

International Relations INR 4335
Strategic Studies and National Security

Summer B 2002
T R 6:25 – 9:05 PM
Section 01

Dr. Paul A. Kowert
Office: DM 437C
Hours: T R 4:00-5:00 PM
or by appointment

This course provides a general introduction to some of the most urgent problems of national security. It will not emphasize the causes of conflict and war *per se*, since these are discussed in many other international relations courses. Instead, it will focus on the strategic problems faced by states and their leaders in a world that remains very dangerous, intimations of a "new world order" or a "democratic peace" notwithstanding. These problems include: selection of military doctrine, weapons systems and tactics; responses to "unconventional" forms of conflict; and evolution of taboos against the use of force in international disputes.

Course Requirements

Class Participation & Quizzes: This course is taught as a seminar: class sessions will focus on the readings (rather than on lectures), and responsibility for discussing these readings will fall heavily on students. Attendance and sensible participation in class is essential to success in this course. *Sensible participation* means that you join in class discussion, but also that you listen to your classmates and give them opportunities to speak. From time to time, you may be asked to summarize the readings as a prelude to class discussion. Classes may also begin with a brief quiz on the assigned reading for that day. It is to your advantage, therefore, to take notes on the readings *before* coming to class. Keep in mind, also, that the final examination may cover material discussed in class but *not* in the assigned readings. In the event that a class must be canceled, you are still responsible for the assigned readings; do not assume that a class is canceled unless so informed by your professor or by a university representative *in person*.

Position Paper and Great Lakes Crisis Briefing Paper: The specific topic for each paper, and the details of the assignment, will be distributed and discussed in class. In general, the "position paper" will advance a specific proposal for managing or responding to the threat posed by nuclear, biological, or chemical (NBC) weapons. The "Great Lakes Crisis briefing paper" will articulate the perspective of a participant in a hypothetical Central Africa Peace Conference. Each paper should be 3 to 4 pages long (4 is the maximum!). It must be typed and double-spaced with one-inch margins; pages must be stapled together and should not be bound or put in a folder. Late papers will be accepted only at the instructor's discretion, and with penalty. Each paper is **due at the beginning of class** on the assigned date (the penalty for a late paper will be **reduced** if you are present on time in class on the day the paper is due).

Final (Take-Home) Examination: The final exam will cover the lectures, classroom discussions, and reading assignments for the entire course. We will discuss the format of the test in class before the exam. There is no make-up exam. The exam is **due at the beginning of class** on the assigned date and will be accepted after that, at the instructor's discretion, only in the event of illness or other serious extenuating circumstances.

Your grade will be determined on the basis of these course requirements as follows:

Class Participation and Quizzes	15%
Position Paper on "NBC" Threat (Due July 18)	25%
Great Lakes Crisis Briefing Paper (Due August 1)	25%
Take-Home Examination (Due August 15)	35%

Textbooks:

The required books for this course are in print and are available either from the campus book store or from the major online booksellers. The packet of readings can be purchased at the campus copy center.

1. Janne Nolan, An Elusive Consensus: Nuclear Weapons and American Security after the Cold War (Washington: Brookings, 1999).
2. Michael E. Brown, Owen R. Coté, Jr., Sean M. Lynn-Jones, and Steven E. Miller, Theories of War and Peace: An International Security Reader (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1998).
3. Readings for INR 4335: Strategic Studies and National Security (copy center).

Academic Integrity

Be certain that you are familiar with the University's rules concerning academic misconduct as described in the Student Handbook. Plagiarism and other forms of cheating undermine the spirit of responsible inquiry on which the University relies. Cheating will result in severe penalties (which, according to University policy, may include a failing grade in the course and/or expulsion from F.I.U.). To avoid plagiarism, keep in mind that *all* references in your written work to someone else's ideas — whether a direct quotation or simply an indirect summary — must be properly cited. If you are in doubt, err on the side of caution and cite the work in question; unintentional plagiarism is no less serious than any other form of plagiarism. Ignorance is no excuse — it is *your* responsibility to be sure you understand.

Other Course Policies

- Please turn off all electronic devices (beepers, cell phones, etc.) before class.
- Please arrive on time for class; lateness is not only disruptive but will also have a negative affect on your class participation grade.
- No extra credit will be assigned to students on an individual or ad hoc basis.

Questions? Problems?

You are always welcome to discuss this course or other academic issues with me during my office hours. I will also be happy to make an appointment for another, mutually convenient time if you cannot attend my office hours. Don't hesitate to ask if you have any questions or problems.

Syllabus

1. Tuesday, July 2

Introduction

War as a feature of the international system: the Old World Order ... and the New
Background reading: John J. Mearsheimer, "Back to the Future: Instability in Europe after the Cold War," in Brown et al, Theories of War and Peace.

2. Thursday, July 4

Independence Day — No class

3. Tuesday, July 9

Offense, Defense, Deterrence, and the Security Dilemma

Constraints on a war-prone system

Steven Van Evera, "Offense, Defense, and the Causes of War," in Brown et al, Theories of War and Peace.

Problem I: Military Doctrine, Weapons, and Tactics

4. Thursday, July 11

Military Doctrine

How do major powers choose military doctrine (offensive/defensive orientation, flexibility, implementation, etc)?

Barry Posen, "The Importance of Military Doctrine," in Readings.

Barry Posen, "Explaining Military Doctrine," in Readings.

Elizabeth Kier, "Culture and French Doctrine," in Readings.

5. Tuesday, July 16

Weapons and Tactics

How can you build a nuclear weapon, and what would you do with it? How do the arsenals of major powers compare?

Frank Barnaby, "The Link Between Peaceful and Military Nuclear Programmes," in Readings.

Frank Barnaby, "The Components of Nuclear and Thermonuclear Weapons," in Readings.

Frank Barnaby, "The Proliferation of Nuclear Weapon Delivery Systems," in Readings.

Janne Nolan, An Elusive Consensus, Chapters 1-2.

Problem II: The Changing Definition of Security

6. **Thursday, July 18** — POSITION PAPER ON "NBC" THREATS DUE

Proliferation and New Security Threats

What sort of weapons will pose the greatest threat in the coming century?

Frank Barnaby, "Nuclear Proliferation to Sub-national Groups," in Readings.

Frank Barnaby, "Preventing the Spread of Nuclear Weapons," in Readings.

Janne Nolan, An Elusive Consensus, Chapter 4 (skim chapter 3).

7. **Tuesday, July 23**

Economic Sources of Conflict

Imperialism, the military-industrial complex, and the privatization of security.

Vladimir I. Lenin, "Imperialism as a Special Stage of Capitalism," in Readings.

Benjamin Barber, "The Old Economy and the New McWorld," in Readings.

Dale Copeland, "Economic Interdependence and War," in Brown et al, Theories of War and Peace.

8. **Thursday, July 25**

Regional, National, and Ethnic Conflict

"New" conflict in an "old" system (and new systems).

Samuel Huntington, "Clash of Civilizations," in Readings.

Benjamin Barber, "Jihad and McWorld in the New World Disorder," in Readings.

Susan L. Shirk, "Asia-Pacific Regional Security," in Readings.

9. **Tuesday, July 30**

Environmental and Technological Security

Security threats for the twenty-first century.

Thomas F. Homer-Dixon, "Environmental Scarcities and Violent Conflict," in Brown et al, Theories of War and Peace.

Daniel H. Deudney, "Environmental Security: A Critique," in Readings.

Focus: Conflict in the Great Lakes Region of Central Africa

10. **Thursday, August 1** — GREAT LAKES CRISIS BRIEFING PAPER DUE

Crisis Management

Can international crises be managed? Can intervention succeed?

Richard Ned Lebow, "Cognitive Closure and Crisis Politics," in Readings.

Gérard Prunier, "The Great Lakes Crisis," in Readings.

René Lemarchand, "The Crisis in the Great Lakes," in Readings.

Thomas Turner, "The Kabilas' Congo," in Readings.

11. **Tuesday, August 6**

Towards Peace in the Central Africa I

Overview of current problems and classroom debate.

"[The Lusaka] Ceasefire Agreement," in Readings.

Filip Reyntjens, "The New Geostrategic Situation in Central Africa," in Readings.
William S. K. Reno, "Mines, Money, and the Problem of State-Building in Congo,"
in Readings.

William Cyrus Reed, "Protracted Patronage, Truncated Armed Struggle, and
Political Consolidation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo," in
Readings.

Jean-Claude Williams, "The 'Friends of the Congo' and the Kabila System," in
Readings.

12. **Thursday, August 8**

Towards Peace in the Central Africa II

Towards a solution?

Conclusion

13. **Tuesday, August 13** — TAKE-HOME EXAMINATION DISTRIBUTED IN
CLASS

Democracy and War

Constraints on a war-prone system

John Owen, "How Liberalism Produces Democratic Peace," in Brown et al,
Theories of War and Peace.

Christopher Layne, "Kant or Cant: The Myth of the Democratic Peace," in Brown
et al, Theories of War and Peace.

14. **Thursday, August 15** (*Last class meeting*) — TAKE-HOME EXAMINATION DUE

Ethics and Taboos

How can ethics and law be applied to international relations? Is all really fair in war?

James Turner Johnson, "The Just War Tradition and the American Military," in
Readings.

Bassam Tibi, "War and Peace in Islam," in Readings.