U.S. National Security Policy
International Studies 550
Spring 2009
Mercer 321
Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:30-10:45 a.m.

Instructor: Dr. Kristin Trenholm
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Final papers are due: Friday, May 8, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. in my box in the Political Science Department (Bolton Hall sixth floor).

Course Description
This course examines the development of U.S. National Security Policy since World War II, with special attention to the Cold War and post-9/11 periods. National Security Policy is the coordination of diplomacy, military policy, information dissemination and propaganda, trade policy, and intelligence collection.

We begin with a general introduction to the nature of U.S. National Security Policy (NSP) and examine the domestic environment, such as the constitutional limits, bureaucratic politics, and the media (Block I and II). We then examine the history of U.S. NSP, focusing upon the Cold War and early post-Cold War era. Here we examine the NSP of the Carter, Reagan, and Clinton Administrations (Block III). In the final section (Block IV) we examine the contemporary setting: U.S. National Security after 9/11, under George W. Bush and Barack Obama.

The readings for this course are varied. We will read a number of “classics” in U.S. National Security Studies, including works by George Kennan, Hans Morgenthau, George Marshall, and Winston Churchill. We will also read a number of contemporary works by policy analysts (from both liberal and conservative think tanks), academics (political scientists and historians), government officials, as well as essays and speeches by U.S. Presidents (including Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George W. Bush, and Barak Obama).

Having completed this course, students should be familiar with the development, central issues, and key debates concerning U.S. National Security Policy, past and present. Furthermore, students should enhance their critical and analytical skills in the process and apply such skills to more current research and debate in this field. In short, students should take from this class the critical thinking skills that will enhance their discriminating consumption of professional research and contemporary journalistic arguments in the field.

Course Requirements
Regular attendance and participation. I expect you to come to class each session and to come prepared. Students are expected to: 1) finish the assigned readings before the class for which they are assigned, 2) attend class regularly, 3) show up to class on time, and 4) participate in class discussion.
Preparation. In assessing the various authors’ works, students should be able to answer the following questions: 1) What does the writer seek to explain? 2) What evidence does the author offer in support of the argument? 3) What are the key concepts? 4) From what theoretical perspective does each argument originate? 5) Are there counter-arguments that can be made? 6) What do you make of the author’s argument overall?

Grades
Grades will be based on the best two of three short quizzes (worth 8.33% each), attendance and participation (8.33%), one midterm exam (worth 25%), and one final paper (worth 50%). Each student must present on two class discussion questions. Students presenting in a given week should talk to me after class the week before, in order to agree on what will be debated or discussed. Each student will prepare their own talking points, and should never read long statements written by others. Presentation notes are due after class on the day that presentations are made.

There will be no make-up quizzes, although one quiz may be dropped. No make-up midterm exams will be given without a medical excuse. Students must produce the appropriate documentation stating why they were not able to be in class at the exact time of the exam. I do not accept late final papers unless there is a documented medical emergency.

If you have a problem or miss an exam, get in touch with me immediately (beforehand if possible). If you miss the midterm exam without giving me prior notice, you MUST contact me within 24 hours of that exam or you will not be allowed to take a make-up exam under any circumstances. For additional information about UWM University policies see http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/SyllabusLinks.pdf. This web site contains a list of University policies regarding such issues as incompletes, grade appeal procedures, and University policy governing academic misconduct, among other things.

The midterm exam. The midterm exam will be given during the regular class period during the 7th week of class (March 12, 2009). There is a final ten-page paper that will be due on Friday, May 8, 2009. It is due in my box by 9:00 a.m. I do not accept late final papers.

Students with special needs are responsible for making their needs known in the first two weeks of the semester, especially if accommodations are needed in order to meet any of the requirements of this course.

Required Readings
There is one required book that is available at the UWM Bookstore:

There are also a number of additional required readings for the course (i.e. articles, government documents and presidential speeches). All of these required readings are available on electronic reserve in the Golda Meir Library, at: https://millib.wisconsin.edu/edu/cgi-bin/Pwebrecon.cgi?DB+local&PAGE=rbSearch>.

Course Schedule and Reading Assignments
The following schedule is subject to modification. Be sure to try to finish each day’s readings before class.
Block I. The Nature of US National Security Policy (NSP)
Week #1-2 (1/27 Tuesday, 1/29 Thursday, and 2/3 Tuesday):  Overview of the course; The Nature of US National Security Policy.


Block II. The Domestic Setting

James Lindsey. From “Defense and Defiance: The Shifting Rhythms of Executive-Legislative Relations in Foreign Policy.” Presidential Studies Quarterly, 33, No, 3, September, 2005 Bernell (pp. 105-117).


Block III. The History of NSP
Week #3-4 (2/12 Thursday and Tuesday 2/17) QUIZ #1 (2/17 Tuesday). The Origins of Containment and NSP I.

**Week #4-5 (2/19 Thursday and 2/24 Tuesday) NSP II During the Cold War.**

**Week#5 (2/26 Thursday) The Beginning of the End of the Cold War.**

**Week #6 (3/3 Tuesday and 3/5 Thursday) The End of the Cold War. Why Did The Soviet Union Collapse?**

**Midterm Exam Thursday, March 12, 2009**
**Week #7 (3/10 Tuesday and 3/12 Thursday Midterm Exam) The Early Post-Cold War Era.**

**UWM Spring Break: March 16-20, 2009**
Week #8 (3/24 Tuesday and 3/26 Thursday) The Post-Cold War Era.
(Bosnia case study)

Block IV. The Contemporary Setting

Week #9 (3/31 Tuesday and 4/2 Thursday) 9/11 and George W. Bush.

Weeks #10-11 (4/7 Tuesday, 4/9 Thursday, and 4/14 Tuesday) QUIZ #2 (4/7 Tuesday) The Threat of Terrorism I.

Week #11-12 (4/16 Thursday and 4/21 Tuesday) The Threat of Terrorism Part II.
Foreign Affairs, September/October 2006. E-reserve.
Condolezza Rice. “Rethinking the National Interest: American Realism for a New World.”
Foreign Affairs, July/August 2008. E-reserve.
(Terror in Mumbai, December 2008)
Bill Roggio & Thomas Joscelyn. “Pakistan’s Jihad: In the War on Terror, Islamabad is Both with

Week #12-13 (4/23 Thursday and 4/28 Tuesday) U.S. Nuclear Strategy; Future Challenges.
George P. Shultz, William J. Perry, Henry A. Kissinger and Sam Nunn. “Toward a Nuclear-Free
<http://online.wsi.com/public/articleprint/SB120036422673589947.html>

Week #13-14 (4/30 Thursday and 5/5 Tuesday) QUIZ #3 (4/30 Thursday) Barack Obama
2009.*
E-reserve.
Hilary Rodham Clinton. “Security and Opportunity for the Twenty-first Century.” Foreign
Affairs, January/February 2009. E-reserve.
*Other readings may be assigned as the Obama Administration gets underway.

Does Russia pose a threat? Russia Resurgent?
(Russian invasion of Georgia August 8, 2008)
(Recommended) Alexander Cooley and Lincoln A. Mitchell, “No Way to Treat our Friends:
32:1 (pp. 27-41). E-reserve.

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