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School of Public Policy
George Mason University

Spring 2009
Arlington Campus

**U.S. National Security Policy:
*Problems and Processes***

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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REQUIRED TEXTS

1. Paul J. J. Bolt, Damon V. Coletta, Collins G. Shackelford, *American Defense Policy* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005).
2. Walter Russell Mead, *Special Providence* (New York: Routledge, 2002).
3. Additional articles and book chapters to be assigned as needed.

Recommended/Optional for reference

4. Jerel Rosati and James M. Scott, *The Politics of United States Foreign Policy*, 2006.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course will examine the history and evolution of U.S. national security policy, the processes and institutions involved in the making of national security policy, a some key contemporary national security issues.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The overall goal of the course is for you to develop your abilities to interrelate the concepts and substance of U.S. national security. The objectives include:

1. Analyzing and examining U.S. national security issues and understanding that vital interests are different for many and are a function of domestic and global politics;
2. Synthesizing and organizing interpretations of policy decisions that involve alternative perspectives and tradeoffs among political, economic, military, legal, and ethical goals;
3. Appreciating the many organizations, institutions, and individuals that participate in U.S. security policymaking and policy outcomes;
4. Applying theories and concepts to current problems and balancing them with historical context.

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Required Assignment

1. Readings Analyses (10%)
2. Research Paper (30%);
3. Midterm (30%);
4. Final Examination (30%);

Readings Analysis: Three, one page, single spaced discussions of the assigned readings. These assignments, which will be assigned throughout the semester, are designed to maximize your learning experience by challenging you to think analytically and write critically about course content. Each analysis will be graded with respect to description and analysis.

Paper: One of the primary objectives of this course is to develop your ability to apply the concepts of U.S. National Security Policy and the national security policymaking process to international issues. You will be asked to explain why a particular event occurred or a particular decision was made. *The aim is to analyze the myriad political, bureaucratic, cultural, and institutional factors influencing a particular outcome in national security.*

The purpose of this *13 to 15 page* (double-spaced with 1" margins) research paper is to take you through the stages of a complete reasoning and policy-making process preparatory to a logical conclusion.

Topics: The topic of your research paper must be cleared with me in advance of starting the project. Details of the assignment and appropriate topics will be discussed in class.

References and Documentation: You must refer to a minimum of 10 legitimate sources. These must be books, published manuals, magazines or newspapers, scholarly journals, and government documents are considered legitimate references for your research. You may cite internet sources to comment on the nature of the debate, but I don't consider websites like Wikipedia to be legitimate sources of research in a college course in political science.

Citation Style: Use a standard form you are comfortable with. I recommend endnotes or footnotes in the Chicago Manual of Style format.

Plagiarism: Will not be tolerated. You are responsible for ensuring words *and ideas* you use are appropriately referenced

SEMESTER OUTLINE

WEEK 1

The Context of U.S. National Security

Bolt, Coletta, & Shackelford

- Carrese, American Power and the Legacy of Washington

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- Niebuhr, America's Precarious Eminence
- Walzer, The Triumph of Just War Theory
- Pei, The Paradoxes of American Nationalism
- Gaddis, A Grand Strategy of Transformation
- Hendrickson, Toward Universal Empire
- Walt, International Relations: One World, Many Theories

WEEK 2

The History of National Security in America

Required: Walter Russell Mead, *Special Providence* (New York: Routledge, 2002).

WEEK 3

The Making of U.S. Grand Strategy

United States Objectives and Programs for National Security NSC 68, April 14, 1950.
<http://www.fas.org/irp/offdocs/nsc-hst/nsc-68.htm>

Center for New American Security Solarium 2 Grand Strategy Project
All documents available at: <http://www.cnas.org/solarium2/>

Michele Flournoy and Shawn Brimley, "Strategic Planning for National Security: A New Project Solarium," *Joint Forces Quarterly*, 2nd Quarter 2006, pp. 80-86.

- Churchill, Iron Curtain Speech
- X (George Kennan), The Sources of Soviet Conduct
- Wilson's 14 Points
- NIE (National Intelligence Estimate), Soviet Goals, 1978
- NIE (National Intelligence Estimate), Soviet Goals, 1982
- Reagan, SDI Speech

WEEK 4

Defense Posture

Bolt, Coletta, & Shackelford:

- Tangredi, The Future Security Environment
- Barnett, The Pentagon's New Map
- Roy, Rising China and U.S. Interests

Zakaria, *The Rise of Illiberal Democracy*

WEEK 5

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Processes in National Security Decision Making

- Bolt, Coletta, & Shackelford Chapters 4 and 6
- Graham Allison, Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis

WEEK 6

Actors in National Security Decision Making

- Bolt, Coletta, & Shackelford, Chapter 5
- Defense is from Mars; State is from Venus

WEEK 7

Contemporary Issues

- Civ-mil: Bolt, Coletta, & Shackelford Chapter 10
- Interagency Coordination and the de-militarization debate: Readings TBD

WEEK 8

Debates for the Future of U.S. National Security and Defense Policy (part 1)
“Shifting Our Weight”

- National Security Strategy of Engagement & Enlargement, 1996
- The National Security Strategy of the U.S., 2002
- The National Security Strategy of the U.S., 2006
- DoDD 3000.05
- NSPD 44
- 2006 QDR
- Gray, Implications of Preemptive and Preventive War

WEEK 9

MIDTERM

WEEK 10

Case Study: The War in Iraq

- Joseph J. Collins, "Choosing War: The Decision to Invade Iraq and Its Aftermath" National Defense University, Occasional Paper, April, 2008
- James Fallows, the *51st State* and *Blind Into Baghdad*, Both in the Atlantic.
- David J. Kilcullen, *Anatomy of a Tribal Revolt*, Small Wars Journal, 2007, www.swj.com
- Colin Kahl et. al., *Shaping the Iraq Inheritance*, CNAS. Available on line at <http://www.cnas.org/en/cms/?2311>
- Other readings TBD

WEEK 11

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Debates for the Future of U.S. National Security and Defense Policy (part 2)
Risk and Security

- Bolt, Coletta, & Shackelford, Chapter 12 and 13.

WEEK 12
Guest Speaker
Reading TBD

WEEK 13

- Bolt, Coletta, & Shackelford, Intro to section III; Chapter 7 and 8
- Recommended: chapter 9

WEEK 14
Guest Speaker
Reading TBD

GMU SPP Policies

Plagiarism: The profession of scholarship and the intellectual life of a university as well as the field of public policy inquiry depend fundamentally on a foundation of trust. Thus any act of plagiarism strikes at the heart of the meaning of the university and the purpose of the School of Public Policy. It constitutes a serious breach of professional ethics and it is unacceptable.

Plagiarism is the use of another's words or ideas presented as one's own. It includes, among other things, the use of specific words, ideas, or frameworks that are the product of another's work. Honesty and thoroughness in citing sources is essential to professional accountability and personal responsibility. Appropriate citation is necessary so that arguments, evidence, and claims can be critically examined.

Plagiarism is wrong because of the injustice it does to the person whose ideas are stolen. But it is also wrong because it constitutes lying to one's professional colleagues. From a prudential perspective, it is shortsighted and self-defeating, and it can ruin a professional career.

The faculty of the School of Public Policy takes plagiarism seriously and has adopted a zero tolerance policy. Any plagiarized assignment will receive an automatic grade of "F." This may lead to failure for the course, resulting in dismissal from the University. This dismissal will be noted on the student's transcript. For foreign students who are on a university-sponsored visa (eg. F-1, J-1 or J-2), dismissal also results in the revocation of their visa.

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To help enforce the SPP policy on plagiarism, all written work submitted in partial fulfillment of course or degree requirements must be available in electronic form so that it can be compared with electronic databases, as well as submitted to commercial services to which the School subscribes. Faculty may at any time submit student's work without prior permission from the student. Individual instructors may require that written work be submitted in electronic as well as printed form. The SPP policy on plagiarism is supplementary to the George Mason University Honor Code; it is not intended to replace it or substitute for it.

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Disability Resource Center (DRC) at 993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the DRC.