Course Objectives:

This course provides a basic understanding of the factors that shape U.S. national security policy and strategy. We will begin with a brief introduction to traditional conceptions of military strategy and the use of force. In the second part of the course, we will discuss the theories, strategies, and events that have informed U.S. national security policy in the second half of the 20th century. Next, we will discuss U.S. civil-military relations and examine the extent to which domestic political factors influence national security policy-making. Finally, we will explore some of the challenges confronting U.S. national security decision-making in the post-Cold War era and debate the merits or shortfalls of future national security strategies.

Course Requirements:

Attendance and Participation:

Attend all classes. We will cover a lot of material (some of which is not discussed in the readings) and absences might leave you ill-prepared for understanding the material and for completing your assignments. Your active participation is crucial to the success of this course. In order to receive the greatest benefit from the readings and the class discussions you must come to class prepared. Hence, complete the required readings prior to class and be able to discuss them in a focused and thoughtful manner. Although I
will not assign specific participation grades, your participation may help or hurt your final grade, especially if your performance evaluation rests between grades.

Assignments and Grades:

Grades will be based on two in-class exams and a final research paper. Each of the exams will count for 30% of your final grade, the final paper will count for 40% of your final grade. Exam 1 will cover materials discussed in parts I and II of the course ("military strategy" and "the history of U.S. national security policy"); exam 2 will cover part III of the course ("civil-military relations"). The final paper will cover part IV of the course and will give you an opportunity to critically assess the most important challenges to U.S. national security in the next century. We will discuss this assignment in greater detail later in the semester. There is no final exam for this course!

Readings:

All readings for this course are available at the university bookstore. Apart from the books listed below, I have assembled reading materials into a reader that is also available at the university bookstore. In addition to the assigned readings, you are expected to follow events relating to U.S. national security and foreign policy in a reputable newspaper (e.g., The New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, etc.).

The following are required readings for the course:


Course Reader (R) -- will be available at the Bookstore by the end of September.

In addition, students are strongly encouraged to read the following optional readings:


If at any time you have any questions or comments about course requirements or materials, assignments, your performance, the grading, or anything else regarding the course, you are strongly encouraged to discuss your concerns with me. In addition, please
inform me about any learning needs you may have, so we can make arrangements to meet those needs.

Course Schedule and Reading Assignments

August 24 Course Introduction -- Aims and Expectations
This Syllabus
Graham & Planin, "Military Readiness, Morale Show Strain" (R)

PART I -- MILITARY STRATEGY AND THE USE OF FORCE

August 26 Political Realism
Morgenthau, "Six Principles of Realism" (R)
Clausewitz, "Key Concepts" (R)

August 31 Military Doctrine
Posen, "Explaining Military Doctrine" (R)

September 2 The Use of Force
Art, "The Four Functions of Force" (R)
Arnold, "The Use of Military Power in Pursuit of National Interests" (R)
Stevenson, "The Evolving Clinton Doctrine on the Use of Force" (R)

PART II -- HISTORY OF U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY

September 9 Containment
Smoke, Chapters 1-3

*September 14, 16 The Nuclear Threat
Smoke, Chapter 4-6

September 21 Flexible Response
Smoke, Chapter 7
"The Kennedy Tapes" (R)

September 23 Detente

Smoke, Chapter 9

September 28 Nuclear Buildup

Smoke, Chapters 10-12

Waltz, "Nuclear Weapons: More may be better" (R)

September 30 Star Wars

Smoke, Chapter 13

Zakari, "The Reagan Strategy of Containment" (R)

October 5 The Collapse of Communism and the Gulf War

Telhami, "Between Theory and Fact: Explaining American Behavior in the Gulf War" (R)

Freedman and Karsh, "Why Bush went to War" (R)

October 7 EXAM 1

PART III -- CIVIL-MILITARY RELATIONS

October 14 The Professional Soldier

Huntington, "Officership as a Profession" (R)

Janowitz, "The Future of the Military Profession" (R)

*October 19 Military Organization

Moskos, "From Institution to Occupation" (R)

Moskos, "From Citizens’ Army to Social Laboratory" (R)

October 21 National Security Decision-Making

Kohn, "Out of Control" (will be handed out)
October 26 Military Values
Dunivin, "Military Culture: Change and Continuity" (R)
Bacevich & Kohn, "Grand Army of Republicans" (R)
Ricks, "Duke Study finds Sharp Rightward Shift in Military’ (R)

*October 28 Public Opinion
Faris, "The Looking-Glass Army" (R)
Dandeker, "Public Opinion, the Media, and the Gulf War" (R)

November 2 Women in the Military
Thomas & Vistica, "Falling out of the Sky" (R)
Armor, "Race and Gender in the U.S. Military" (R)
Stanley, Women in the Military

November 4 Gays and Lesbians in the Military
Scott & Stanley, Gays and Lesbians in the Military (excerpts)

November 9 Sexual Harassment
Visiteca, Fall From Glory

November 11 EXAM 2

PART IV – NEW CHALLENGES FOR U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY

November 16 The End of the Cold War
Mearsheimer, "Why We will Soon Miss the Cold War” (R)
Binnendijk and Clawson, "Assessing U.S. Strategic Priorities" (R)
Doyle, Lewis & Williams, "Named Military Operations 1989-1993” (R)

November 18 National Security and Current U.S. Foreign Policy
Mandelbaum, "Foreign Policy as Social Work" (R)
Joffe, "How America Does It" (R)

November 23 New Missions

Franke, "Warriors for Peace" (R)

Miller & Moskos, "Humanitarians or Warriors" (will be handed out)

November 30 The Low-Tech Threat

Dunlap, "How We Lost the High-Tech War of 2007" (R)

December 2 The Nuclear Threat

Beinart, "The Return of the Bomb" (R)

Manning, "The Nuclear Age: The Next Chapter" (R)

December 7 The Biological Threat

Steinbruner, "Biological Weapons: A Plague Upon All Houses" (R)