

POL 501a: International Security

Fall 2023

Instructor:

Dr. Daniel Arnon, Assistant Professor
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Student Hours: By Appointment
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Course timeline: August 28 – October 22

Description

Designed as an introductory course to the field of international security, this course has three main aims: first, to provide an overview of the major theories, concepts, and debates in international security. Second, to lay the foundations for elective ISS classes. Third, to introduce current and future security challenges faced by the U.S. and its allies. The course will tackle questions such as: what is “security” and how should we study and measure it? How have security problems changed over time? What are the causes of war and peace? When should states employ force? And what are the prospects for national and international security in the 21st century.

Course Objectives

The objectives of this course are to provide a broad understanding of the past, present, and future security issues the world faces. Students will develop a descriptive understanding of the concept of security, the challenges to achieving security and the dilemmas actors face in their pursuit of it. They will also be able to identify those factors that facilitate or complicate a government’s capacity to address these challenges. They will have the capacity to critically engage with the principal theories of security.

Expected Learning Outcomes

The student will also achieve learning outcomes consistent with the ISS program:

- Articulate the theories on causes of war, peace, and human security, and its key concepts
- Criticize and analyze decisions, policies, and approach to address international security.
- Distinguish between different international security challenges
- Build and present arguments based on the academic literature examining international security dilemmas.

Overview of the Course

The course is divided into weekly units. Each unit has required lectures and readings. After engaging with both, the student will be asked to take part in class discussions. Throughout the semester we will be working toward a final, larger writing assignment, which will be due during the last week of class.

Course Requirements:

Lectures

The lectures for this course can be accessed through D2L (d2l.arizona.edu) and will be posted with their respective units. **You may view these lectures at a time that is convenient to you during that week, but please keep in mind that there are discussion question responses due on Monday at 11:59pm of each week**, so plan accordingly. Each recorded lecture generally will not exceed thirty minutes. However, it is expected that students will spend 1-2 hours listening to lectures, making notes, and integrating lecture material with readings.

Readings

Reading material is posted on D2L for each week of the course. All items on the list are required. Please complete the readings *before* watching the lecture (unless otherwise noted). The readings provide relevant background for the lecture. It is recommended, although not required, that readings are done in the order they are listed.

Grading and Assignments:

There are three components to students' final course grades:

- (1) 7 class discussion forums (35%)
- (2) 2 written responses to the readings (30%)
- (3) Final paper assignment (35%)

Discussions (35%)

Each week (except for the final week), the instructor will have one or two discussion questions posted online using the D2L discussion board. All students are expected to respond to this question. Where there are two questions, students need only respond to one. Answers should not exceed 200 words. Students are also expected to respond to one another. Students must post at least two responses to their peers of 100 words each. **Our discussion post/question are always due by Saturday morning at 9am, and your reply to a classmate is due by 11:59pm Monday night.**

Posts must engage with and reference material from the week's lecture and readings to receive full credit. Students are highly encouraged to: respond to more than two of your colleagues' posts, engage with responses to your own post/question, and write posts that challenge the thinking of others but remain respectful.

No late posts are accepted. Once discussions close each week, there is no opportunity to make a contribution for participation credit. No discussions will be due the final week of class, which is reserved for writing the final paper. Participation in discussion forums accounts for 35% of the final grade.

Each of the seven discussion forums will receive a grade on a scale of 1 to 5. Your score will, in general, correspond with the following guidelines:

- You will receive a 0 if you do not make at least one intervention.
- You will receive a 1 if you only make one intervention AND if your ideas demonstrate a lack of understanding of the discussion topic or are factually incorrect.

- You will receive a 2 if you only make one intervention AND ideas demonstrate a basic understanding of the discussion topic.
- You will receive a 3 if you only make two interventions AND if your ideas demonstrate a basic understanding of the discussion topic.
- You will receive a 4 if you make all three interventions but your ideas only reflect a minimal understanding of the topic at hand.
- You will receive a 5 if your three interventions are substantive and also include original, relevant thought.

Written responses to the readings (30%)

Twice during the semester (Weeks 3 and 5) I will ask you to engage in a deep analysis of one of that week's readings. This analysis, which should be 2-3 pages in length (1000-1500 words), will take a deep dive into the text. It should do the following things:

1. Provide a summary of the text, including its main argument and the evidence wielded to make that argument.
2. Situate the reading alongside the rest of the readings for the week. How does it cohere with the other readings? Do they agree? How? Where do they disagree?
3. Your assessment of the argument: Is it convincing? Why (not)? Please incorporate an example from outside of those used in the reading to help inform your assessment. For example, is there a case or example not contemplated by the author that reinforces the text? Is there one that contradicts the findings therein?

The first response is due on **Tuesday, September 19, by 6 am**, and will be worth 15% of your final grade.

The second response is due on **Tuesday, October 3, by 6 am**, and will be worth 15% of your final grade.

Final Paper

For your final assignment, you must develop an argument-based essay in response to a prompt that will ask you to consider the relationship between democracy/global governance/human rights and security. To answer the question, you will be expected to rely on in-class readings and at least three additional (outside) sources. You will also be asked to apply your argument to a particular country of your choosing. The project has three phases (see below). More information on this paper will be provided during the first week of class. Your final paper, including the outline and presentation, is worth 35% of your overall grade. Please note that the outline, due October 8, is worth 5% of your final grade; the presentation is worth 10% of your final grade; the paper itself is worth 20% of your final grade. See below.

Phase 1: Paper Outline (due on October 10, by 6 am) (5% of overall 35%). By Week 6, you should have a sense of what the overall paper will look like. You will be asked to turn in an outline of the paper, which should include: the argument, briefly stated, and a break down of the set of points that will be raised to help make the argument. I will provide feedback on the outline, which should help orient you as you work to develop the final paper.

Phase 2: Final Paper Presentation (must be uploaded by Wednesday, October 18, at 6:00 am) (10% of overall 35%). The final week of class you will upload a video presentation to a slide that I will have created for VoiceThread, or using other alternatives like panopto (a feature of our D2L site). This will be roughly seven minutes long, and in it you should summarize what your paper includes. You can be as creative with this as you would like. It is an opportunity for us to finally “see” each other. You will each be asked to respond to other presentations, commenting on, e.g., shared threats, different approaches to mitigating the threat that you may have considered but the presenter did not, etc. The video must be posted by Wednesday, October 20, at 6:00 am.

Phase 3: Final Paper (due by Sunday, October 22, by 6 am) (20% of overall 35%). The final paper will be 8-10 pages in length (double spaced, 12 pt font, standard margins).

Your paper should follow standard academic writing procedures, including in-text citations and a works cited page, which will have been graded previously.

The paper is due on the last day of the course: Sunday, October 22, at 6 am (AZ time). Further details for the paper will be available on D2L by the end of the first week. Papers will be turned in via folders available on D2L. This paper accounts for 35% of the final grade.

Expectations on Written Work

All papers should be double spaced, 12-point font, standard margins. Ensure that you use and cite reliable acceptable sources (e.g., not Wikipedia) and follow an official citation style of your choosing (e.g., APA, APSA, Chicago, MLA).

Papers lose 10 points for each day late.

University policy regarding grades and grading systems is available at:

<http://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/grades-and-grading-system>

Grade Distribution for this Course:

A: 89.5-100

B: 79.5-89.4

C: 69.5-79.4

D: 59.5- 69.4

E: Through 59.4

Requests for incompletes (I) and withdrawals (W) must be made in accordance with university policies which are available at <http://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/grades-and-grading-system#incomplete> and <http://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/grades-and-grading-system#Withdrawal> respectively.

Course Policies

Attendance/Participation/Administrative Drops

The UA's policy concerning Class Attendance, Participation, and Administrative Drops is available at: <http://catalog.arizona.edu/policy/class-attendance-participation-and-administrative-drop>

The UA policy regarding absences for any sincerely held religious belief, observance or practice will be accommodated where reasonable, <http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/religious-accommodation-policy>

Absences pre-approved by the UA Dean of Students (or Dean Designee) will be honored. See: <https://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/absences>

Threatening Behavior

The UA Threatening Behavior by Students Policy prohibits threats of physical harm to any member of the University community, including to oneself. See <http://policy.arizona.edu/education-and-student-affairs/threatening-behavior-students>

Accessibility and Accommodations

It is the University's goal that learning experiences be as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability, please let me know immediately so that we can discuss options. You are also welcome to contact Disability Resources (520-621-3268) to establish reasonable accommodations. For additional information on Disability Resources and reasonable accommodations, please visit <http://drc.arizona.edu/>

If you have reasonable accommodations, please plan to meet with me by appointment or during office hours to discuss accommodations and how my course requirements and activities may impact your ability to fully participate.

Student Code of Academic Integrity

Students are encouraged to share intellectual views and discuss freely the principles and applications of course materials. However, graded work/exercises must be the product of independent effort unless otherwise instructed. Students are expected to adhere to the UA Code of Academic Integrity as described in the UA General Catalog. See: <http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/academic-integrity/students/academic-integrity>

Additional Resources for Students

UA Non-discrimination and Anti-harassment policy: <http://policy.arizona.edu/human-resources/nondiscrimination-and-anti-harassment-policy>

UA Academic policies and procedures are available at: <http://catalog.arizona.edu/policies>

Student Assistance and Advocacy information is available at: <http://deanofstudents.arizona.edu/student-assistance/students/student-assistance>

Confidentiality of Student Records

See: <http://www.registrar.arizona.edu/personal-information/family-educational-rights-and-privacy-act-1974-ferpa?topic=ferpa>

Subject to Change Statement

Information contained in the course syllabus, other than the grade and absence policy, may be subject to change with advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor.

Summary of the Course Schedule

- All writing assignments (unit briefs and the essays) are due by 11:59pm Monday night, except for the final paper due on Sunday October 22nd.

Unit	Dates	Required Assignments	Estimated Hours	Due Date
1: Introduction: Security and Security Studies	8-28 - 9/3	Lectures	2	
		Readings	10	
		Discussions	3	You: SAT 9/2 9am Replies: MON 9/4 11:59pm
2: Theories of War; Democratic Peace Theory; The Liberal International Order	9-4 - 9/10	Lectures	2	
		Readings	10	
		Discussions	3	You: SAT 9/9 9am Replies: MON 9/11 11:59pm
3: Balance of Power, Security Dilemma, Alliances, and Security Institutions	9/11 – 9/17	Lectures	2	
		Readings	10	
		Discussions	3	You: SAT 9/16 9am Replies: MON 9/18 11:59pm
		First response paper due	5	9/18 MON 11:59pm
4: Inter-state and Intra-state wars: Similarities and Differences in Causes and Duration	9/18 – 9/24	Lectures	2	
		Readings	10	
		Discussions	3	You: SAT 9/23 9am Replies: MON 9/25 11:59pm
5: Human Security and Human Rights	9/25 – 10/1	Lectures	2	
		Readings	10	

		Discussions	3	You: SAT 9/31 9am Replies: MON 10/2 11:59pm
		Second response paper due	5	10/2 MON 11:59pm
6: Grand Strategy	10/2 – 10/8	Lectures	2	
		Readings	10	
		Discussions	3	You: SAT 10/7 9am Replies: MON 10/9 11:59pm
		Final Paper Outline Due	5	MON 11:59pm 10/9
7: Challenges of the 21st Century	10/9 – 10/15	Lectures	2	
		Readings	10	
		Discussions	3	You: SAT 10/14 9am Replies: MON 10/16 11:59pm
8: Work Week	10/16 – 10/22	Lectures	0	
		Readings	0	
		Final Paper Presentation, Upload Video	3	10/18 WED 11:59pm
		Final Paper	15	10/22 SUN 11:59pm
		Responses to other's Presentations	2	10/22 SUN 11:59pm

Time in Class

Work Hours: 138

Includes lectures, readings, discussions, response papers, and all assignments associated with the final paper.

Contact Minutes: 2,280

Includes lectures, discussions and final paper presentations.

Course Schedule

Week 1. Introduction: What is Security? What are International Security Studies?	
Content	This unit will orient you to some of the key themes and concepts surrounding the definition of security. As we will see, there is no one definition upon which we universally agree.
Topics	#1: What is security? (~ 40 minutes) #2: Power, international security, and international relations. (~40 minutes) #3: What are (international) security studies? (~40 minutes)
Required Readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction of FLS (pg. xx-xxxiii). • “Power and International Security.” Baldwin. 2002. Sage Handbook of International Relations. Pg. 1-18 • How has the Study of International Security Changed since the Cold War’s End? White. 2018. E-ir. • “The Evolution of International Security Studies.” Buzan and Hansen. Cambridge University Press. 2009. Chapter 1 (pg. 8-20)
Assignments	Discussion: The forum will be open on Tuesday, August 29, 6:00 am (MST) until Monday, September 4, 11:59 pm (MST).

Week 2. Theories of War; Democratic Peace Theory; The Liberal International Order	
Content	This unit will orient you to some of the basic theoretical contributions to security studies in the last few decades. Three main questions will be addressed: Why states fight wars; why some states don’t fight wars; can and does the liberal international order minimize risks of war
Topics	#1: Theories of War (~40 minutes) #2: What is the democratic peace? (~ 40 minutes) #3: What is the International Liberal Order? (~40 minutes)
Required Readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FLS select readings - Ch. 3: What is the purpose of war, bargaining model of war (pg. 88-101; 105-110; 118-133). • “The Causes of War and the Conditions of Peace” Levy. 1998. Annual Review of Political Science. (pg. 139-165) • “Triangulating Peace: Democracy, Interdependence, and International Organizations” Russett and Oneal. 2001. Chapter 3. (pg. 81-124). • “How Accurate is Democratic Peace Theory.” Bingham. 2012. E-ir.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Challenges to the Liberal Order: Reflections on International Organization.” Lake, Martin, and Risse. 2021. Pg. 225-257.
Assignments	Discussion: The forum will be open on Tuesday, September 5, 6:00 am (MST) until Monday, September 11, 11:59 pm (MST).

Week 3. Balance of Power, Security Dilemma, Alliances, and Security Institutions	
Content	This week we will dive deeper into current theories of security. We will examine the role of four main concepts and evaluate how they contribute (or not) to increased international security.
Topics	#1: Balance of power and its critiques (~40 minutes) #2: The security dilemma and under what conditions does it lead to cooperation? (~ 40 minutes) #3: Interstate interactions under anarchy – alliances and security institutions
Required Readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma.” Jervis. 1978. <i>World Politics</i> 30.2. Pg. 167-187 DO NOT READ ALL • “Beyond Anarchy: The Importance of Security Institutions.” Lake. 2001. <i>International Security</i> 26.1. Pg. 129-160 • “Pushing the Boundaries: Can we “Decolonize” Security Studies.” Adamson. 2020. <i>Journal of Global Security Studies</i> 5(1).129-135
Assignment	Discussion: The forum will be open on Tuesday, September 12, 6:00 am (MST) until Monday, September 18, 11:59 pm (MST). First response paper: Due on Monday, September 18, by 11:59 pm (MST)

Week 4. Inter-state and Intra-state wars: Similarities and Differences in Causes and Duration	
Content	This week we will describe, with data, trends in war over the last century(ies). We will cover where and when wars occur (both inter-state and intra-state) and discuss leading theories of why they occur.
Topics	#1: Inter-state Wars – trends over time. Is inter-state war declining? (~40 minutes) #2: Intra-state Wars – trends over time (~40 minutes) #3: What are the main similarities and differences between interstate and intra-state wars (~40 minutes)
Required Readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Only the Dead: The Persistence of War in the Modern Age.” Braumoeller. 2019. <i>Oxford University Press</i>. Chapters 1&7. • “The New New Civil Wars.” Walter. 2017. <i>Annual Review of Political Science</i>. 20. Pg. 469-486 • “Combining Civil and Interstate Wars.” Cunningham and Lemke. 2013. <i>International Organizations</i> 67 Pg. 609-627

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “What are the Trends in Armed Conflicts, and What Do They Mean for US Defense Policy?” Szayna et al. <i>Rand Corporation</i>. Pg. 1-11
Assignment	Discussion: The forum will be open on Tuesday, September 19, 6:00 am (MST) until Monday, September 25, 11:59 pm (MST).

Week 5. Human Security and Human Rights – Antecedents and Outcomes	
Content	This week we will discuss human security and human rights—define it, discuss it, and explore its relationship with inequality and democracy.
Topics	#1: What is human security? (~ 40 minutes) #2: What is the relationship between inequality, human security, and democracy? (~ 40 minutes) #3: Have Human Rights conditions improved over the last several decades?
Required Readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • P.H. Liotta and Taylor. Owen 2006. "Why Human Security," <i>Whitehead Journal of Diplomacy and International Relations</i> 7, no. 2 (Winter/Spring): 37-54 • Newman, Edward. 2016. “Human Security: Reconciling Critical Aspirations with Political Realities” <i>British Journal of Criminology</i>, 56: 1165-1183. • Piccone, Ted. 2017. “Democracy and Human Security.” Working Paper, Brookings Institution. https://www.brookings.edu/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/fp_20170905_democracy_human_security.pdf • “Measuring the Impact of Human Rights: Conceptual and Methodological Debates.” Fariss and Dancy. <i>Annual Review of Law and Social Science</i>. 13. Pg. 273-294
Assignment	Discussion: The forum will be open on Tuesday, September 26, 6:00 am (MST) until Monday, October 2, 11:59 pm (MST). Second response paper: Due on Monday, October 2, by 11:59 pm (MST)

Week 6. Grand Strategy and the US	
Content	In this week we dive deeper into US interests within the global order and discuss how the US should be involved in the construction and sustainment of international orders.
Topics	#1: How does the US think about and execute grand strategy? (~60 minutes) #2: Criticisms of the US-led international liberal order (~60 minutes)
Required Readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barry Posen, “Command of the Commons,” <i>International Security</i>, Vol. 28, No. 1 (2003): 5-46.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John J. Mearsheimer, “Imperial by Design,” <i>The National Interest</i>, No. 111 (January/February 2011), pp. 16-34; 5 Monteiro <i>International Security</i> Summer 2021 • Nina Silove, “Beyond the Buzzword: The Three Meanings of ‘Grand Strategy,’” <i>Security Studies</i>, Vol. 27, No. 1 (2017), pp. 27-57; • G. John Ikenberry, “The End of Liberal International Order?” <i>International Affairs</i>, Vol. 94, No. 1 (2018), pp. 7-23; • Inderjeet Parmar, “The U.S.-led Liberal Order: Imperialism by Another Name?” <i>International Affairs</i>, Vol. 94, No. 1 (2018), pp. 151-172; • Charles L. Glaser, “A Flawed Framework: Why the Liberal International Order Concept is Misguided,” <i>International Security</i>, Vol. 43, No. 4 (Spring 2019), pp. 51-87.
Assignments	<p>Discussion: The forum will be open on Tuesday, October 3, 6:00 am (MST) until Monday, October 9, 11:59 pm (MST).</p> <p>Final Paper Outline: Due on Monday, October 9, by 11:59 pm (MST)</p>

Week 7. Grand Strategy and Challenges of the 21st Century	
Content	In our last thematic class we will discuss the topic of grand strategy and challenges to international security in the 21 st century
Topics	#1: What is Grand Strategy? (~60 minutes) #2: What are the upcoming challenges to Grand Strategy in the 21 st Century? (~60 minutes)
Required Readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “What Is Grand Strategy and Why Do We Need It?” Feaver, Peter. 2009. <i>Foreign Policy</i> (blog). • “Is Grand Strategy a Research Program? A Review Essay.” Balzacq et al. 2019. <i>Security Studies</i> 28 (1): 1–29. • “Exit from Hegemony: The Unravelling of the American-Led Order.” Cooley and Nexon. 2020. <i>Oxford University Press</i>. Chapter 1-4. • “Renewed Great Power Competition: Implications for Defense – Issue for Congress.” Congressional Research Service. 2022.
Assignment	Discussion: The forum will be open on Tuesday, October 10, 6:00 am (MST) until Monday, October 16, 11:59 pm (MST).

Week 8. Paper Assignment	
Content	The entire week will be used for final paper preparation and presentations.
Required Readings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No readings assignment this week.

Assignments	<p><u>Final Paper Presentation</u>: Uploaded by Wednesday, October 18 at 11:59 pm (MST)</p> <p><u>Final Paper Due</u>: Sunday, October 22, by 11:59pm (MST)</p> <p><u>Responses to Presentations</u>: Sunday, October 22, by 11:59pm (MST)</p>
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