of the course on nuclear proliferation, distributed in class on March 3. The same rules apply as above for turning in the paper.

• **Final Examination** (35%): Monday, May 2, 7-10PM. Cumulative, but with an emphasis on Parts III, IV, and V of the course. The exam will consist of ten short-answer identification questions based on the readings and lectures, and two essay questions. The date and time of the final exam is fixed by the university; students need written permission from their academic Dean to be excused or to take the exam at another time.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Students are expected to comply with the Duke Community Standard in their work for this course, meaning that you will not lie, cheat, steal, or otherwise conduct yourselves dishonorably, and will do something if you observe others engaging in such conduct (see [http://www.registrar.duke.edu/bulletins/communitystandard/](http://www.registrar.duke.edu/bulletins/communitystandard/); for specific definitions, see [http://www.studentaffairs.duke.edu/conduct/resources/academicdishonesty](http://www.studentaffairs.duke.edu/conduct/resources/academicdishonesty). All work you submit for this course must be your own. Do not collaborate with other students on the take-home exams. You may, however, form study groups to prepare for the final exam. I will not tolerate any form of academic dishonesty. Suspected cases will be referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs. If you have questions about what constitutes proper use of published or unpublished sources, please consult “Plagiarism: Its Nature and Consequences” on the Duke Library website ([http://www.library.duke.edu/research/citing/plagiarism.html](http://www.library.duke.edu/research/citing/plagiarism.html)), or ask the instructor.

**OTHER POLICIES**

• Late papers will be accepted only in cases of extraordinary personal or family emergency; if you find yourself in such a situation, consult the instructor as soon as possible
• Laptops are allowed in class for note-taking purposes, not for checking e-mail or surfing the web
• The only cell phones allowed in class are those that have been turned off

**TEACHING ASSISTANTS & DISCUSSION SECTIONS**

There are two Teaching Assistants assigned for POLSCI 106D. Each is an advanced graduate student in the Department of Political Science. The TAs will lead discussion sections, hold office hours, and assist with grading.

• Andrew Bell (andrew.bell@duke.edu)
• Danielle Lupton (danielle.lupton@duke.edu)

There are three discussion sections established for the course. Expectations for student attendance and engagement in section are discussed above under “Participation.”

• Thursdays, 6.15-7.05PM, Perkins 307 (Bell)
• Thursdays, 6.15-7.05PM, Allen 3041 (Lupton)
• Fridays, 10.20-11.10AM, Allen 306 (Lupton)
READINGS

The following books (in paperback) are available for purchase at the Duke Textbook Store.


Many of the readings for the course are articles or book chapters. Most of these are available online via databases accessible through the Duke University Library. These are indicated by the word “online” in parentheses after the citations below. To retrieve these articles, go to the Duke Library’s web site, select “E-journals,” search on the journal name, and follow a link (sometimes there are several) that includes the date of the article you want. A few other selections, however, are on E-Reserve, indicated by the term “e-res” after the citation. These texts are easily obtained through the Blackboard site that has been established for the class. Click on “Blackboard” from the library’s main page, log in, go to the page for this class, and click on “E-Reserves” on the left side of the screen. Articles and chapters are posted by the author’s last name and the first few words of the title. You may also search Course Reserves on the library’s web site to retrieve E-Reserve material. Readings for a few class sessions will be posted on Blackboard under the heading “Course Documents” when available.

COURSE OUTLINE

1. IR Theory and the Causes of War

   1. **Course Introduction**
      
      - No readings
      - Discussion sections do not meet this week

   2. **IR Theory: An Overview**
      
3. **The International System: Anarchy, Polarity, and War** January 20

4. **The International System: Moving Parts** January 25

5. **The State** January 27

6. **The Individual** February 1

7. **Causes of World War I** February 3

8. **Causes of the Iraq War**
   - *Take-home midterm #1 question distributed in class*
II. Nuclear Weapons and Nuclear Proliferation

9. Nuclear Weapons and Nuclear Deterrence  
   February 10  
   - Kenneth N. Waltz, “Nuclear Myths and Political Realities,” *American Political Science Review* 84, no. 3 (September 1990): 731-745 (online).

10. Nuclear Proliferation: Causes  
    February 15  
    *Take-home midterm #1 due at start of lecture*  
    - Brown et al., *Going Nuclear*, articles by Sagan, Solingen, and Fuhrmann

11. Nuclear Proliferation: For Better or For Worse?  
    February 17  

12. Dealing with a Nuclear Iran  
    February 22  

13. Nuclear Proliferation in South Asia  
    February 24  

14. Nuclear Reversal  
    March 1  
    - Brown et al., *Going Nuclear*, articles by Liberman and Levite

15. Nuclear Terrorism  
    March 3  
    *Take-home midterm #2 question distributed in class*  
    - Brown et al., *Going Nuclear*, article by Bunn  

16. No Class: Spring Break  
    March 8

17. No Class: Spring Break  
    March 10
III. Military Effectiveness

18. Military Effectiveness: Causes of Victory and Defeat
   March 15

19. Operation Michael, March 1918 (Prof. Peter Feaver, Guest Lecturer)
   March 17
   Note: Sections will not be held March 17-18.

20. The Battle of France, May 1940
    March 22
    Take-home midterm #2 due at start of lecture

21. The Persian Gulf War
    March 24

IV. Coercion

22. Military Coercion
    March 29
    - Pape, *Bombing to Win*, 1-86.

23. Coercion in Practice: World War II
    March 31

24. Coercion in Practice: Recent Conflicts
    April 5

25. Coercion: Other Tools
    April 7
V. Contemporary Conflict: Insurgency and Terrorism

26. Asymmetric Conflict  
   April 12
   - Brown et al., *Contending with Terrorism*, article by Byman.

27. Terrorism  
   April 14
   - Brown et al., *Contending with Terrorism*, articles by Cronin and Moghadam (in Part I).

28. Debates about Terrorists and Terrorism  
   April 19
   - Brown et al., *Contending with Terrorism*, both articles by Abrahms and related Correspondence (125-226).

29. Iraq  
   April 21

30. Afghanistan/Pakistan  
   April 26

31. Final Examination  
   May 2
   - Social Sciences 119, 7-10PM
SUPPLEMENTARY READINGS FOR HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

European History


World War I


World War II


The Cold War