

Spring 2026

INTL 8275: Foundations of Security Policy

University of Georgia School of Public and International Affairs

Thursday, 2:55-5:35 p.m.

Instructor: Patrick James
Office: Candler Hall 323
Office Hours: Thursday, 2:00-2:30 p.m. (and on Zoom at other times)
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Course Description

International security is a vast subject area with a long tradition – back to the ancient times of Thucydides and Kautilya. The field encompasses a wide range of theories, methods, and substantive issues. For such reasons, the course is inclusive in terms of viewpoint; rather than working within a given paradigm, a problem-oriented approach is adopted. The curriculum seeks to convey both basic and policy-relevant knowledge. The six parts of the course are enumerated below.

Part I will provide an overview of security studies. Realism, the most time-honored perspective on international security, is introduced in Part II. In Part III, political psychology appears as a diverse set of theories and propositions that can help to account for decision-making by individuals and collectivities. Part IV provides some depth through a focus on constructivism in general and the Copenhagen School in particular, with the concept of securitization as the overarching contribution. Breadth is obtained in Part V, which covers a set of important issues in security policy such as a great power politics and war. Finally, Part VI focuses on potential new directions for the field.

Course Requirements

Mid-term Exam (available Feb. 19 at 8 a.m. – due Feb. 26 at 11 p.m.)	15%
Final Exam (available April 29 at 8 a.m. – due May 5 at 11 p.m.)	25%
Term Essay (due April 23 at 11 p.m., two-page outline due March 26 at 11 p.m.)	30%
Seminar Leadership	15%
Class Participation	15%

Review sheets (i.e., study guides) will be provided on email so you can prepare effectively for the take-home mid-term and final exams. All of the material from the assigned readings and class discussions will be tested on the exams. The mid-term will appear on email at 8 a.m. on February 19; a ten-page, double spaced answer is due as an email attachment on February 26 at 11 p.m. The respective dates for the final exam are April 29 and May 5. The final exam will be 15 double spaced pages. Please use 12-point font and one inch margins on all written work.

The term essay, limited to 25-double spaced pages (i.e., text and notes), is due as an email attachment by 11 p.m. on April 23. The format is straightforward. I expect you to focus in greater depth on any one of the major subjects we cover on a weekly basis. A two-page outline and bibliography for your paper is due on March 26 at 11 p.m. This outline should be sent to me for review and approval via email. Please do visit with me as you begin to put together your outline.

Students will take turns leading the seminar during the semester. The dates at which you will serve as seminar leader will be determined by a lottery held in the first class session. (Trades between students are permitted but must be approved in advance by the instructor.) The seminar leaders are expected to (a) prepare a set of discussion points about the material that I then send out to the class on the Tuesday before class; and (b) take primary responsibility for leading the discussion throughout the seminar session. The discussion points are due to me (i.e., at patrickj@usc.edu by email attachment) on Monday by 11 p.m. prior to your session as seminar leader. For example, if you are seminar leader for January 29, your material is due on January 26 at 11 p.m.

A successful seminar will involve a mixture of discussion including both theory and its application to the real world. Thus, the seminar leader should try to provide a series of provocative questions and issues that bring together the reading material for the week under more encompassing themes. I will serve as seminar leader for January 22.

Your attendance and participation are very important to the success of this seminar. Thus, a grade for participation in sessions other than those for which you are seminar leader also is included.

All assignments are subject to change as noted in class, although none is expected at this time.

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

Be sure to back up all of your computer files. Do not turn in your only copy of any requirement.

The grading scale is as follows: A (90-100); B (80-89); C (70-79); D (60-69); F (< 60).

UGA Student Honor Code

"I will be academically honest in all of my academic work and will not tolerate academic dishonesty of others." A Culture of Honesty, the University's policy and procedures for handling cases of suspected dishonesty, can be found at honesty.uga.edu.

UGA Well-Being Resources

UGA Well-being Resources promote student success by cultivating a culture that supports a more active, healthy, and engaged student community.

Anyone needing assistance is encouraged to contact Student Care & Outreach (SCO) in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-8479 or visit sco.uga.edu. Student Care & Outreach helps students navigate difficult circumstances by connecting them with the most appropriate resources or services. They also administer the Embark@UGA program which supports students experiencing, or who have experienced, homelessness, foster care, or housing insecurity.

UGA provides both clinical and non-clinical options to support student well-being and mental health, any time, any place. Whether on campus, or studying from home or abroad, UGA Well-being Resources are here to help.

Well-being Resources: well-being.uga.edu

Student Care and Outreach: sco.uga.edu

University Health Center: healthcenter.uga.edu

Counseling and Psychiatric Services: caps.uga.edu or CAPS 24/7 crisis support at 706-542-2273

Health Promotion/ Fontaine Center: healthpromotion.uga.edu

Accessibility and Testing: accessibility.uga.edu

Additional information, including free digital well-being resources, can be accessed through the UGA app or by visiting <https://well-being.uga.edu>.

Required Book

Lobell, Steven E., et al. 2026. *Understanding Near Crises and Escalation in World Politics: A Mixed Methods Approach*. New York, NY: Routledge.

Other Required Readings

All other reading will be made available by the instructor.

Schedule

Part I: Overview

- January 15 Foundations of Security Studies
- 22 A Selective Overview of International Security
- Walt, Stephen M. 1991. "The Renaissance of Security Studies." *International Studies Quarterly* 35: 211-239.
- Kolodziej, Edward A. 1992. "Renaissance in Security Studies: Caveat Lector!" *International Studies Quarterly* 36: 421-438.
- Friedberg, Aaron L. 1992. "Why Didn't the United States Become a Garrison State?" *International Security* 16: 109-142.
- Wohlforth, William. 1999. "The Stability of a Unipolar World." *International Security* 21: 5-41.
- Sagan, Scott. 2011. "The Causes of Nuclear Proliferation." *Annual Review of Political Science* 14: 225-244.

Part II: Realism

- 29 Realism and Its Critics, I
- Waltz, Kenneth N. 2000. "Structural Realism After the Cold War." *International Security* 25: 5-41.
- Taliaferro, Jeffrey. 2001. "Security Seeking Under Anarchy: Defensive Realism Revisited." *International Security* 25: 128-161.
- Snyder, Glenn H. 2002. "Mearsheimer's World – Offensive Realism and the Struggle for Security." *International Security* 27: 149-173.

February 5 Realism and Its Critics, II

Freyberg-Inan, Annette. 2006. "Rational Paranoia and Enlightened Machismo: The Strange Psychological Foundations of Realism." *Journal of International Relations and Development* 9: 247-268.

Kirshner, Jonathan. 2012. "The Tragedy of Offensive Realism: Classical Realism and the Rise of China." *European Journal of International Relations* 18: 53-75.

Steinmetz-Jenkins, Daniel. 2018. "Stanley Hoffmann's Critique of Hans Morgenthau's Political Realism." *The Tocqueville Review* 39: 63-76.

Part III: Political Psychology

12 Political Psychology, I

Philip E. Tetlock. 1998. "Social Psychology and World Politics." In Daniel Gilbert, Susan Fiske and Gardner Lindzey, eds. *Handbook of Social Psychology*. New York, NY; McGraw-Hill.

Rousseau, David L. 2002. "Motivations for Choice: The Salience of Relative Gains in International Politics." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 46: 394-426.

Mercer, Jonathan. 2005. "Rationality and Psychology in International Politics." *International Organization* 59: 77-106.

Gat, Azar. 2009. "So Why Do People Fight? Evolutionary Theory and the Causes of War." *European Journal of International Relations* 15: 571-599.

19 Class Cancelled

Mid-term Take-Home Exam sent out at 8 a.m.

26 Political Psychology, II

Yarhi-Milo, Keren. 2013. "In the Eye of the Beholder: How Leaders and Intelligence Communities Access the Intentions of Adversaries in International Security." *International Security* 38: 7-51.

Renshon, Jonathan. 2016. "Status Deficits and War." *International Organization* 70: 513-550.

Landau-Wells, Marika. 2024. "Effort Versus Accuracy: How Well Do We Understand Why Others Perceive Threats?" *European Journal of International Security* 1-21.

Mid-term Take-Home Exam is due at 11:00 p.m.

Part IV: Constructivism and the Copenhagen School

- March 5 Constructivism and the Copenhagen School, I
- Huysmans, Jef. 1998. "Revisiting Copenhagen: Or, the Creative Development of a Security Studies Agenda in Europe." *European Journal of International Relations* 4: 479-505.
- Hansen, Lene. 2011. "Theorizing the Image for Security Studies: Visual Securitization and the Muhammad Cartoon Crisis." *European Journal of International Relations* 17: 51-74.
- Hayes, Jarrod. 2012. "Securitization, Social Identity, and Democratic Security: Nixon, India, and the Ties That Bind." *International Organization* 66: 63-93.
- 12 Class Cancelled
- Spring Break
- 19 Constructivism and the Copenhagen School, II
- Allan, Bentley B., Srdjan Vucetic and Ted Hopf. 2018. "The Distribution of Identity and the Future of International Order: China's Hegemonic Prospects." *International Organization* 72: 839-869.
- Van Rythoven, Eric. 2020. "The Securitization Dilemma." *Journal of Global Security Studies* 5: 478-493.
- Steele, Brent J., and Jelena Subotić. 2024. "The Ontological Security Politics of US Naval Ship Museums." *Journal of Global Security Studies* 9.

Part V: Issues in Security Studies

26 Great Power Politics

Goldstein, Avery. 2020. "China's Grand Strategy Under Xi Jinping: Reassurance, Reform, and Resistance." *International Security* 45: 164–201.

Ripsman, Norrin M. 2021. "Globalization, Deglobalization and Great Power Politics." *International Affairs* 97: 1317–1333.

Hayes, Jarrod. 2024. "Fit For Purpose? 'One China' Policy and Security in Sino-American Relations." *European Journal of International Security*.

Lind, Jennifer. 2024. "Back to Bipolarity: How China's Rise Transformed the Balance of Power." *International Security* 49: 7–55.

Two-Page Outline for Term Essay Due at 11 p.m.

April 2 Near Crisis and Crisis

Lobell, Steven E., et al. 2026. *Understanding Near Crises and Escalation in World Politics: A Mixed Methods Approach*. New York, NY: Routledge.

9 War, I

Senese, Paul D., and John A. Vasquez. 2005. "Assessing the Steps to War." *British Journal of Political Science* 35: 607-633.

Bueno de Mesquita, Bruce, and Alastair Smith. 2012. "Domestic Explanations of International Relations." *Annual Review of Political Science* 15: 161-181.

Debs, Alexandre, and Nuno Monteiro. 2014. "Known Unknowns: Power Shifts, Uncertainty, and War." *International Organization* 68: 1-31.

Horowitz, Michael C., and Shira Pindyck. 2023. "What Is a Military Innovation and Why It Matters." *Journal of Strategic Studies* 46: 85-114.

16 War, II

Levy, Jack S., and William Mulligan. 2017. "Shifting Power, Preventive Logic, and the Response of the Target: Germany, Russia, and the First World War." *Journal of Strategic Studies* 40: 731-769.

Lin-Greenberg, Erik. 2018. "Non-Traditional Security Dilemmas: Can Military Operations Other Than War Intensify Security Competition in Asia?" *Asian Security* 14: 282-302.

Börzel, Tanja A. 2023. "European Integration and the War in Ukraine: Just Another Crisis?" *Journal of Common Market Studies* 61: 14-30.

Part VI: New Directions

23 New Directions

Wolfers, Arnold. 1952. "'National Security as an Ambiguous Symbol.'" *Political Science Quarterly* LXVII: 481-502.

Farrell, Henry, and Abraham L. Newman. 2019. "Weaponized Interdependence: How Global Economic Networks Shape State Coercion." *International Security* 44: 42-79.

Lobell, Steven E. 2023. "Why Israel Launched a Preventive Military Strike on Iraq's Nuclear Weapons Program (1981): The Fungibility of Power Resources." *Journal of Strategic Studies* 46: 319-344.

McDonald, Matt. 2025. "Emergency Measures? Terrorism and Climate Change on the Security Agenda." *European Journal of International Security* 10: 115-132.

Term Essay Due at 11 p.m.

Final exam available on April 29 at 8 a.m. – due May 5 at 11 p.m.