INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

OVERVIEW:
This seminar focuses on force in world politics, threatened or used. We will investigate a host of questions, including: What causes security? What are the major influences on bargaining between states? Who are the main actors in international relations? What are the elements of continuity and change? What is international security good for?

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
Quality of discussion (33%) and written work (67%) will determine final grades. Quality of discussion is a product of doing the reading, staying current on world events, attending class regularly, presenting one of the readings, asking intelligent questions, and contributing critical insights. The written component is wholly composed of a 20-25 page research paper, on a topic of the student’s choosing. To spell this out with appropriate clarity:

• Readings. The readings are to be done in their entirety on the day they appear on the syllabus. Taking brief notes on each reading is highly recommended.
• Newspapers. Students are to read the world news section of a major daily paper, or the online equivalent – e.g. New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Washington Post, Financial Times, etc.
• Attendance. Regular attendance is indispensable to doing well in the class. Missing four or more classes profoundly jeopardizes your grade.
• Presentation. Every student will make a 5-7 minute presentation to the class on one of the course readings, plus distribute a one-page summary to each member of the class – hard copies only. During week two, students will select their reading.
• Discussion. Students are expected to demonstrate proficiency with the assigned works in discussion.
• Term Paper. Students must submit a maximum four-page paper proposal in week three, outlining the main research question, universe of cases, relevance, and preliminary sources. Papers are due when the class last meets.
POLICIES:
The standard caveats about academic honesty obtain. Collaboration is encouraged, but using the work of others without proper attribution will result in the matter being turned over immediately to the Dean’s office. Written permissions from doctors and deans may excuse absences, as would prior consent of the instructor. If you have any questions about anything related to this syllabus, please ask.

REQUIRED READINGS:
A coursepack can be picked up at the New University Copy Center between Mercer and Green streets. Many journal articles may be found at jstor.org. All readings are on reserve at Bobst Library. The following required texts will be available for purchase at the NYU Bookstore:


Schedule

Week 1
Introductions, cast of characters.
Reading: approx. 61 pp.


Week 2
In-class signup for reading presentations.
Writing social science tutorial.
Reading: approx. 180 pp.


Week 3
Paper proposal due.
Setting the stage: anarchy.
Reading: approx. 205 pp.

Week 4
Paper proposals returned.
In medias res: American primacy and balancing.
Reading: approx. 170 pp.


**Week 5**

How? War and strategy.

Reading: approx. 254 pp.

Week 6
Offense, defense, balance?
Reading: approx. 192 pp.


Week 7
Weapons of mass destruction.
Reading: approx. 207 pp.


**Week 8**

**Why? War and change.**

**Reading: approx 201 pp.**


**Week 9**

**Democracy and security.**

**Reading: approx. 178 pp.**


**Week 10**  
Domestic politics and disputes.  
Reading: approx. 238 pp.


**Week 11**  
Economics and force.  
Reading: approx. 201 pp.


**Week 12**
Institutions and norms.
Reading: approx. 180 pp.

**Week 13**
Cultural conflict.
Reading: approx. 73 pp.

**Week 14**
Final paper due.
Terrorism.
Reading: approx. 71 pp.

