

SCENARIO WRITING AND PATH GAMING

INTA 4014/6014
Dr. Jenna Jordan
Spring 2024

Course Information

Monday 5:00am - 7:45am
Room: Habersham G17

Contact Information

Professor Jenna Jordan
Office: Habersham 153
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Office Hours by appointment

Description and Objectives

This class introduces students to the construction and presentation of formalized scenarios for international planning and the formulation, implementation and assessment of path games. Path gaming and scenario writing are two contemporary tools widely utilized in business and government policy planning processes. This is a “how to” course to organize and prepare the student to conduct these games and develop scenarios professionally. Scenarios are narratives of alternative environments in which the consequences of alternate decisions and policy directions can be explored. They are neither predictions nor strategies; rather, they serve to build structured hypotheses of different futures specifically designed to highlight the risks and opportunities involved at various critical junctures given a spectrum of possible policy choices. In order to be effective, credible and engaging stories that are both technically accurate and policy-relevant are critical to success. The first part of this class will guide students through the creation of original futures scenarios centered around various aspects of the strategic and tactical implications of emerging technologies such as cyberweapons, hypersonic missiles, and autonomous systems. The second portion of this class will engage students in a path game which is a competitive exercise performed by students organized into teams in which the participants attempt to fashion domestic and international policies while negotiating treaties and agreements amongst all teams involved. Students from the undergraduate seminar will then form country or institutions specific teams and the graduate course participants will function as the control group, planning and guiding and critiquing the progress of the game.

Required Text:

Peter Schwartz. *The Art of the Long View: Planning for the Future in an Uncertain World*. Doubleday, 1996. First or second editions. (Book available at Barnes and Noble Campus Bookstore)

Grading – Undergraduate Students

Reading Quizzes: There will be reading quizzes on every class for which there is assigned reading. (10%)

Scenario Building: This grade will include a group presentation (15%), a written narrative (15%), and an annotated scenario briefing (15%).

Path Game: This grade will include a 5 page report on your assigned country (15%), a 5 page final report on the path game (15%), and participation and peer evaluation (15%).

Grading – Graduate Students

Reading Quizzes: There will be reading quizzes on every class for which there is assigned reading. (10%)

Scenario Building: This grade will include a group presentation (15%), a written narrative (15%), and an annotated scenario briefing (15%).

Path Game: This grade will include a 25-30 page final report on the path game (30%), and participation and peer evaluation (15%).

Your final grade will be assigned as a letter grade according to the following scale:

- A 90-100%
- B 80-89%
- C 70-79%
- D 60-69%
- F 0-59%

Due Dates:

Undergraduates:

- Scenario deliverables
 - Written narrative - March 29, 5pm
 - Annotated briefing - March 29, 5pm

- Path Game deliverables:
 - Country report (5 pages) - March 8, 5pm
 - Final path game report (5 pages) - final exam period
 - Peer review - final exam period

Graduate Students

- Scenario deliverables
 - Written narrative - March 29, 5pm
 - Annotated briefing - March 29, 5pm

- Path Game analysis
 - Final path game report (20-25 pages) - April 30, 5pm
 - Peer review - Final Exam Period
 - Final path game report - Final Exam Period

***Please note that all papers should be double spaced, 12 point font, 1 inch margins, with proper citations

Attendance Policy:

You are expected to attend and participate in every class. If you miss more than one class without an approved excuse, you will be penalized by one full letter grade.

We are flexible and willing to work with everyone. We only ask that you contact us via email beforehand so that we are aware, and that you please provide appropriate documentation if available. Communication from all parties is key, so please do not hesitate to reach out if you need to.

Subject to Change Statement

The syllabus and course schedule may be subject to change. Changes will be communicated via email and/or Canvas announcement tool. It is the responsibility of students to check email messages and course announcements to stay current in their online courses.

Late Work

Late assignments will lose a full grade for each day after the deadline. There are only two exceptions to the late-assignment policy: illness or family emergency. If either of these circumstances applies, you must provide *written documentation* (such as a doctor's note if you are ill), **and** you must communicate with me *before the assignment is due* (i.e., emailing me on the morning the assignment is due and saying you are sick is not acceptable for avoiding a penalty). I am willing to accommodate documented requests, but you must communicate with me *before* the assignment is due.

Academic Integrity

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. All students enrolled at Georgia Tech, and all its campuses, are to perform their academic work according to standards set by faculty members, departments, schools and colleges of the university; and cheating and plagiarism constitute fraudulent misrepresentation for which no credit can be given and for which appropriate sanctions are warranted and will be applied. For information on Georgia Tech's Academic Honor Code, please visit <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/policies/honor-code/> or Academic Honor Code.

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarizing on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, contact the Office of Disability Services at (404)894-2563 or <http://disabilityservices.gatech.edu/>, as soon as possible, to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

At Georgia Tech we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. See <http://www.catalog.gatech.edu/rules/22/> for an articulation of some basic expectation that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial

interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

University Use of Electronic Email

A university-assigned student e-mail account is the official university means of communication with all students at Georgia Institute of Technology. Students are responsible for all information sent to them via their university-assigned e-mail account. If a student chooses to forward information in their university e-mail account, he or she is responsible for all information, including attachments, sent to any other e-mail account. To stay current with university information, students are expected to check their official university e-mail account and other electronic communications on a frequent and consistent basis. Recognizing that some communications may be time-critical, the university recommends that electronic communications be checked minimally twice a week.

***Very important:** Make sure your email is set up to receive announcements through Canvas.

CARE Center, Counseling Center, Stamps Health Services, and the Student Center

These uncertain times can be difficult, and many students may need help in dealing with stress and mental health. The CARE Center and the Counseling Center, and Stamps Health Services will offer both in-person and virtual appointments. Face-to-face appointments will require wearing a face covering and social distancing, with exceptions for medical examinations. Student Center services and operations are available on the Student Center website. For more information on these and other student services, contact the Vice President and Dean of Students or the Division of Student Life.

Learning outcomes:

Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of theories of international relations and apply them in analyzing events and outcomes in world affairs.

Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of principal contemporary global challenges in the field of international security

*****Note: Syllabus subject to change*****

January 8: Course Introduction

- In class:
 - Introduction to the course
 - Sample Scenario on China

January 15: MLK, Jr. Day - No Class

January 22: Grand Strategy

- Read before class:
 - Hal Brands, *A Good Grand Strategy*, (Cornell University Press, 2013), Introduction.
 - Robert Art, *A Grand Strategy for America* (Cornell University Press, 2013), Chapters 1-2
 - Jeffrey Goldberg, “The Obama Doctrine” *The Atlantic* (April 2016).
- In class:
 - Discussion of readings
 - Sample Scenario on NATO

January 29: Discussion on escalation and deterrence

- Read before class:
 - *Dr. Strangelove* – view on Amazon Prime or YouTube
 - Thomas Schelling, *Arms and Influence*, pages 181-189
 - Thomas Schelling, *The Strategy of Conflict*, pages 187-203
 - Herman Kahn, *Thinking About the Unthinkable*, selections TBD
 - Bernard Brodie, *Escalation and the Nuclear Option*, pages 97-112
 - Thomas Powers, The Nuclear Warrior, *The New York Review of Books*, January 2018.
- In class:
 - Discuss readings/film
 - Assign teams and meet in groups

February 5: Scenarios

- Read before class:
 - Peter Schwartz. *The Art of the Long View: Planning for the Future in an Uncertain World*. Doubleday, 1996. First or second editions.
- In class
 - Discuss Path Game protocols
 - Sample Scenario on Taiwan/China

February 12: Emerging Technologies

- Read before class:
 - Paul Bracken. “New Technologies and International Order,” in *Strategic Latency: Red, White, and Blue: Managing the National and International Security Consequences of Disruptive Technologies*, eds. Zachary S. Davis and Michael Nacht
 - James M. Acton. “Escalation through Entanglement How the Vulnerability of Command-and-Control Systems Raises the Risks of an Inadvertent Nuclear War Control in East Asia, *International Security*,” *International Security* Vol. 43, No. 1 (Summer 2018), pp. 56–99.
 - Erik Gartzke and Jon Lindsay, “Thermonuclear Cyberwar,” *Journal of Cybersecurity* 3:1 (2017) 37-48.
 - Jon R. Lindsay, “Tipping the scales: the attribution problem and the feasibility deterrence against cyberattack.” *Journal of Cybersecurity* 1:1 (2015): 53-67.
 - Jeffrey Smith. “Hypersonic Missiles Are Unstoppable. And They’re Starting a New Global Arms Race,” *New York Times*, June 19, 2019.

Additional reading for graduate students:

- Libicki, Martin, “Pulling Punches in Cyberspace,” in *Deterring Cyber Attacks: Informing Strategies and Developing Options for US Policy*, Nation Research Council
 - Tong Zhao, “Conventional Challenges to Strategic Stability: Chinese Perceptions of Hypersonic Technology and the Security Dilemma, in *The End of Strategic Stability?: Nuclear Weapons and the Challenge of Regional Rivalries*, Lawrence Rubin and Adam N. Stulberg, eds.
- In class:
 - Discussion of readings
 - Work on Scenarios

February 19: Scenario Presentation on Building Blocks

**** Each team will present their scenario building blocks in class.**

February 26: Scenario Presentation on Narrative.

**** Each team will present their scenario narrative in class.**

March 4: Final Scenario Presentation

**** Each team with present their full scenario in class.**

March 11: Path Game

March 18: Spring Break – No class

March 25: Path game

April 1: Path Game

April 8: Path Game

April 15: Path Game

April 22: Passover – No class

April 29: Final Exam 6pm – 8:50pm Potluck – game out-brief