

# POLI 4040-02      U.S. National Security

Spring 2018  
Room: Coates 109  
Time: MWF 12:30-1:20

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## Course Description

Welcome students! This is an upper division, special topics course on U.S. National Security. The subject can span a wide array of topics from defense to global climate change and there is no course that could cover the full range of issues impacting U.S. National Security. Further, the list of problems which constitute national security differ from one administration to another and is often based more on domestic politics rather than objective levels of threat presented by specific issues. This course is designed to give you a sampling of both issues and readings on the topics. The objective is to help you recognize issues that impact the national security of a nation and encourage you to think about them from an analytical perspective. The course is broken down into three sections. We will discuss: **(1) conventional military warfare, (2) intelligence, (3) terrorism.** The course does not, on its own, prepare you for any kind of career in the field of national security. However, if you do have an interest in such a career, the course can serve as a helpful gateway to start thinking about the issues in a structured way. We will take a discussion based approach in this course and you, as students, will be expected to make frequent contributions, ask good questions and be helpful colleagues to your peers. We will also cover a healthy amount of reading and you are expected to manage your time in a way that allows you to be prepared for each class meeting. **It is important that you carefully familiarize yourself with the syllabus. Throughout the semester you will be responsible for following all of the course regulations and policies.**

## Required Text

**Silence of the Rational Center** by Stefan Halper (Posted on Moodle)  
**Arms and Influence** by Thomas Schelling (Available at LSU Bookstore)  
**48 Laws of Power** by Robert Greene (Available at LSU Bookstore)  
**Select Chapter from War 2.0** (Posted on Moodle)  
**Get Smart: Combining Hard and Soft Power** by Joe Nye (Posted on Moodle)

## Course Policies

**Academic Integrity:** Academic integrity is of paramount importance and evidence of plagiarism or cheating will result in a referral to the office of the dean.

**Late Submissions: I do not accept late work.** Please make arrangements to turn in your work on time.

**Electronic Devices:** All electronic devices, including laptops, are prohibited.

**Attendance:** Attendance will be taken every class period. This is a discussion based course and requires regular attendance. I understand that things come up; you are allowed to miss 3 classes without a penalty. Any additional absences will result in 1 point reduction in your total course grade per absence. Missing 10 or more class meetings (beyond the allowable 3) will automatically result in a failing grade for the course.

**Free Pass on Weekly Assignments:** You get 1 free pass on your weekly reflection assignments (See below under: *Weekly Reflection Assignments*). I encourage you to use this "free pass" conservatively or not use it at all. Given this policy, no late work will be accepted under any circumstances. You cannot use up your free pass and later miss an assignment due to an emergency. It is your responsibility to save the pass for emergencies. If you do not use your free pass, I will simply drop your lowest grade on weekly assignments.

**Grades:** Grades will be allocated according to the following schedule.

Score	Grade	Score	Grade	Score	Grade	Score	Grade
97-100	A+	87-89	B+	77-79	C+	67-69	D+
94-96	A	83-86	B	73-76	C	63-66	D
90-93	A-	80-82	B-	70-72	C-	60-62	D-
						< 60	F

**Special Needs:** Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments is requested to speak with the Disability Services and with me, as early in the semester as possible. All discussions will remain confidential. Please contact the Disability Services at 115 Johnston Hall, (225) 578-5919.

## Requirements and Evaluation

### *Weekly Reflection Assignments – 5 points each, 50 points total*

On Monday of each week (with few exceptions), students are required to submit a one page (minimum of 300 words) reflection paper discussing the readings that were assigned for that week. Weeks that do not require a reflection assignment are clearly marked in the syllabus. Please note that this should not be merely a summary of the readings, but a reflection piece. This reflection paper is due at the start of class and must be submitted in hard copy. If you cannot make it to class in person, you can submit the paper to me by e.mail. The e.mail must arrive before the start of the class meeting. In cases when no class is held on a Monday, the reflection assignments are due on Wednesday (See under *Reading and Assignment Schedule*). A sample completed assignment is posted to Moodle. We will discuss this assignment in more detail at the start of the semester.

***Participation - 25 points***

This is a discussion based course and as such requires active participation on your part. I will make a concerted effort to call on all students, but it is your responsibility to be engaged and participate in the discussion. Participation makes up (intentionally) a large portion of your total grade. Throughout the semester I will update your participation grade in Moodle to give you an idea where you stand.

***Final Exam - 25 points***

The final exam will cover all of the material studied throughout the semester. We will discuss the exam structure and expectations in detail. I have posted a sample final exam on Moodle (Please note that this sample final exam is from a different course. The questions in the sample final exam are not necessarily related to this course. It is there to show you the general structure of the exam and give you an idea of what to expect). You cannot opt out of the final exam. Failure to submit the final exam will result in a failing grade for the course even if your total grade is above 60 after accounting for the not-submitted exam.

**Weekly Reading and Assignment Schedule – To be Edited****Week One - January 10, 12**

- Topic(s): (1) Course Introduction, (2) Fluid Nature of National Security Concepts and Vital Interests
- Reading: Syllabus
- Reflection Assignment: None

**Week Two - January 17, 19**

- Topics(s): (1) Structure of U.S. National Security Organizations, (2) Analysis and Evaluation of Security Issues
- Reading: Silence of the Rational Center by Stefan Halper
- Reflection Assignment: Due at 12:30 pm on Monday, January 17

**Week Three - January 22, 24, 26**

- Topics(s): (1) Role of War (2) Negotiations and Diplomacy
- Reading: Chapter 1 from Arms and Influence (The Diplomacy of Violence)
- Reflection Assignment: Due at 12:30 pm on Monday, January 22.

**Week Four - January 29, 31, February 2**

- Topics(s): (1) Commitment in IR (2) Costly Signaling (3) Alliances
- Reading: Chapters 2 and 3 from Arms and Influence (Art of Commitment, Manipulation of Risk)
- Reflection Assignment: Due at 12:30 pm on Monday, January 29.

**Week Five - February 5, 7, 9**

-Topics(s): (1) Arms Races and Military Spending (2) Perception and Misconception of Risk and Resolve

-Reading: Chapters 6 and 7 from Arms and Influence (Dynamics of Mutual Alarm, Dialogue of Competitive Armament)

-Reflection Assignment: Due at 12:30 pm on Monday, February 5.

**Week Six - February 14, 16**

-Topics(s): The Perpetual Adversaries: China, Russia, North Korea, Iran

-Reading: None

-Reflection Assignment: None

**Week Seven - February 19, 21, 23**

-Topics(s): (1) Strategies of Containment (2) Smart Power (3) Nuclear Deterrence and Accommodation

-Reading: Chapters 6 and 7 from Arms and Influence (Dynamics of Mutual Alarm, Dialogue of Competitive Armament)

-Reflection Assignment: Due at 12:30 pm on Monday, February 19.

**Week Eight - February 26, 28, March 2**

-Topics(s): (1) Role of Intelligence in the International System (2) Information Warfare

-Reading: Laws 2, 3, 11 from 48 Laws of Power

-Reflection Assignment: Due at 12:30 pm on Monday, February 26.

**Week Nine - March 5, 7, 9**

-Topics(s): (1) Signals vs. Human Intelligence (2) Stages of Intelligence

-Reading: Laws 14, 20, 29 from 48 Laws of Power

-Reflection Assignment: Due at 12:30 pm on Monday, March 5.

**Week Ten - March 12, 14, 16**

-Topics(s): (1) Early Warning Intelligence (Case Study of Russia) (2) Open Source Intelligence

-Reading: Laws 35, 43, 47 from 48 Laws of Power

-Reflection Assignment: Due at 12:30 pm on Monday, March 12.

**Week Eleven - March 18, 20, 22**

-Topics(s): (1) Counterintelligence Strategy (2) Role of CIA (3) Role of FBI

-Reading: Any 3 laws of your choosing from 48 Laws of Power

-Reflection Assignment: Due at 12:30 pm on Monday, March 18

**Week Twelve - SPRING BREAK****Week Thirteen - April 2, 4, 6**

-Topics(s):

-Reading: None

-Reflection Assignment: None

**Week Fourteen - April 9, 11, 13**

-Topics(s): (1) Counterintelligence Strategy (2) Role of CIA (3) Role of FBI

-Reading: Select Chapter from War 2.0 (On Moodle)

-Reflection Assignment: Due at 12:30 pm on Monday, April 9

**Week Fifteen - April 16, 18, 20**

-Topics(s): (1) Counterintelligence Strategy (2) Role of CIA (3) Role of FBI

-Reading: (1) Get Smart by Joe Nye (2) Art of Economic Statecraft by Dmitriy Nurullayev (Both on Moodle)

-Reflection Assignment: Due at 12:30 pm on Monday, April 16

**Week Sixteen - April 23, 25**

-Topics(s): (1) Career Discussions: Law School, Grad School, Foreign Service, Federal Law Enforcement (2) Final Exam Review

-Reading: None

-Reflection Assignment: None

**Week Seventeen - FINAL EXAM**

(The Exact Date of the Exam will be Announced in Class and Posted on Moodle)