Foundations of International Policy

Time: Wednesday 12:40 - 3:50
Place: Candler 214
Instructor: Joshua Massey
Email: jmassey@uga.edu, Office: CITS, 110 E. Clayton St., Rm 613
Office Hours: Wednesday 3:50 – 5:00 and by appointment

**Course Summary**

This graduate seminar is designed to provide students with a *practical* introduction to the fundamentals of international policy. The seminar examines the nature of power, the crafting of strategy, and the implementation of policy at the international level with a focus on global threats and trends in the nonproliferation, energy security, and human security domains. The main objective of the seminar is to arm students with the essential skills necessary to be an effective member of a national security staff including security-policy related positions in private industry, non-profit organizations, and think tanks. To that end, the seminar emphasizes policy writing, presentation skills, analytic tradecraft, and professional correspondence. Course assignments are designed to hone each students’ ability to formulate and professionally convey their insights, judgments, and recommendations via compelling policy memos, reports, and briefings. The seminar will introduce students to the interagency process and highlight prominent contemporary and historical national security figures. Finally, the seminar aims to refine each student’s interests in and cultivate an in-depth knowledge of a specific nonproliferation, energy security, or human security issue. In addition to class discussions and course work, the seminar may incorporate visits from external speakers within the U.S. government, international organizations, and the private sector to offer both policy perspectives and career advice.

**Books**

*Required*


*Recommended*


There is a reasonable reading load for this course. I expect you to complete all assigned readings before the date they are discussed in class. There are a few journal articles that are required readings (please see below). These articles are either accessible through the University of Georgia library system or will be provided by the instructor.

Grading

Course Requirements and Grading Components

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Professionalism</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weekly Policy Memos:</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Daily</td>
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<tr>
<td>Agency Brief</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>September 13th &amp; 20th</td>
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<td>Strategy Case Study:</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>October 11th &amp; 28th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Policy Report</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>November 8th</td>
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Grading Scale

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<tr>
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<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>A-</td>
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<td>84.00 to 87.99</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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Professionalism (10%)

A student’s professionalism grade is determined by one’s class participation, attitude toward and enthusiasm for the topic and assignments, contribution to lectures and discussion, interaction with peers and guest speakers, engagement in group activities, personal conduct and correspondence with instructors and all class members. I expect you to be collegial and respectful during all seminar discussions and group activities. Finally, attendance and punctuality are the hallmarks of professionalism. **Unexcused absences impact your final grade.**

Policy Memos (30%)

Weekly policy memos should briefly identify key aspects of the readings deemed most important for informing contemporary policy. What insight can be gleaned from the various ideas, claims, and propositions presented by each author? What do you judge to be the collective essence of the readings? How may the information at hand be integrated, ordered, and prioritized to best convey your thoughts? When making these determinations, students are encouraged to consider the key concepts discussed in each piece as well as the primary actors, their objectives, resources, strategies, policies, outcomes, and to think in terms of lessons learned.

Weekly policy memos must conform to the MIP Policy Memo Format attached to this syllabus and posted on eLC. The ideal length of a policy memo is between 500 – 750 words (no more than 2 pages). Reading assignments are listed on the syllabus the day they will be discussed in class. Students must email the instructor their weekly policy memos by **12:00 p.m. (est) on the Wednesday the readings are scheduled for discussion.** Policy memos electronically delivered after the 12:00 p.m. (est) deadline **will not** be reviewed or receive credit.
Agency Brief (15%)
The agency brief is a staff project. The intent of the agency brief is to develop a practical
familiarization with prominent government institutions in the national security enterprise. Each
staff will select an agency and develop a presentation that outlines the agency’s mission,
organizational structure, key offices, personalities, as well as projects and programs that directly
contribute to or are related to nonproliferation and export control, human security, and energy
security issues. The objective of the presentation is to enhance the class’s practical
understanding of the role and function of each agency. The agency brief will be useful for
drafting specific policy memo recommendations.

Each presentation is limited to 30 minutes. I expect equitable presentation time across staff
members (4-5 min). The presentation is due by email to the instructor by 12:00pm (est) on the
staff’s assigned presentation date (Wednesday, September 13th or September 20th). Each
staff must deliver a hardcopy of their presentation to the instructor at the beginning of class.
There is no policy memo requirement for the agency brief assignment.

Strategy Case Study (15%)
The strategy case study is a staff project comprising a staff policy memo and a staff presentation.
Each staff will present a case study from Hal Brands’, What Good is Grand Strategy? The intent
of the case study is to carefully consider the relationship between power, strategy, and policy and
examine how various U.S. administrations have engaged with the international community to
dress global threats and challenges. The presentation should address pertinent information,
such as, the context of the international system, key actors and their objectives, the strengths and
limitations of the administration’s strategy, key policies and related instruments of power, and
major successes or failures. Most importantly, each staff should highlight, develop, and discuss
“lessons learned” that shed light on contemporary international policy issues.

The policy memo must conform to the MIP Policy Memo format. The strategy case study
presentation and policy memo are due by email to the instructor by 12:00pm (est) on the staff’s
assigned presentation date (Wednesday, October 11th or October 18th). Each staff must
deliver a hardcopy of their policy memo and presentation to the instructor at the beginning of class.

Policy Report (30%)
The course culminates with a final policy report. The policy report is an individual project. The
report should be tailored to the policy interests of each student. The intent of the assignment is
to permit students to explore, critically examine, and thoroughly develop in-depth knowledge of
a global issue and related international policy in the nonproliferation, human security, or energy
security domain that aligns with each student’s career aspirations.

It is useful to think of a policy report as an expanded policy memo. The ideal length of this
assignment is between 3500-4000 words. In addition, the policy report must include a collection
plan. Format details will be discussed in class. Topics for the policy report are due no later than
Wednesday, September 27th. All students must email an electronic copy of their policy report
to the instructor by 12:00pm (est) on Wednesday, November 8th and deliver a hardcopy to the
instructor at the beginning of class. A hardcopy of the presentation is due on the assigned presentation date, either **Wednesday, November 8th** or **Wednesday, November 15th**.

**Administrative Issues**

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary. Please contact me during the first week of the term if you have a conflict that will prevent you from attending class or completing an assignment on the scheduled date. Make-up assignments are only offered for university-excused absences.

All academic work must meet the standards contained in the University of Georgia’s “Culture of Honesty” (http://www.uga.edu/honesty/ahpd/culture_honesty.htm). You are responsible to inform yourself about those standards before performing any academic work. My policy for academic dishonesty is very simple: Don’t plagiarize: If you turn in a written assignment that is (in part) not your own work you will receive a failing grade for the course. Disciplinary proceedings to dismiss you from the University may be initiated against you. I will not tolerate academic dishonesty.

The University of Georgia seeks to provide students with disabilities the opportunity to fully participate in educational programs and services. In keeping with this philosophy, it is University policy that students with documented disabilities receive reasonable accommodations through access to classroom information. If you require **special accommodations** because of a university-documented condition, please contact me during the first two weeks of the semester and we can work with the Disability Resource Center in order to achieve a positive outcome.

**Expectations for Use of Artificial Intelligence**

Unless explicitly stated, artificial intelligence-based technologies, such as ChatGPT, must not be used to generate responses for student assignments.

**Important Dates**

- **August 16th – 22nd**: Drop Add
- **October 9th**: Midterm
- **October 23rd**: Withdrawal Deadline
- **November 22nd-24th**: Thanksgiving Break
- **December 6th**: Reading Day

**Course Overview**: The syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.

**Week 1, August 16th**

Course Introduction and Overview.
**Week 2, August 23**

**Topic:** Assessing Contemporary International Policy Challenges

**Readings:**

2023 Doomsday Clock: [https://thebulletin.org/doomsday-clock/current-time/](https://thebulletin.org/doomsday-clock/current-time/)

Nonproliferation / Export Controls


Human Security


Energy Security


*Assign Staffs and Agency Briefs*

**Week 3, August 30**

**Topic:** The Interagency Process: The National Security Council

**Readings:**


Professionalization Readings

ABG Part I & II


Walt, Stephen, “On Writing Well,” *Foreign Policy*, Feb 15, 2013: [https://foreignpolicy.com/2013/02/15/on-writing-well/](https://foreignpolicy.com/2013/02/15/on-writing-well/)

*Review*

Policy Memo Template

*Policy Memo & Assignment Templates*

**Week 4, September 6**
Topic: The Interagency Process: Strategic Guidance

Readings:

Watch:
- “Colin Kahl on America’s Defense Strategy,” April 17, 2023. Foreign Policy

Review:

Professionalization Readings
- ABG Part III

*Due: Policy Memo #1

**Week 5, September 13th**
Topic: Power I

Readings:
- Nye, Preface and Part I, Types of Power (pp. ix – 109)

*Due: Policy Memo #2

*Due: Agency Briefs #1, and #2

**Week 6, September 20th**
Topic: Power II

Readings:
- Nye, Part II, Power Shifts, (pp. 113-234)

Watch:
“What AI Means for Global Power,” April 17, 2023. *Foreign Policy*

*Due: Policy Memo #3

*Due: Agency Briefs #3 and #4

**Week 7, September 27th**

**Topic:** Grand Strategy in the 21st Century


Watch:

“Inside the U.S.-China Tech War,” June 20, 2023. *Foreign Policy*

Analytic Tradecraft: Planning and Direction (Final policy report intelligence priorities and information requirements)

*Due: Policy Memo #4
*Due: Final Policy Report Topic

*Assign: Strategy Case Study

**Week 8, October 4th**

**Topic:** Strategic Intelligence

Readings:


Hulnick, Arthur S. December 2006. “What’s Wrong with the Intelligence Cycle”. *Intelligence and National Security*


Analytic Tradecraft: Collection (OSINT tools and techniques)

**Week 9, October 11th**
Topic: Strategy II: Case Studies

Readings:
Brands, Chapters 1-4 (as assigned) and Conclusion

Analytic Tradecraft: Collection (Final policy report collection plan)

*Due: Strategy Case Study (Staff Policy Memo and Presentation, #1 and #2)

Week 10, October 18th
Topic: Strategy II: Case Studies

Readings:
Brands, Chapters 1-4 and Conclusion

Analytic Tradecraft: Collection / Processing (Final policy report collection and processing)

*Due: Strategy Case Study (Staff Policy Memo and Presentation, #3 and #4)

Week 11, October 25th
Topic: Power and Strategy in the Information Age I

Readings:

Watch:
“Why America Has a New Tech Ambassador,” April 9, 2023. *Foreign Policy*

Analytic Tradecraft: Analysis and Production (Crafting final policy report BLUF, Key Judgments, and Recommendations)

Week 12, November 1st
Topic: Power and Strategy in the Information Age II

Readings:

Analytic Tradecraft: Analysis and Production (Compiling final policy report and presentation)

Week 13, November 8th
Analytic Tradecraft: Dissemination (Presenting final policy report)

*Due: Policy Reports (all) and Presentations (as assigned)

**Week 14, November 15th**
Analytic Tradecraft: Dissemination (Presenting final policy report)

*Due: Policy Report Presentations (as assigned)

**Thanksgiving Break, November 22nd – 24th UGA**

**Week 15, November 29th**
Analytic Tradecraft: Dissemination (Presenting final policy report)

*Due Policy Report Presentations (as assigned)

Course Wrap-up