

GEORGIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
Sam Nunn School of International Affairs

International Affairs 4500C

Contemporary U.S. Strategy on Foreign and National Security Issues

Tues 12:05 – 2:55 PM
Ivan Allen College G-17

Robert Kennedy
Fall 2010

1. Scope

This course is a fast moving, aggressive seminar. The purposes of the course are: (1) to reinforce and help you integrate the knowledge you have acquired during the course of your studies in international affairs and your life experiences to date; (2) to examine the major issues of our time; and (3) to work with a team to articulate your views on a specific contemporary foreign or security issue.

2. Class Format: Mixed lecture and seminar discussions.

3. Required Texts

Donald M. Snow. *National Security for a New Era: Globalization and Geopolitics*, 4th. ed. (New York: Pearson – Longman, 2010).

4. Prerequisites: Advanced IR student.

5. Course Requirements:

a. General: Students are required to attend all classes and complete all assigned readings in order to facilitate discussions. Since much of the course depends on student participation, students will be docked 6% of their overall grade for each unexcused absence. Students are required to wear **“business attire” when giving a presentation**. In addition to the regular course readings, students are encouraged to read a major daily (e.g. International Herald Tribune, New York Times, Washington Post, etc.), as well as some foreign daily (e.g. in English - Moscow News, China Daily, etc. or in your favorite foreign languages – Frankfurter Allegemeine Zeitung, Il Tempo, etc.) – on the Internet is fine. You may get home delivery of the NY Times at the student rate by calling 1-800-nytimes. Students also are encouraged to watch at least one of the nightly news broadcast.

b. For all IP students: There is an additional assignment, a short paper, 10-15 pages, which is required for the IP capstone course. You will receive an email to arrange for an outside meeting time to discuss this work in the second week of classes. You will be attending a workshop run by OIE that will provide you with readings and an exercise to facilitate your writing of the paper, which will ask you to reflect on the impact of your time studying and working abroad on your studies as an INTA or IAML major. That question is: What intercultural understanding did you gain as a result of your experiences studying and/or working abroad and how have those experiences led you to reflect upon themes of study in your courses as an INTA or IAML major and the career you want to pursue?"

c. Class Preparation:

- 1) Students should come to class prepared to raise questions and discuss important issues they believe were raised by the readings.
- 2) All students must prepare 5 questions or comments about the readings for each of the “Strategy and Policies” reports.
 - a) **Two** printed copies must be prepared – **one to be turned in at the beginning of each class** and one for your **use** during discussions on report.
 - b) Questions/comments on the “Strategy and Policies” reports should be drawn from different readings provided by the students, explicitly referencing the readings (**for example: in “Iran New Surprises,” p. 3 concerns are raised over the need for highly enriched uranium for medical purposes.”**)
 - c) On the day of their presentation, presenters are exempt from this requirement.
 - d) Students who have an excused absence are still required to turn in their questions and may do so by email.

d. Oral and Written Reports on Strategy and Policies: Students in 2 or 3 person teams will research and orally report to the class a recommended Strategy and corresponding policies for dealing with a country, regional, or functional issue. Team reports should be about 60-70 minutes, leaving the remainder of the class period for discussions. Each student on the team must prepare and present some aspect of the team’s “Strategy and Policies” report. On the day students deliver their oral report they are exempt from the requirement to turn in a paper with 5 questions or comments about the subject. Final written reports should be about 20-25 pages in length. Final written reports are a team effort. A student from the team will be selected randomly to serve as team leader, with the responsibility for the overall lead in organizing and assembling the paper as well as for writing a portion of the paper. However, each person on the team **must write a portion of the paper**, not simply pass his or her ideas on to someone else to write that section, but **actually write the section**. Final papers should note in a preface which students wrote what part(s) of the paper, so that proper credit can be given to each person for his or her efforts. Fifty percent of each individual’s grade for these reports will be based on the overall quality of the report and 50% on the sections actually written by each student. **Final written reports are due NLT noon Dec 13.**

e. Timely Announcement of Readings for Oral Strategy & Policy Reports: Students must provide their classmates with reading materials in preparation for their reports not later than one week prior to the report. **Reading material should not exceed 80-100 pages.**

6. Topics for Oral and Written Reports on U.S. Strategy/policies: Students will be assigned a topic from a list to be developed during the first class period of country, regional, or issue specific problems confronting or likely to confront the United States in the upcoming decades. Each topic will be addressed by a 2 or 3-person team, which will develop a strategy and supporting U.S. policies for dealing with the topic and report out there views orally to the class for discussion as noted above. The team will then **refine its views and prepare** a final written report on its recommended US strategies and policies.

7. Examinations. There will be only one examination in this course. The exam will follow the completion of the Text by D.M. Snow. There will be no final exam. The examination will include multi-choice, true-false, and matching questions and will only be given on the announced date. A medical or other Georgia Tech approved excuse is the only permissible reasons for the exam. All electronic equipment (cell phones, iphones, blackberries, blueberries, raspberries, computers, etc.) must be **put away/hidden from view** during exams. **All work will be graded as noted below.**

8. Grading: A=90-100; B=80-89; C=70-79; D=60-69; F=below 60.
Grades will not be curved for this course.

Class preparation and Participation (includes prepared Questions during reports)	15%
Mid-term Exam	25%
Oral Report on Strategy and Policy	20%
Timely announcement of Readings for Strategy and Policy Oral Reports	10%
Final Written Report	30%

Note for IP students: Your IP short paper must be satisfactorily completed to receive a grade in this course.

9. Office Hours:

Tues 11:00 am - 12:00 noon by appointment
 Office: Ivan Allen College, 781 Marietta St Room 146
 Please make an appointment by telephone (404-894-0682) or email (robert.kennedy@inta.gatech.edu) so you don't have to hang around the office waiting.

10. Course Outline and Reading Assignments:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topics and Readings</u>
Aug 26	Course Introduction.
Sep 2	National Security Today: Changing Dynamics, the Realist Paradigm, Security, Interests, and Power. Read Snow, Chapters 1- 3
Sep 9	American Experience and its Domestic Environment. Snow, Chaps 4-5
Sep 16	Fault Lines and the Cold War. Snow, Chaps 6-7
Sep 23	Globalization and the Legacies of 9/11. Snow. Chaps 8-9
Sep 30	On-Going Military Problems and Asymmetrical Warfare. Snow, Chaps, 10- 11.

Oct 7 Unresolved Dilemmas in Afghanistan and Iraq, Peacekeeping, State Building, and Security, Chaps, 12-13.

Oct 14 Extending Security, Snow Chap 14.

Oct 21 Mid-Term Exam

Oct 28 Student Strategy/Policies Report 1

Nov 4 Student Strategy/Policies Report 2

Nov 11 Student Strategy/Policies Report 3

Nov 18 Student Strategy/Policies Report 4

Nov 25-26 Thanksgiving Recess

Dec 2 Student Strategy/Policies Report 5

Dec 9 Student Strategy/Policies Report 6

Dec 13 Foreign Policy Research Papers Due by noon, except for Report #6 which is due by noon Dec 15