

POLITICS OF NATIONAL SECURITY

SAM NUNN SCHOOL FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Instructor - Todd Stein
INTA 4803-TS; INTA 8803-TS
Tuesday and Thursday – 6:05pm to 7:25pm

Class 1: Introduction – Class Logistics and Orientation

Logistics

- Goals
- Syllabus and Organization of the Class
- Grading
- Class Participation
- Papers
- Presentations
- Collegiality
- Instructor background
- Class Introductions

Orientation – “Politics” and “National Security”

Class 2: Exploring what we mean when we say “Politics”

- 9/11 Commission Report – Chapter 1: “We Have Some Planes”

Class 3: “Politics” continued.....

- 9/11 Commission Report – Chapter 2: “The Foundation of the New Terrorism”

Class 4: Polling and Voter Priorities

- Article TBA
- The Looming Tower – Chapter 1: “The Martyr”

Class 5: “National Security” – Feeling Safe from Threats

- 2002 US Senate Campaign: Chambliss vs. Cleland
- 9/11 Commission Report – Chapter 3: “Counterterrorism Evolves”

Class 6: “National Security” – Feeling Safe vs. other Voting Priorities

- WSJ/NBC Presidential Polls – 2000, 2002, 2004, 2008 and 2011.
- The Looming Tower – Chapter 3: “The Founder” (Chapter 2 – “The Sporting Club” is optional)

Class 7: The Framework and Filling the Information Gap

- 9/11 Commission Report – Chapter 4 “Responses to al-Qaeda’s Initial Assaults”
- The Looming Tower – Chapter 4 “Change”

Class 8: The President – Authorities, Expectations, Intangibles and Stereotypes

- US Constitution, Article II
- 9/11 Commission Report – Chapter 5: “Al-Qaeda Aims at the American Homeland”

Class 9: The President – Case Study: 2004 Presidential Election

- Election 2004: How Bush Won and What You Can Expect in the Future

Class 10: Class Presidential Debate – 2012 Election

- 9/11 Commission Report – Chapter 6 “From Threat to Threat
- The Looming Tower – Chapters 5 and 6: “The Miracles” and “The Base”

Class 11: Congress and National Security – Authorities, Expectations, Intangibles and Stereotypes

- US Constitution, Article I
- Testimony TBA
- 9/11 Commission Report – Chapter 7: “The Attack Looms”

Class 12: Congress and National Security – Oversight, Spending and Hearings

- The Tanker Story
- 9/11 Commission Report – Chapter 8: “The System was Blinking Red”

Class 13: Congress and National Security – Spotlight on Georgia

- 9/11 Commission Report - Chapters 10 and 11: “Wartime” and “Foresight – And Hindsight”

Class 14: The Press and National Security

- Judy Miller, the NYT and WMD in Iraq

- The Looming Tower – Chapters 7 and 8: “Return of the Hero” and “The Silicon Valley”

Class 15: The Press and National Security

- Editorials and Op-eds
- The Looming Tower – Chapters 10, 11 and 12: “Paradise Lost,” “The Prince of Darkness,” and “The Boy Spies”

Class 16: Press Presentations

- The Looming Tower – Chapters 13, 14, and 15: “Hijira,” “Going Operational” and “Bread and Water”

Class 17: Press Presentations

- The Looming Tower – Chapters 16, 17, and 18: “Now it Begins,” “The New Millennium” and “Boom”

Class 18: National Security Experts

- The Looming Tower – Chapters 19 and 20: “The Big Wedding” and “Revelations”

Class 19: National Security Experts

Class 20: Summary of Class to Date

Class 21: Islamist Terrorism and the Attacks of 9/11 – The Looming Tower

Class 22: Politics of 9/11 – The 9/11 Commission Report

- 9/11 Commission Report – The Recommendations: “What to Do? A Global Strategy”

Class 23: Politics of 9/11 – The Response

- Guantanamo Bay and Interrogation Techniques
- Warrantless Wiretapping
- Trial of KSM in NYC

Class 25: Iran – The Threat

- Reading TBA

Class 26: Iran – Politics of Responding to the Threat

- Reading TBA

Class 27: China – The Threat

- Reading TBA

Class 28: China – Politics of Responding to the Threat

- Reading TBA

Class 29: 2012 Presidential Campaign

- Reading TBA

Class 30: Class Summary and Preparation for Final

GRADING

Class Discussion and Participation – 33%: This will be a heavy discussion class and students will be evaluated accordingly. And that means attendance is strongly encouraged and excessive absences will significantly impact the class and participation part of a student's grade. Also, at the beginning of some classes, a student (or a group of students) will introduce the readings and other assigned material for the day. The rest of the class will be expected to ask questions and engage with those making the presentation.

Writing Assignments – 33%: There will be a series of small writing assignments throughout the semester that will respond to weekly readings and there will be one lengthy writing assignment of 5-10 pages. The writing assignment, which will be a memo to a candidate or elected official on a national security issue, will be in lieu of a midterm.

Final Exam – 33%: The final exam will be a take-home writing assignment that will ask students to look at a case study and draw upon the different parts of the class to succinctly summarize the national security issue involved, evaluate the electoral politics surrounding that issue, review and assess relevant articles and editorials and incorporate the views and influence of interests groups. The ultimate task of the final exam will be for students to make a policy recommendation to a candidate or an elected official that incorporates all relevant political considerations.

READINGS

This will not be an intensive reading course, but students are expected to do all the assignments and be prepared for class. Most of the readings will be assigned on a weekly basis and will likely include newspaper and magazine articles, congressional testimony and speeches by government officials. The class blog will also be used to discuss many of the readings and for students to share pieces they think are particularly relevant to the direction of the class.

Students will be required to read the entire Final Report of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States (the "9/11 Commission Report"), The Looming Tower: Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11 by Lawrence Wright and Election 2004: How Bush Won and What You Can Expect in the Future by the staff of *Newsweek*. All books are available for purchase on Amazon.

RESEARCH

Information provided in class and in the reading material will not be enough for students to adequately prepare for class presentations, the writing assignment and the final exam. Accordingly, students will be expected to be creative in how they conduct their research so as to capture as much relevant information as possible. Class time will be spent exploring research tools and how to evaluate the credibility of sources.

