

PSC 403I Section 1: National Security Policy

Fall 2006

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Providing security for its citizens is a primary function of government. This course will explore how the United States government is organized to carry out that function, the theoretical and practical underpinning of the choices it makes, successes and failures of those choices, and challenges facing the United States in the post-9/11 world.

Course Books and Readings

- Sam Sarkesian, John Williams, and Stephen Cimbala. U.S. National Security: Policymakers, Processes, and Politics 3rd edition (Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2002)
- Lawrence Korb. A New National Security Strategy in an Age of Terrorists, Tyrants, and Weapons of Mass Destruction (Brookings Institute Press, 2003)

In addition to these books, there will be readings available on reserve at the Lied Library, on the Internet, or on the class WebCT site.

Requirements

1. Attendance: Regular class attendance is required. More than two unexcused absences will result in a reduction of a full letter grade for the course grade. Absences will be excused in only the most serious of circumstances (such as hospitalization or a death in the immediate family) and will require appropriate documentation.
2. Readings: You are required to prepare for each class by completing the assigned readings. This will enable you to both participate in class discussions and benefit from the lecture material and other students' views.
3. Current Events: Discussions of current events related to national security are an integral part of this course. A reliable and credible source of news should be consulted on a daily basis. Examples of appropriate sources are *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *L.A. Times*, or *Wall Street Journal*, either in print or online.
5. Examinations: There will be two exams, one at approximately mid-semester and the other during exam week. Make-up exams for the first exam will be given on the last day of scheduled classes only. There will be no make-up exam for the second examination.
6. Research Paper and Group Project: Each student will be required to complete a research paper and participate in a group project. Guidelines will be provided in a separate handout.

Academic Integrity

“Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path. Students enrolling in UNLV assume the

obligation to conduct themselves in a manner compatible with UNLV's function as an educational institution.” - *Student Academic Misconduct Policy*

For this course, any attempt to cheat on an examination or to present someone else's work (including material copied from the Internet) as your own for a written assignment will be subject to the most severe penalty the University allows.

Grading

Examinations (2@25% each)	50%
Group Project	25%
Research Paper	25%

90% - 100% = A

80% - 89% = B

70% - 79% = C

60% - 69% = D

below 60% = F

Class Interruptions

Please keep interruptions once class begins to a minimum. Cell phones and pagers must be turned off and late arrivals and early departures avoided.

Religious Holidays

If the date of any of the examinations conflicts with a religious holiday that you observe, please contact the instructor at least 2 weeks prior to the examination so that alternative arrangements can be made.

Official Extracurricular Activity

If the date of any of the examinations conflicts with an official extracurricular activity, please notify the instructor at least 2 weeks prior to the examination and provide official written notification no less than 1 week prior to the examination so that alternative arrangements can be made.

Disabilities

Learning Enhancement Services (LES) houses Disability Services, Learning Strategies and Supplemental Instruction. If you have a documented disability that may require assistance, you need to contact LES for coordination of your academic accommodations. LES is located in the Reynolds Student Services Complex, suite 137. The phone is 702-895-0866 or TDD702- 895-0652. You may also visit their website at www.unlv.edu/studentlife/les.

Class Schedule

The examination dates and due dates for assignments on the following schedule are firm; dates of specific topics are estimates.

Date	Topic	Due	Sarkesian	Korb
28 Aug	Course Introduction		1, 2, 3	
4 Sep	Labor Day - No Class			
11 Sep	I. National Security Participants			
	A. Presidency and Executive Office of the President		5, 6 (116-124)	
	B. State Department		6 (105-110)	
18 Sep	C. Department of Defense		6 (110-116), 7, 8	
	D. Other Executive Branch Agencies			
25 Sep	E. Intelligence Community		9	
	F. Covert Ops			
2 Oct	G. Congress			
	H. International Organizations and Alliances		13	
9 Oct	I. Policy Process		10	
	J. President and Congress		11	
	K. Public Interaction		12	
16 Oct	1st Exam			
23 Oct	II. Historical Perspectives		15	
30 Oct	III. Current National Strategies and "Just War"			
6 Nov	Post-9/11 Issues: Terrorism, Islamic Extremism, Homeland Security	Graphics for group project	14	
13 Nov	Group Project Presentations	Written product for group project		
20 Nov	Group Project Presentations			
27 Nov	IV. Interactions with Other Policies	Individual research project		
4 Dec	V. Capstone Discussion			All
Finals Week	2 nd Exam			