

**GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF CONTINUING STUDIES**

**BLHS-246-01
DEVELOPMENT OF US NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY**

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Building: 640 Mass Ave
Location:
Date/Time:

Overview

This course provides students with a basic framework for understanding the structure and practice of US national security policy. We open by discussing the social, political and intellectual trends that drove the development of national security policy from the founding of the Republic to the current day. We then focus on the modern period, examining policy and institutional developments during the Cold War and the post 9-11 environments. We conclude with a discussion of major security challenges facing the United States in the 21st century.

The course employs lecture, scholarly writings, primary source documents, classroom exercises and discussion, and film. Upon completion, students should be able to identify key actors, institutions, and historical trends that continue to shape US national security policy.

Learning Objectives

1. Understand the security challenges facing the nation at the time of its founding.
2. Describe the role of the United States in fashioning the post WWII order.
3. Understand the principles of polarity, deterrence, containment and other strategic concepts that characterized the US approach to the Cold War.
4. Describe what changed, and what continued in US security policy with the collapse of the Soviet Union.
5. Characterize the new American approach to the world in the wake of Sept. 11, 2001.
6. Understand the roles of the Federal branches in national security policy as outlined in the Constitution.
7. Explain the role of the National Security Council/Staff in presidential administrations.
8. Identify the major Executive branch departments involved in formulating national security policy.
9. Describe the major issues facing US security policy towards Russia, China and other major powers.
10. Understand the challenges facing US policy regarding nuclear non-proliferation.
11. Describe US counter-terrorism policy in the post-bin Ladin era.
12. Explain the extent to which computer network security plays a role in US national security.

Class Requirements (% of total grade)

This class consists primarily of lecture with substantial time set-aside for in-class discussion of the readings. In addition to the assigned readings, students are expected to maintain awareness of major international developments by reading a domestic news source such as the *Washington Post* and a reputable foreign news source such as the BBC or Deutsche Welle on-line. Students are encouraged to invest in a decent world atlas in order to familiarize themselves with the location and geography of major global activities.

Attendance: Per University policy, absence from the first class meeting and/or several unexplained absences or an accumulation of absences might result in failure of the course. Individual professors may reflect a student's absence in the final course grade or by requiring additional course assignments before assigning the final grade.

Instructional Continuity: In the event that a regularly scheduled class does not meet due to unscheduled university closing, we will continue instruction using Webinar technology.

Class Deliverables

Written Work: There are four graded assignments. Additional details on expectations for these assignments will be provided in class.

- **Reflection Paper:** Drawing upon our initial class discussion and the assigned Rothkopf reading for the week, prepare a 3-page paper comparing the challenges facing the new American Republic and the Washington administration vs. those of the Truman administration after World War II. Would it be possible for the United States to assume a global role without violating its founding principles? This paper is due WEEK 2.. (**paper = 15% of grade**).
- **Analysis Paper:** One 5-page analysis of an assigned reading, followed by an in-class presentation and discussion of your findings. This paper is due WEEK 5; on this date in-class presentations begin, at the rate of 1-2 per class, for the remainder of the term. The paper and the presentation will be graded as one combined assignment. (**paper + briefing = 25% of grade**).
- **Research Paper:** One 7-page survey of a current national security topic; there is no briefing requirement for the second paper. This paper is due WEEK 12 /13 (**paper = 30% of grade**).
- **Final Examination:** The final exam consists of short essay responses to questions designed for you to demonstrate your knowledge of the subject material presented throughout the course. The exam will be take-home so that you have opportunity to compose your thoughts more coherently without the pressures of a timed, in-class exam. (**exam = 30% of grade**).

Film Review: Students will view a feature film during Thanksgiving break that portrays a national security event and crisis resolution. You will be provided instructions for streaming the video via the university library. Students will be expected to demonstrate their knowledge of the themes developed in the film during subsequent class discussion.

Class Participation: Class participation is integral to the success of our learning experience. Participation will consist of contributing regularly to thoughtful classroom discussion, including discussion of the film, and participating in on-line Blackboard assignments if/when assigned. Class participation will be used to either increase or decrease borderline final grades.

Grades: All work will be issued a letter grade. Letter grades correspond to the following numerical scale, which will be used to compute the final class grade.

A	4.00	C	2.00
A-	3.67	C-	1.67
B+	3.33	D+	1.33
B	3.00	D	1.00
B-	2.67	F	0.00
C+	2.33		

Late/Incomplete work: Papers are due on dates specified, at the start of class. Papers can be hand delivered in class, or e-mailed to me prior to the start of class (8:00pm). Late work will be marked down 1 letter grade per 24-hour period unless the student can document a valid medical emergency or family crisis. Such situations must be brought to my attention before the due date; you are free to contact me via phone or e-mail (above).

Classroom Courtesy

Out of respect for your fellow students (and your instructor), please turn off personal communication devices while class is in session. Students are welcome to bring laptop computers to class for note taking and class-related work.

Academic Honesty

All students are expected to follow Georgetown's Honor Code unconditionally. I expect you have read the Honor Code material located at www.georgetown.edu/honor, and in particular have read the following 4 documents:

- *Honor Council Pamphlet* "What is Plagiarism?"
- "Sanctioning Guidelines" "Expedited Sanctioning Process."

Papers in this course are subject to review using turnitin.com. Submitting material in fulfillment of the requirements of this course means that you have abided by the Georgetown honor pledge:

In the pursuit of the high ideals and rigorous standards of academic life, I commit myself to respect and uphold the Georgetown Honor System: To be honest in any academic endeavour, and to conduct myself honorably, as a responsible member of the Georgetown community, as we live and work together.

Violations of the University Honor System, to include plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty, will not be tolerated and will be brought to the immediate attention of the Honor Council, which makes the final ruling in matters of academic dishonesty. If – and only if - the Council determines that a student has violated the honor code, I will mark down the assignment and/or the student's final course grade at my own discretion. If you have a specific question about academic honesty (especially sourcing research materials) please feel free to discuss with me at anytime. As a faculty member, I take my responsibilities seriously in this regard, and I expect students to do the same.

Student Disabilities

If you believe you have a disability, you should contact the Academic Resource Center at 202-687-8354 (arc@georgetown.edu) for further information. The Center is located in the Leavey Center, Suite 335. The Academic Resource Center is the campus office responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students with disabilities and for determining reasonable accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and University policies.

Readings

The required texts are available at the University bookstore and also at major on-line book retailers. They are also in the Lauinger Library general collection. All supplemental readings will be available via Blackboard or handed out by the instructor. Be sure you have the necessary network accounts to access and use the Blackboard system.

Required Texts

- Flanagan, Stephen J., and Schear, James A., *Strategic Challenges – America’s Global Security Agenda* (National Defense University Press and Potomac Books, Inc., 2008) ., ISBN-13: 978-1-59797-121-8.
- Rothkopf, David J., *Running the World – The Inside Story of the National Security Council and the Architects of American Power* (PublicAffairs/Perseus Books Group, 2006). ISBN-13: 978-1-58648-248-0, ISBN-10: 1-58648-248-3
- *Declaration Of Independence, Constitution Of The United States Of America, Bill Of Rights And Constitutional Amendments* (CreateSpace Publishing, 2010). ISBN-13: 978-1-44140-844-0, ISBN-10: 1-44140-844-4

Class Meetings

1. Introduction (WEEK 1)

- A. Class Introduction
- B. Methodology and Approach
- C. National Security for a New Republic
- D. Evolution of the American Experience

2. Global War and Aftermath (WEEK 2) (3-page paper due)

- A. United States in the 2nd World War
- B. The (Un) Settlement
- C. The Global Situation
- D. Institutions to Respond

3. Nuclear Escalation, and a Conventional Meltdown (WEEK 3)

- A. Deterrence, and the Triumph of Technology
- B. Vietnam and National Security Reform

4. Ending the Cold War (WEEK 4)

- A. The Soviet Crisis and Its Aftermath
- B. Developments in the 1990s

5. A New Century; Mass Terror and Other Threats for a New Millennium (WEEK 5) [5 page paper due; class briefings begins]

- A. September 11, 2001
- B. Reform in Wartime

6. The Branches of Government (WEEK 6)

- A. Role of the Executive
- B. Role of the Legislature
- C. Role of the Judiciary

7. The Means of Implementing Policy – Part 1 (WEEK 7)

- A. Diplomacy and the State Department
- B. The Defense Establishment

8. The Means of Implementing Policy – Part 2 (WEEK 8)

- A. National Intelligence Community
- B. Discussion

9. Russia and China (WEEK 9)

- A. Russia
- B. China

10. Technology Proliferation and Weapons of Mass Destruction (WEEK 10)

- A. Nuclear, Chemical and Biological technologies
- B. Transshipment networks
- C. The Iran Situation

11. International Terrorism (WEEK 11)

- A. Characteristics of 21st Century Terrorism
- B. The Roots of al-Qaida
- C. Policy Options

12. The Coming Cyber Crisis (WEEK 12) [7 page paper due]

- A. Does Network Security = National Security?
- B. A multitude of actors
- C. An emerging national response

13. Conclusion – the National Security Strategy (WEEK 13)

- A. A review of current national security structure and policy

WEEK 14: Study Days, Final Exam