

**National Security Policy  
Special Topics – 93450 – INTA 4803  
Special Topics – 9629 – INTA 8803 – TS  
Instructor: Todd M. Stein  
Room Ivan Allen College G17  
Tuesdays/Thursdays 5:00 pm – 6:15 pm or TBD**

**COURSE OBJECTIVE and DESCRIPTION**

The objective of this course is to empower students to become effective national security policymakers.

The class will accomplish that objective by identifying and exploring the application of a practical framework to national security policy issues that includes: (1) Policy/Issue expertise; (2) Political expertise; and (3) Process expertise.

The class will begin with the first part of the framework – policy/issue expertise – and how to effectively define a national security problem and define a proposed solution in a way that gives the proposed solution the best chance of adoption. Issues discussed will be taken from the headlines, i.e. Ukraine, China, immigration, and cybersecurity.

The second part of the class will explore the current state of American politics with an eye toward understanding the goals of all politicians, the interests of voters, and how to integrate both into the policymaking process.

The final part of the class will look at the authorities to take action on national security issues in the US, including the President's ascending role and Congress' fading role and what it might take to put the two back in balance. Guest speakers will hopefully be utilized to share insight on the policy making process.

The class will conclude with students doing presentations on a national security issue of their choosing that incorporates the framework. The presentations will be done as if they are being given to a principal decision-maker, like a Member of Congress or an executive branch official.

**ASSIGNMENTS**

Students will be asked to prepare for classes by doing independent research on questions presented by the instructor.

The more detailed the research, the better prepared students will be.

This will not be a heavy reading class but will require significant initiative on the student's part if the course material is to be mastered. Accordingly, a student's benefit from the class will depend directly on the amount of independent work that is done.

There will be several written assignments that will be repeated looking at different national security issues with the goal of the repetition being to give students a chance to master the framework.

Each student will do a semester long project looking at one national security issue of the student's choosing. The issue the student chooses may be one of the issues the class has explored.

Students will be asked to write four memos broken down as follows:

1. Memo 1: Defining the Problem
2. Memo 2: Describing the Politics of the Problem
3. Memo 3: Policy Recommendation
4. Memo 4: Policy Memo to Principal

On the issue of the student's choosing, students will also be asked to do an oral presentation summarizing the content of the memos as if the student was briefing a policymaker on the issue and the student's policy recommendations.

Students will also be asked to write a 500-750 word op-ed summarizing the issue and the policy recommendation.

Drafts of any of the written assignments may be submitted to the instructor at any time for review and feedback.

### **GRADING**

Grading will be based on the quality of the written assignments and class participation and the amount of effort put into both.

Grades will be rewarded for research, presentation, integration of core concepts, and writing, all with a careful attention to details and supporting facts and figures.

The same goes for class participation – it is not the frequency of participation that will matter as much as the quality of the participation, i.e., thoughtful and well-presented contributions to class discussion.

### **POSSIBLE GUEST PRACTITIONERS**

The class may include guest practitioners, including:

- Sen. Sam Nunn: Fmr. US Senator and Chairman of the Armed Services Committee
- Gen. Phil Breedlove: Retired four-star General who served as Supreme Allied Commander Europe
- Adm. Sandy Winnefeld: Retired Admiral who served as Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (2011-2015)
- Dr. Will Roper: Fmr. Assist Secretary for the Air Force for Acquisition, Technology & Logistics
- Michele Flournoy: Fmr. Under Secretary of Defense for Policy
- Dr. Robert Bell: Fmr. National Security Council and Senate Armed Services Committee staffer
- Dennis Lockhart: Fmr. President and CEO of the Federal Reserve of Atlanta
- Amb. Gordon Giffin: Fmr. US Ambassador to Canada and Legislative Director and Chief Counsel for Sen. Nunn.

### **CLASS MEETINGS**

Due to the size of the class, the three of us will meet at least once a week with a second meeting each week involving all three of us or a one-on-one meeting, either via zoom or in person.