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Diplomacy Syllabi

School of Diplomacy and International
Relations

Spring 2024

DIPL 6130 International Security

Brandon Valeriano Ph.D.

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Seton Hall University
School of Diplomacy
International Security
Spring 2024

DIPL 6130 - 15067 // R – 2pm-4:10pm

Location (all sections): Muscarelle Hall 205

Contact

Professor: Brandon Valeriano, PhD

valeribr@shu.edu (drbvaler@gmail.com as backup)

Office Hours: R 4-5pm//F 2:30-3:00pm

Office 135 – School of Diplomacy – McQuaid Hall

Course Description

International security is a broad focus in the international relations field on conflict, war, and instability as states and non-state actors alike struggle in an insecure world. This course will survey the major topics and themes in security including war, technology, and modern strategy, providing a gateway for those who wish to undertake advanced research in the field. The student will also be required to think and develop ideas like a policymaker confronted with an international crisis, seeking to provide solutions to the pressing questions of the time in geopolitics.

Course Goals

By the end of the course the student will have a general understanding of the history and development of the nexus between international security and international relations. This includes exploring the nature of diplomacy, strategy, policy, and conflict. The student will be able to grasp and articulate the main issue areas and core theories of international security and security studies. After this course, the student will be prepared to undertake graduate studies in international security and impact security policy. The student will also be able to engage in and articulate constructive analysis of current international security issues. Thinking critically about how security politics impacts the world, global issues, and diplomacy are core demands of an engaged global citizen.

Learning Objectives:

- Plan research into key contemporary international security issues.
- Integrate material from course readings and lectures with real-world research.
- Appraise the prospects for conflict and cooperation on key issues.
- Present research findings in a cogent and professional fashion.

Course Text:

There is no course text, we will be relying on published articles available through the library and JStor.

Course Requirements

Current Events

We will start each class session reviewing current events and global news. Anything that is relevant to International Security is fair game and the students are encouraged to bring new items to discuss and dissect. Key sources include the New York Times, Washington Post, Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, and the BBC.

Class Readings

Students are expected to come to class having read all the required readings. Frequently through Canvas, I will push out new and interesting news stories and analysis. The students should do their best to maintain an active vigilance on the course readings, suggested readings, and key topics of conversation.

Participation and Attendance

Students who miss more than five classes will be dropped from the course. Students can also miss two class sessions with no consequence. After three missed class meetings there will be an active impact on the participation grade. Participation is also measured by active participation in classroom discussions and activities including the class presentation.

Grading

There will be no exams in this course. The focus will be on writing assignments cumulating in a longer assignment. You are encouraged to use provided sources, suggested sources, found sources, and generative AI to help produce your written assignments.

More information on each assignment will be provided on Canvas.

Midterm

International Security goes to the Movies

Explore a recent movie (made since the Pandemic) such as Napoleon, Creator, Oppenheimer, Barbie, or Three Body Problem and dissection how it explores an international security concept. What is the concept? How is it illustrated in the movie? Connect the concept back to the movie to either improve the discussion or provide a guide to teach the concept with the film. >1500 words

*you may also explore a video game, piece of art, or literature.

Due April 4th

Student Presentation – Position Papers

Every student will be responsible for covering one presentation or debate topic during the semester. That assignment will also result in a paper due before the final that summarizes their position, perspective, and academic sources. Each position paper must be >1,500 words.

Due April 20th

Russia Essay Prompt

More information to follow but you are to explore an International Security concept and it either impacts or is impacted by the Russo-Ukrainian War. Identify a concept, such as nuclear escalation and identify superior sources, explain the argument, and relate it to the Russo-Ukrainian War. This assignment brings all tasks and activities from this course into focus. >3,000 words

Due May 10th but everyone must present in class

Rubic

Participation: 20%

Position Paper: 25%

Midterm Media Paper: 25%

Final Analysis - Russia: 30%

Grading Scale

A: 93+

A-: 90-92

B+: 87-89

B: 83-86

B-: 80-82:

C+: 77-79

C: 73-76

C-: 70-72

D+: 67-69

D: 63-66

F: 0-62

Course Policies:

Computer Use:

You are adults, just do not disturb your neighbors and the rest of the class. Respect the course and your own time, do not show up if you intend to be on social media the entire time.

Attendance:

Attendance is covered under participation. Attendance is not mandatory but there will be an impact on your participation grade and ultimate grades since attendance correlates with higher marks. If you need help, support, or want to engage with the course outside of the classroom, do come to office hours or arrange meetings for lunch or breakfast with me and fellow classmates. The one thing I do not want is the “what did I miss?” “catch me up” email.

Disability Services Statement

It is the policy and practice of Seton Hall University to promote inclusive learning environments. If you have a documented disability you may be eligible for reasonable accommodations in compliance with University policy, the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, and/or the New Jersey Law against Discrimination. Please note, students are not permitted to negotiate accommodations directly with professors. To request accommodations or assistance, please self-identify with the Office for Disability Support Services (DSS), Duffy Hall, Room 67 at the beginning of the semester. For more information or to register for services, contact DSS at (973) 313-6003 or by e-mail at DSS@shu.edu.

Policy on Incompletes

Incompletes will be given only in exceptional cases for emergencies. Students wishing to request a grade of Incomplete must provide documentation to support the request accompanied by a Course Adjustment Form (available from the Diplomacy Main Office) to the professor *before* the date of the final examination. If the incomplete request is approved, the professor reserves the right to specify the new submission date for all missing coursework. Students who fail to submit the missing course work within this time period will receive a failing grade for all missing coursework and a final grade based on all coursework assigned. Any Incomplete not resolved within one calendar year of receiving the Incomplete or by the time of graduation (whichever comes first) automatically becomes an “FI” (which is equivalent to an F). It is the responsibility of the student to make sure they have completed all course requirements within the timeframe allotted. Please be aware that Incompletes on your transcript will impact financial aid and academic standing.

Academic Integrity & Dishonesty

Plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty will be reported to the administration, and may result in a lowered or failing grade for the course and up to possible dismissal from the School of Diplomacy. See University and School standards for academic conduct here:

<https://www.shu.edu/documents/Student-Code-of-Conduct.pdf>

and <https://www.shu.edu/diplomacy/academic-conduct.cfm>.

Resources for academic integrity are on the course Blackboard [or Canvas] page.

Citation Formats

Papers should utilize one of the Chicago Manual of Style citation formats: Author-Date or Notes and Bibliography. The guidelines for these formats are on the course Blackboard page.

CAPS:

As part of our commitment to the health and well-being of all students, Seton Hall University's Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) offers initial assessments, counseling, crisis intervention, consultation, and referral services to the SHU community. The CAPS office is located on the second floor of Mooney Hall, room 27. Appointments can be made in-person or by calling 973-761-9500 during regular business hours, Monday-Friday, 8:45 a.m. - 4:45 p.m. In case of a psychological emergency, call CAPS (973-761-9500) at any time to speak to a crisis

Course Schedule

Week 1 Jan 18

Introductions and Themes

Why is the world at war?

Readings:

Poast, Paul. 2023. [Not a World War but a World at War](#). Atlantic.

Interactive Element (Recommended):

Watch all Quiet on the Western Front (2022, Netflix or 1930 version through [Digital Campus](#))

Week 2 Jan 25

The Basics: What is War and Strategy?

Reading:

Clausewitz, Carl. [On war](#). Penguin UK, 2003.

Reading Book 1 – What is War, Ends and Means, Information, Friction

Gleditsch, Nils Petter, Jonas Nordkvelle, and Håvard Strand. "[Peace research–Just the study of war?](#)." *Journal of Peace Research* 51, no. 2 (2014): 145-158.

Levy, Jack S. "[War and peace](#)." *Handbook of international relations* (2002): 350-368.

Suzuki, S., Krause, V., & Singer, J. D. (2002). [The correlates of war project: A bibliographic history of the scientific study of war and peace](#), 1964-2000. *Conflict Management and Peace Science*, 19(2), 69-107.

Methods (Read at Discretion – Optional)

Bennett, Andrew, and Colin Elman. "[Case study methods in the international relations subfield](#)." *Comparative political studies* 40, no. 2 (2007): 170-195.

Hyde, Susan D. "[Experiments in international relations: Lab, survey, and field](#)." *Annual Review of Political Science* 18 (2015): 403-424.

Braumoeller, B. F., & Sartori, A. E. (1999). [Empirical-Quantitative Approaches to the Study of International Relations](#). *The Analysis of International Relations*.

Sjoberg, Laura. 2018. "Feminist International Relations Theory." Handbook of International Political Theory.

Singer, JD. 1966 The Incomplete Theorist: Insight Without Evidence 1. In *Advancing Peace Research* (pp. 59-68). Routledge.

Student Presentation:

How would you write a theater or domain strategy for (Pick Theater)?

(Example) Valeriano, Brandon and Benjamin Jensen. 2021. "[Building a National Cyber Strategy: The Process and Implications of Developing the Cyberspace Solarium Commission Report.](#)" IEEE Proceedings for CCDCOE CyberCon, 13th International Conference on Cyber Conflict. Pgs. 189-214.

Reveron, Derek, James Cook, Ross Coffey. 2021. "[Competing Regionally: Developing Theater Strategy.](#)" National Defense University Press.

Week 3 Feb 1

Escalation, Coercion, and Deterrence

Readings:

Leng, Russell J. "[Escalation: Competing perspectives and empirical evidence.](#)" *International Studies Review* 6, no. 4 (2004): 51-64.

Russett, Bruce M. "[The calculus of deterrence.](#)" *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 7, no. 2 (1963): 97-109.

Achen, Christopher H., and Duncan Snidal. "[Rational deterrence theory and comparative case studies.](#)" *World politics* 41, no. 2 (1989): 143-169.

Byman, Daniel, and Matthew Waxman. "[Defeating US coercion.](#)" *Survival* 41, no. 2 (1999): 107-120.

Student Presentations:

How can China be deterred from attacking Taiwan?

Week 4 Feb 8

The Causes of War

Readings:

Vasquez, John A., and Brandon Valeriano. "[Classification of interstate wars.](#)" *The Journal of Politics* 72, no. 2 (2010): 292-309.

DiCiccio, Jonathan and Brandon Valeriano. 2018. "International Rivalry and National Security." Handbook of U.S. National Security.

Levy, Jack S. "[The causes of war and the conditions of peace.](#)" *Annual Review of Political Science* 1, no. 1 (1998): 139-165.

SENESE, PAUL D., and JOHN A. VASQUEZ. "[The Steps to War.](#)" In *The Steps to War: An Empirical Study*, 7–36. Princeton University Press, 2008. <https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctt7t0jm.7>.

Kugler, Jacek, and Douglas Lemke. "[The power transition.](#)" *Handbook of War Studies II* 129 (2000).

Student Presentation:

What were the causes of the Russian escalation in Ukraine in 2022?

Week 5 Feb 15

Alliances and Arms Races

Readings:

Sample, Susan G. "[Arms Races and Dispute Escalation: Resolving the Debate.](#)" *Journal of Peace Research* 34, no. 1 (1997): 7–22. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/424827>.

Levy, Jack S. "[Alliance Formation and War Behavior: An Analysis of the Great Powers, 1495-1975.](#)" *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* 25, no. 4 (1981): 581–613. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/173911>.

Schroeder, P.W. (2004). Alliances, 1815–1945: [Weapons of Power and Tools of Management](#). In: Wetzell, D., Jervis, R., Levy, J.S. (eds) *Systems, Stability, and Statecraft: Essays on the International History of Modern Europe*. Palgrave Macmillan, New York. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-137-06138-6_10

Snyder, Glenn H. "[The Security Dilemma in Alliance Politics.](#)" *World Politics* 36, no. 4 (1984): 461–95. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2010183>.

Student Presentation:

Outline US alliance networks or US basing policy, who are our friends?

Week 6 Feb 22

Offense and Defense Balance

Readings:

Levy, Jack S. “[The Offensive/Defensive Balance of Military Technology: A Theoretical and Historical Analysis.](#)” *International Studies Quarterly* 28, no. 2 (1984): 219–38. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2600696>.

Glaser, Charles L., and Chaim Kaufmann. “[What Is the Offense-Defense Balance and Can We Measure It?](#)” *International Security* 22, no. 4 (1998): 44–82. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2539240>.

Valeriano, Brandon. “[The Failure of Offense/Defense Balance in Cyber Security.](#)” *The Cyber Defense Review* 7, no. 3 (2022): 91–102. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/48682325>.

Student Presentation

How would Ukraine develop a defensive posture against Russia?

Ashford, Emma and Kelly Grieco. 2024. [How Ukraine Can Win Through Defense](#). Foreign Affairs.

Week 7 Feb 29

Strategies to Win Wars

Readings:

Wayman, Frank W., J. David Singer, and Gary Goertz. “[Capabilities, Allocations, and Success in Militarized Disputes and Wars, 1816-1976.](#)” *International Studies Quarterly* 27, no. 4 (1983): 497–515. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2600558>.

Biddle, Stephen. 2023. “[Back in the Trenches.](#)” Foreign Affairs

Jensen, Benjamin and John Paschkewitz. 2019. [Mosaic Warfare: Small and Scalable are Beautiful.](#)” War on the Rocks.

Jensen, Benjamin. 2023. [Operational Art for the Replicator Initiative: Confessions of a Swarming Addict.](#)” War on the Rocks.

Student Presentation:

How has technology aided or impeded the Russian war in Ukraine?

Spring Break March 7

Week 8 March 14

Evolution of War: AI, Space, Cyber, and Nuclear Weapons

Readings:

Borghard, Erica D., and Shawn W. Lonergan. "The logic of coercion in cyberspace." *Security Studies* 26, no. 3 (2017): 452-481.

Jensen, Benjamin M., Christopher Whyte, and Scott Cuomo. "Algorithms at war: the promise, peril, and limits of artificial intelligence." *International Studies Review* 22, no. 3 (2020): 526-550.

Nichols, Thomas. 2018. "U.S. Nuclear Strategy: The Search for Meaning." Handbook of U.S. National Security.

Johnson,-Freese, Joan. 2018. "Space and National Security" Handbook of U.S. National Security.

Maness, Ryan and Brandon Valeriano. 2018. "International Cyber Conflict and National Security." Handbook of U.S. National Security.

Interactive Element:

Cyber/Space Wargame

Week 9 March 21

Theaters and Cases

World War I and II

Readings

Williamson, Samuel R. "[The Origins of World War I.](#)" *The Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 18, no. 4 (1988): 795–818.

Vasquez, John A. "[The Causes of the Second World War in Europe: A New Scientific Explanation.](#)" *International Political Science Review / Revue Internationale de Science Politique* 17, no. 2 (1996): 161–78

Interactive Element:

Watch: Prelude to War - (YouTube – start with [Prelude to War](#))

Easter March 29

Conference April 4

Student Task:

Paper on Movie

Week 10 April 11

China

Readings:

Friedberg, Aaron L. "[The Future of U.S.-China Relations: Is Conflict Inevitable?](#)" *International Security* 30, no. 2 (2005): 7–45.

Beckley, Michael. "[China's Century? Why America's Edge Will Endure.](#)" *International Security* 36, no. 3 (2011): 41–78.

Cunningham, Fiona S., and M. Taylor Fravel. "[Assuring Assured Retaliation: China's Nuclear Posture and U.S.-China Strategic Stability.](#)" *International Security* 40, no. 2 (2015): 7–50.

Glaser, Chen Weiss, and Christensen. 2024. "[Taiwan and the True Sources of Deterrence.](#)" *Foreign Affairs*.

Student Presentation:

Will the US go to War with China?

Week 11 April 18

Global War on Terror and Civil Wars

Readings

Fortna, Virginia Page. "[Do terrorists win? Rebels' use of terrorism and civil war outcomes.](#)" *International Organization* 69, no. 3 (2015): 519-556.

Byman, Daniel and Mackenzie Holtz. 2023. "[Why Hamas Attacked When it Did.](#)" CSIS Reports

Dixon, Jeffrey. "[What causes civil wars? Integrating quantitative research findings.](#)" *International Studies Review* 11, no. 4 (2009): 707-735.

Sandler, Todd. "[Introduction: New Frontiers of Terrorism Research: An Introduction.](#)" *Journal of Peace Research* 48, no. 3 (2011): 279–86. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/23035427>.

Student Presentation:

How should have the US ended its involvement in Afghanistan?

Week 12 April 25

Russia, Russia, Russia

Readings:

Maness, Ryan and Brandon Valeriano. 2012. "[Russia and the Near Abroad: Applying a Risk Barometer for War](#)" *Journal of Slavic Military Studies*, 25: 125-148.

Nagourney, Bilefsky, and Perez-Pena. 2023. [A Year of War in Ukraine](#): The Roots of the Crisis. New York Times.

Nichols, Tom. 2022. [Putin Chooses a Forever War](#). The Atlantic.

YouTube: Kings and Generals has some of the best coverage of the war from a macro perspective.

[300k+ Russian Casualties](#) – 1/14/2024

[Battle of Kyiv](#) – 1-19-2023

[How Ukraine Won the First Phase](#) – 5/1/2022

[How Putin Lost in 10 Days](#) – Imperial War Museums – 3/15/2023

Student Presentations (Final Assignment):

Apply an International Security Lesson to Russia-Ukraine

For example: How did World War II influence the Russo-Ukrainian War?

How does China influence the course of the Russo-Ukrainian War?

Week 13 May 2

Student Presentations:

Continued

Apply an International Security Lesson to Russia-Ukraine

Topics Not Covered due to timing:

Climate and Security, Migration and Security, Gender, Economics and Security, Global Health and Security