



US National Security

SYLLABUS AY 25

**JOINT PROFESSIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION PHASE I INTERMEDIATE LEVEL
COURSE**

**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
AIR COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE
21st Century Leaders for 21st Century Challenges**

13 September 2024

**AIR COMMAND AND STAFF COLLEGE
MAXWELL AFB, AL**

FOREWORD

This syllabus for the *US National Security* course for the Air Command and Staff College, Academic Year 2025 (September-December 2024), provides both an overview of the course narrative, objectives, and questions, as well as a detailed description of each lesson to assist students in their reading and preparation for lecture and seminar. Included herein is information about course methods of evaluation, schedule, and the fulfillment of joint professional military education core goals.

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US NATIONAL SECURITY COURSE OVERVIEW

COURSE DESCRIPTION

US National Security (NS) explores how the United States defines and pursues national security in a dynamic international environment. The course introduces students to three grand theories used in the study of international relations – Realism, Liberalism, and Constructivism. These theories present distinct and contrasting perspectives on the causes of war, the conditions of peace, and, in turn, what counts as national security. The course also examines competing US grand strategies and examines the instruments of national power (DIME) by which security is pursued and protected. Further, it examines the actors and processes involved in creating and executing security policies. Finally, the course applies these analytic tools to better understand and develop responses to some of the most pressing security challenges the United States faces from China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. Comprehend the context in which US national security is pursued, and how competing theoretical approaches are used to analyze international relations.
2. Apply competing approaches to determining national interest, grand strategy, and the use of instruments of power.
3. Comprehend the actors and processes involved in creating and executing US national security policy.
4. Analyze the most pressing security challenges facing the United States.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. NS-600 (E): MIDTERM ESSAY

Deliverable: Three-page essay worth 30% of final course grade.

Prompt: In your own words, summarize the basic tenets of Realism, Liberalism or Constructivism (pick one) and explain where your chosen theory informs the 2022 NSS.

Additional Instructions:

- 1. Type of Assignment:** Graded, take-home, open-book examination.
- 2. Time Allotted:** From issuance on 3/4 October 2024 to 21/22 October 2024 at 1700.
- 3. Resources:** You may use course readings, course lectures, personal notes, and other materials provided in the ACSC curriculum. Students are not to use materials from outside the curriculum.
- 4. Length:** Your response must not exceed 3 double-spaced pages in length.
- 5. Style:** Write answers in prose essay format. The paper should use one-inch margins, Times New Roman – 12pt for all text, and include page numbers.
- 6. Endnotes:** All essays must give credit for the use of other's ideas, thoughts, and concepts in the endnotes. Citations are required for both direct quotations and the paraphrasing of material. Endnotes come at the end of the essay and do not count against the page limit. Please see AU-1: *Air University: Style and Author Guide, Second Edition* for guidance on the formatting of endnotes. No bibliography is required.
- 7. Collaboration:** Students must follow ACSC guidelines on collaboration. Collaborators should be cited in the first endnote.
- 8. Title page:** Your response should include a title page with the following information: Title: Subtitle given to the essay; Student Name and Seminar Number; assignment title (e.g., "Midterm Paper"); and Date.
- 9. Turn-in Procedures:** Upload completed assignment to CANVAS.
- 10. Questions:** Refer any questions about the above guidelines to your seminar instructor.

2. NS-601 (E): FINAL ESSAY

Deliverable: Six-page essay worth 50% of your final course grade.

Prompt: Write a strategy that uses multiple instruments of power to protect US national security interests threatened by either China, Russia, or Iran. Be sure to include ideas for any cross-theater risk mitigation that your strategy might require.

Additional Instructions:

- 1. Type of Assignment:** Graded, take-home, open-book examination.
- 2. Time Allotted:** From issuance on 3/4 October 2024 to 9/10 December 23 at 1700.
- 3. Resources:** You may use course readings, course lectures, personal notes, and other materials provided in the ACSC curriculum. Students are not to use materials from outside the curriculum.
- 4. Length:** Your response must not exceed 6 double-spaced pages in length.
- 5. Style:** Write answers in prose essay format. The paper should use one-inch margins, Times

New Roman – 12pt for all text, and include page numbers.

6. Endnotes: All essays must give credit for the use of other’s ideas, thoughts, and concepts in the endnotes. Citations are required for both direct quotations and the paraphrasing of material. Endnotes come at the end of the essay and do not count against the page limit.

Please see AU-1: *Air University: Style and Author Guide, Second Edition* for guidance on the formatting of endnotes. No bibliography is required.

7. Collaboration: Students must follow ACSC guidelines on collaboration. Collaborators should be cited in the first endnote.

8. Title page: Your response should include a title page with the following information:

Title: Subtitle given to the essay; Student Name and Seminar Number; assignment title (e.g., “Midterm Paper”); and Date.

9. Turn-in Procedures: Upload completed assignment to CANVAS.

10. Questions: Refer any questions about the above guidelines to your seminar instructor.

3. NS-602 (P): CLASS PARTICIPATION

Each student is expected to attend lectures and seminars, read the assigned texts, participate in class exercises, and contribute to seminar discussions. Although not individually evaluated, students will be expected to give a 5 min ‘intel of the day’ brief, using the day’s theme as a lens, and participate in seminar practicums. Participation is worth 20% of your final grade.

REQUIRED BOOKS

The course includes readings from books issued by ACSC and from electronic files posted on Teams (denoted as “[EL]”). Students can access the syllabus, lecture videos, electronic readings, and other supplemental materials online through Teams. ACSC provides students with copies of the following course books, which must be returned at the conclusion of the course:

- Blackwill, Robert and Jennifer Harris. *War by Other Means*. Cambridge: Belknap Press, 2017.
- Cull, Nicholas. *Public Diplomacy: Foundations for Global Engagement in the Digital Age*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2019.
- Doshi, Rush. *The Long Game: China’s Grand Strategy to Displace American Order*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2021.
- Freeman, Chas. *Arts of Power: Statecraft and Diplomacy*. Washington, D.C.: United States Institute of Peace, 1997.
- Gans, John. *White House Warriors: How the National Security Council Transformed the American Way of War*. New York, NY: Liveright Publishing Corporation, 2019.
- Haddick, Robert. *Fire on the Water, 2^d ed.* Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 2022.
- Ikenberry, John. *A World Safe for Democracy*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 2020.
- Kane, Thomas and Noah Falkovich, *Chinese Grand Strategy in the 21st Century*. New York, NY: Routledge, 2024,
- Kroenig, Matthew. *The Return of Great Power Rivalry: Democracy versus Autocracy from the Ancient World to the U.S. and China*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2020.
- Mearsheimer, John. *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*. New York, NY: W. W. Norton & Co, 2001.
- Monaghan, Andrew. *Russian Grand Strategy in the Era of Global Power Competition*, Manchester University Press, 2022.
- Singer, Paul and Emerson Brooking. *Like War: The Weaponization of Social Media*. New York, NY: Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company, 2018.
- Shambaugh, David, ed, *China and the World*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2020.
- Stengle, Richard. *Information Wars: How We Lost the Global Battle Against Disinformation*. New York, NY: Atlantic Monthly Press, 2019.
- Stent, Angela. *Putin’s World: Russia Against the West and with the Rest*. New York, NY: Twelve, 2020.
- Williams, John Allen et al., *US National Security: Policymakers, Processes and Politics*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers Inc, 2022.

Please refer questions or comments to Dr. Robert DiPrizio, Course Director (robert.diprizio@au.af.edu), or Lt Col Josh Payne, Deputy Course Director (joshua.payne.1@au.af.edu).

US NATIONAL SECURITY SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

PHASE 1: UNDERSTANDING THE SECURITY ENVIRONMENT

DAY 1 – INTRODUCTION AND APPROACHES TO SECURITY

DATE: 3/4 OCT 24

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Review the course objectives, syllabus, and methods of evaluation
2. Analyze the terms “security” and “national interests”
3. Identify the three major competing theoretical approaches to studying international relations

NS-501 (L): Course Introduction, Dr. Rob DiPrizio

CONTACT HOURS: .5 hr-lecture

NS-502 (S): Understanding National Security and Interests

CONTACT HOURS: 2.5 hr-seminar

REQUIRED READINGS

1. Williams et al., *US National Security: Policymakers, Processes and Politics*, 2022, pp.1-22 (Defining and Defending the National Interest), 119-135 (The US Political System)
2. Steven M. Walt, “International Relations: One World, Many Theories,” *Foreign Policy*, (Spring 1998). [EL]
3. Dresner, “How Everything Became National Security and National Security Became Everything,” *Foreign Affairs*, (September/October 2024). [EL]
4. Biden Jr., Joseph R. *National Security Strategy of the United States of America*. Washington, DC: White House, 2022. [EL]

DAY 2 – REALISM AND GREAT POWER CONFLICT

DATE: 7/8 OCT 24

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Comprehend the basic tenets of Realism
2. Comprehend the difference between Offensive and Defensive Realism
3. Comprehend Realist predictions concerning the likelihood of war or peace with China

NS-503 (L): Realism: An Introduction, Dr. Jim Forsyth

CONTACT HOURS: 1-hour lecture

NS-504 (S): The Basic Tenets of Realism

CONTACT HOURS: 2-hour seminar

REQUIRED READINGS

1. Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, 2014, pp. 1-28 (Introduction), 29-54 (Anarchy and the Struggle for Power), 360-411 (Can China Rise Peacefully?)
2. Charles L. Glaser, “Will China’s Rise Lead to War? Why Realism Does Not Mean Pessimism,” *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 90, no.20 (April 2011): 80-91. [EL]

DAY 3 – LIBERALISM AND GREAT POWER CONFLCIT

DATE: 10/11 OCT 24

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Comprehend the “family” of Liberal theories and the Democratic Peace Theory
2. Comprehend the relationship between US security and the Liberal International Order
3. Comprehend Liberal predictions concerning the likelihood of war or peace with China

NS-505 (L): Liberalism: A Family Portrait, Dr. Mary Hampton

CONTACT HOURS: 1-hour lecture

NS-506 (S): The Liberal International Order

CONTACT HOURS: 2-hour seminar

REQUIRED READINGS

1. Ikenberry, *A World Safe for Democracy*, 2022, pp. 26-52, 122-133, 182-211, 269-278
2. Kroenig, *The Return of Great Power Rivalry*, 2020, pp. 11-35 (The Democratic Advantage in Theory), 213-224 (Implications for American Leadership)

SUGGESTED READINGS

Feidler and LaSaine, “Liberal Thought and National Security,” Maxwell AFB, AL: Air University, 2005. [EL]

DAY 4 – CONSTRUCTIVISM AND GREAT POWER CONFLICT

DATE: 15/16 OCT 24

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Comprehend the basic tenets of Constructivism
2. Comprehend how identities, norms and ideas influence political action, including Great Power Politics
3. Comprehend Constructivist predictions concerning the likelihood of war or peace with a rising China

NS-507 (L): Constructivism: An Introduction, Dr. Todd Robinson

CONTACT HOURS: 1-hour lecture

NS-508 (S): The Basic Tenets of Constructivism

CONTACT HOURS: 2-hour seminar

REQUIRED READINGS

1. Alice Ba and Mathew J. Hoffman, “Making and Remaking the World for IR: Constructivism 101,” *International Studies Perspectives*, vol. 4, no. 1 (March 2003), 15–33. [EL]
2. Michelle Murray, “Identity, Insecurity, and Great Power Politics: The Tragedy of German Naval Ambition Before the First World War,” *Security Studies*, vol. 19, no.4 (2010), 656-688. [EL]
3. Shambaugh, *China and the World*, 2020, pp. 63-82. (Nationalism, Social Influences, and Chinese Foreign Policy)

DAY 5– COMPETING U.S. GRAND STRATEGIES

DATE: 17/18 OCT 24

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Comprehend how Realism, Liberalism, and Constructivism inform proposed grand strategies
2. Comprehend the retrenchment-engagement debate in US foreign policy
3. Infer options for US grand strategy toward China and Russia

NS-509 (S): US Grand Strategy: An Ongoing Debate

CONTACT HOURS: 3-hour seminar and debate

REQUIRED READINGS

1. Paul C. Avey, “Disentangling Grand Strategy: IR Theory and US Grand Strategy,” *Texas National Security Review*, vol. 2, no. 1 (2018): 29-50. [EL]
2. John J. Mearsheimer and Stephen M. Walt, “The Case for Offshore Balancing: A Superior U.S. Grand Strategy,” *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 95, no. 4 (July/August 2016): 70-83. [EL]
3. Hal Brands, “Should America Retrench: The Battle Over Offshore Balancing,” *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 96, no. 5 (November/December 2016). [EL]
4. Rebecca Lissner and Mira Rapp-Hooper, “The Open-World: What America Can Achieve after Trump,” *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 98, no. 3 (May/June 2019): 18-25. [EL]

PHASE 2: THE INSTRUMENTS OF NATIONAL POWER

DAY 6 – THE ECONOMIC IOP

DATE: 21/22 OCT 24

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Comprehend the role of economics as an instrument of state power
2. Comprehend how states, especially the United States and China, use economic activity to coerce or reward
3. Comprehend the security implications of China's growing strategic economic advantages

NS-510 (F): Geoeconomics Revisited by Edward Luttwak, INSS/PRISM Speaker Series

<https://inss.ndu.edu/Events/Event-View/Article/2869710/geoeconomics-revisited/>

CONTACT HOURS: 1-hour video

NS-511 (S): Geoeconomics in Great Power Competition

CONTACT HOURS: 2-hour seminar

REQUIRED READINGS

1. Blackwill and Harris, *War by Other Means: Geoeconomics and Statecraft*, 2017, pp.129-151 (Geoeconomic Strength in Beijing and Beyond), 179-203 (America's Geoeconomic Potential), 251-258 (Geoeconomics, US Grand Strategy, and American National Interests)
2. Kane and Falkovich, *Chinese Grand Strategy in the 21st Century*, 2024, pp. 40-61 (Combine the Military and the Civil: China's Transformation of Wealth into Power)
3. Monaghan, *Russian Grand Strategy in the Era of Global Power Competition*, 2022, pp. 98-123 (Looking to the global economy: Russia's role as a supplier of strategically important goods)

DAY 7 – THE INFORMATION IOP

DATE: 24/25 OCT 24

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Comprehend the role of information as a contemporary instrument of state power
2. Infer the varying role of soft power within distinct grand strategies
3. Comprehend China's use of strategic communication

NS-512 (S): Strategic Communication and Information Warfare

CONTACT HOURS: 3-hour seminar. Students will participate in practicum focused on creating memes to advance strategic communication.

REQUIRED READINGS

1. Singer, *Like War: The Weaponization of Social Media*, 2018, pp. 181-218 (Like War), 258-274 (Conclusion)
2. Stengel, *Information Wars: How We Lost the Global Battle Against Disinformation*, 2019, pp. 75-114 (Information War), 289-307 (What to do About Disinformation)

DAY 8 – THE DIPLOMATIC IOP

DATE: 28/29 OCT 24

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Comprehend the role of diplomacy and diplomats as an instrument of state power, especially with respect to influencing relations with China and Russia
2. Understand the range of tools, actions, activities available within the context of diplomacy
3. Infer the variable role of diplomacy within distinct grand strategies

NS-513 (F): Nixon's China Game

<https://archive.org/details/NixonsChinaGame>

CONTACT HOURS: 1-hour video

NS-514 (S): Diplomatic Statecraft and Public Diplomacy

CONTACT HOURS: 2-hour seminar

REQUIRED READINGS

1. Cull, *Public Diplomacy: Foundations for Global Engagement in the Digital Age*, 2019, pp. 1-19 (Diplomacy through Foreign Public Engagement), 101-119 (International Broadcasting), 162-170 (Public Diplomacy and the Crisis of our Time)
2. Freeman, *Arts of Power: Statecraft and Diplomacy*, 1997, pp. 69-104 (Diplomatic Maneuver)

PHASE 3: NATIONAL SECURITY DECISIONMAKING

DAY 9 – THE PRESIDENT AND THE NSC

DATE: 31 OCT/1 NOV 24

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Comprehend the role of the president in national security policymaking
2. Comprehend the debates surrounding the president's influence over national security
3. Evaluate the importance of the 1947 National Security Act and its contemporary suitability
4. Comprehend the role of the National Security Council in creating security policy

NS-515 (L): The NSC in Action, TBD

NS-516 (S): The President and National Security Council

CONTACT HOURS: 2-hour seminar

REQUIRED READINGS

1. Williams et al., *US National Security: Policymakers, Processes, and Politics*, 2022, pp. 139-163 (The Presidency), 165-191 (The National Security Council and the “Policy Triad”)
2. Gans, *White House Warriors: How the National Security Council Transformed the American Way of War*, 2019, pp. 1-10 (Introduction: The President's Personal Band of Warriors), 141- 166 (A Wartime Staff), 167-199 (When You Work for the President, You Work for the President), 200-216 (What the NSC Warriors Have Won)

DAY 10 – ALLIES AND PARTNERS

DATE: 4/5 NOV 24

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Comprehend the breadth and depth of US alliances and partnerships
2. Comprehend the differences between alliances and partnerships
3. Identify how allies and partners impact US national security policymaking
4. Analyze the challenges the United States faces in establishing and maintaining alliances and partnerships

NS-517 (L): Allies and Partners: Never Leave Home Without Them, TBD

CONTACT HOURS: 1-hour lecture

NS-518 (S): Allies and Partners: US Asymmetric Advantage

CONTACT HOURS: 2-hour seminar. International Officers will present their perspectives on partnering with the United States.

REQUIRED READINGS

1. Williams et al., *US National Security: Policymakers, Processes, and Politics*, 2022, pp. 27-56 (International Actors)
2. Mira Rapp-Hooper, “Saving America’s Alliances: The United States Still Needs the System That Put It on Top,” *Foreign Affairs*, vol. 99, no.2 (March/April 2020): 41-48. [EL]
3. Hal Brands and Peter Feaver, “What are America’s Alliances Good For?” *Parameters*, vol. 47, no. 2 (2017): 15-30. [EL]
4. Monaghan and Cheverton, “What Allies Want: Delivering the U.S. National Defense Strategy’s Ambition on Allies and Partners,” *War on the Rocks*, (July 24, 2023). [EL]

DAY 11 – POLICYMAKING IN ACTION

DATE: 7/8 NOV 24

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Comprehend the idiosyncratic nature of US security policy making
2. Analyze the effectiveness of the Obama administration’s decision-making in the Syria case
3. Discuss the impacts of the Obama administration’s decision on US national security

NS-519 (F): Obama at War

<https://www.pbs.org/video/frontline-obama-war/>

CONTACT HOURS: 1-hour documentary

NS-520 (S): Analyzing a Policy Decision

CONTACT HOURS: 2-hour seminar

REQUIRED READINGS

1. Williams et al., *US National Security: Policymakers, Processes, and Politics*, 2022, pp 237-248 (The Policy Process)
2. Ben Rhodes, “Inside the White House During the Syrian 'Red Line' Crisis,” *The Atlantic*, (June 3, 2018). [EL]

PHASE 4: NATIONAL SECURITY CHALLENGES

DAY 12 – CHINA’S RISE TO GREAT POWER STATUS

DATE: 14/15 NOV 24

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Comprehend the factors contributing to China’s rise
2. Comprehend China’s national security perspective
3. Comprehend China’s current grand strategy

NS-521 (L): China Under Xi Jinping, Dr. Jared McKinney

CONTACT HOURS: 1-hour lecture

NS-522 (S): China’s Ascendance

CONTACT HOURS: 2-hour seminar

REQUIRED READINGS

1. Shambaugh, *China and the World*, 2020, pp. 1-19 (China’s Long March to Global Power), 211-230 (China’s Relations with the United States)
2. Kane and Falkovich, *Chinese Grand Strategy in the 21st Century*, 2024, pp. 132-1154 (The View from the Middle: The Geopolitics of Chinese Strategy), 161-192 (The View from Above: The Strategic Challenges of Governance, Regime Legitimacy and Party Rule in China), 198-231 (Every Action...: Foreign Policy and Diplomatic Challenges to Chinese Strategy)
3. Doshi, *The Long Game*, 2021, pp.277-296 (The ways and means of China’s Global Expansion)

DAY 13 – MANAGING THE CHINA CHALLENGE

DATE: 18/19 NOV 24

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Comprehend US options for countering Chinese influence
2. Comprehend US efforts to deter China in Asia
3. Analyze proposed strategies for managing the China challenge presented by Haddick and Doshi
4. Infer options for US strategy towards China

NS-523 (S): Regaining the Advantage in Asia

CONTACT HOURS: 3-hour seminar. Students will participate in strategy making practicum involving China.

REQUIRED READINGS

1. Haddick, *Fire on the Water: China, America, and the Future of the Pacific*, 2nd edition, 2022, pp. 1-8 (Introduction), 81-109 (China's Strategy: The Missile Revolution and Political Warfare), 147-170 (Designing a Competitive Strategy for the Indo-Pacific), 214-234 (How to Win the Long Marathon in the Indo-Pacific)
2. Doshi, *The Long Game*, 2021, pp.297-329 (An Asymmetric Strategy for US-China Competition)

DAY 14 – RESURGENT RUSSIA

DATE: 21/22 NOV 24

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Comprehend Russia’s national security perspective
2. Comprehend the history of Russian relations with the West in the post-Soviet period
3. Comprehend Putin’s views on global order

NS-524 (F): Putin’s Way

<https://www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/documentary/putins-way/>

CONTACT HOURS: 1-hour documentary

NS-525 (S): Putin’s Russia

CONTACT HOURS: 2-hour seminar

REQUIRED READINGS

1. Stent, *Putin’s World: Russia Against the West and with the Rest*, 2020, pp. 1-8 (Introduction), 9-23 (The Russian Idea), 24-43 (Ambivalent Europeans), 110-140 (The Main Opponent: Russia and NATO), 344-362 (What Kind of Engagement with Russia?)
2. Alexander Gabuev, “Putin and Xi’s Unholy Alliance: Why the West Won’t Be Able to Drive a Wedge Between Russia and China,” *Foreign Affairs*, (April 9, 2024) [EL]

SUGGESTED READINGS

1. Putin, 2007, Munich Conference Speech [EL]

DAY 15 – MANAGING THE RUSSIA CHALLENGE

DATE: 2/3 DEC 24

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Comprehend the extended deterrence policy of the United States
2. Comprehend factors that complicate the formulation and execution of extended deterrence
3. Infer options for US & NATO strategies towards Russia

NS-526 (S): Deterrence, Alliances, and Partnerships

CONTACT HOURS: 3-hour seminar. Students will participate in a strategy making practicum involving Russia.

REQUIRED READINGS

1. Jonathan Askonas and Gil Barndollar, “With Finland and Sweden in NATO, the US Can Finally Pivot to the Pacific,” *Foreign Policy*, July 12, 2022. [EL]
2. Ulrich Kuhn, *Preventing Escalation in the Baltics: A NATO Playbook*, Washington D.C.: Carnegie Endowment for Peace, 2018, pp. 1-72. [EL]
3. Fred Kaplan, “Why the U.S. Might Not Use a Nuke, Even if Russia Does,” *Slate*, Oct 7, 2022. [EL]
4. Bryan Frederick, Mark Cozad, Alexandra Stark, “Understanding the Risk of Escalation in the War in Ukraine,” RAND Corporation, September 2023, pp.1-12.

DAY 16 – IRAN

DATE: 5/6 DEC 24

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Comprehend Iran’s national security perspective
2. Comprehend the history of Iranian relations with the United States
3. Infer options for US strategy towards Iran

NS-527 (L): Iran and US Foreign Policy, Dr. Chris Hemmer

CONTACT HOURS: 1-hour lecture

NS-528 (S): Iran and Regional Hegemony

CONTACT HOURS: 2-hour seminar

REQUIRED READINGS

1. Clayton Thomas, “Iran: Background and US Policy,” *Congressional Research Service*, March 23, 2023. [EL]
2. Alissa Rubin, “Power by Proxy: How Iran Shapes the Middle East,” *New York Times*, April 6, 2024. [EL]
3. Trita Parsi, “Last Chance for America and Iran: A New Nuclear Deal Won’t Survive Without a Broader Rapprochement,” *Foreign Affairs*, August 26, 2022. [EL]
4. Afshon Ostovar, “Grand Strategy of Militant Clients: Iran’s Way of War,” *Security Studies*, vol. 28, no. 1 (2019): 159-188 [EL]

DAY 17 – THE NORTH KOREAN NUCLEAR THREAT

DATE: 9/10 DEC 24

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. Comprehend North Korea’s national security perspective
2. Comprehend the strategic predicament of the North Korean regime
3. Infer options for US strategy toward North Korea


NS-529 (L): North Korea and US National Security, Dr. Mike Kraig

CONTACT HOURS: 1-hour lecture

NS-530 (S): What to do about North Korea?

CONTACT HOURS: 2-hour seminar

REQUIRED READINGS

1. Ben Frohman, et al., “The China-North Korea Strategic Rift: Background and Implications for the United States,” U.S.-China Economic Review Commission, 2022, pp. 1-21 [EL] 
2. United States Institute for Peace, “Pursuing Peaceful Coexistence with North Korea: An Essay Series,” January 2024, <https://www.usip.org/programs/pursuing-peaceful-coexistence-north-korea-essay-series> [EL]
3. B.R. Myers, “North Korea’s Race Problem: What I learned in eight years reading propaganda from inside the Hermit Kingdom,” *Foreign Policy*, February 11, 2010. [EL]

