

POLS302: National Security Policy

College of Graduate and Continuing Studies, Norwich University

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Course Description

This course introduces students to the issues and institutions of national security policy. Successful students will have an appreciation of strategic thought and strategy formulation, the ability to assess national security issues and threats, and an understanding of the political and military institutions involved in the making and execution of national security policy. There are no pre-requisites. (3 credits)

Course Outcomes

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Analyze vital interests and threats to international and domestic security in order to make recommendations to policymakers and leaders;
- Assess the roles and powers of various actors and organizations in the policymaking and implementation process within the field of U.S. national security;
- Analyze the various political, social, economic, military, legal, and ethical goals and values that form the basis of policymaking decisions;
- Evaluate the various decision frameworks used by policymakers and leaders in developing and executing national security policies;
- Evaluate the context, evolution, risks, and linkages of national security issues, alternatives, and solutions;

Weekly Outline

Every week has a prescribed checklist of activities required to successfully complete the lesson. Follow this checklist, in the specified order, to complete each lesson.

Week	Topic	Requirements
Week 01	National Interests and the U.S. National Security System	1 Discussion,
Week 02	The Roles of the President and Congress in U.S. National Security	1 Discussion,
Week 03	The role of the military, homeland security, and intelligence agencies in US National Security	1 Discussion, 1 Assignment
Week 04	The processes of policy analysis and policymaking related to US National Security	1 Discussion, 1 Assignment
Week 05	International organizations and peacekeeping operations that impact US National Security	1 Discussion, 1 Assignment
Week 06	The impact of non-conventional conflict and weapons of mass destruction on US National Security	1 Discussion, 1 Assignment

Week 07	The impact of economic strife and conflict over scarce resources on US National Security	1 Discussion, 1 Assignment
Week 08	Looking ahead to foreseeable risks and challenges to US National Security	1 Ungraded Discussion, 1 Assignment

Required Textbooks

The following textbook is required for this course:

- **Sarkesian, S., Williams, J., & Ciambala, J. (2013). *US national security: Policymakers, processes & politics (5th ed.)*. Boulder, CO: Rinner.**
(Print ISBN: 9781588268563)(Digital ISBN: 9781626370234)

See Required Reading list for additional seminar required & recommended readings.

Discussion Groups

In this course, you will be assigned to a small discussion group. Each week your group will discuss one or two questions, most of which will be graded. The quality of your posts and those of your fellow students will create a lively discussion and ensure that a high level of learning occurs.

You are expected to contribute at least three posts to each question every week. Your first post should be substantive (approximately 200-300 words) and it should be made by Wednesday at the latest. It should answer the question using your own experience, if appropriate, and, very importantly, it should refer to the readings of that week, using correct citations. Your second two posts should be responses to posts of your fellow group members. Responses such as, "Good point," or, "I agree," are not sufficient. Your response posts should be substantive - ask questions, point out additional thoughts, etc. Disagreement and critical feedback are part of an academic classroom, as is respect for the diversity of opinion. For more information about what is expected in regard to discussion postings, please refer to the [Grading Guidelines and Rubrics](#).

Late Work

It is important that writing assignments and discussion posts be completed on time. Extensions of deadlines will be given only for serious extenuating circumstances. In the absence of such extensions, assignments may be downgraded for lateness at the discretion of the instructor.

Grades

You will be provided a weekly commentary/lecture and have [required readings](#) and discussion assignments. There will also be a number of written assignments and exercises. A total of 1000 points are available in the course distributed across the components listed below, with both points and percent of final grade indicated.

As a student in this course, you have a number of responsibilities that will affect the level of learning you achieve. These responsibilities include: 1) working actively to create a challenging and useful learning experience for yourself, your discussion group and the class as a whole; 2) encouraging and supporting the learning of each member of the class; 3) preparing and participating fully in discussions as well as group and/or class activities; and 4) completing all assigned work on time or making prior arrangements if an absence or late submission is unavoidable. In this course you have the opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills that will help you become effective, confident and focused in your learning.

Graded Assessment Types	Points	Weights (%)

Weekly Discussions: 7 at 40 points each	280	28%
WPRA Essay	150	15%
Final Research Paper Proposal	50	5%
Policy Inputs Essay	150	15%
Annotated Bibliography	120	12%
Draft Research Paper	150	15%
Final Research Paper	100	10%

Letter grades for the course will be based on the following grading scale.

Letter Grade	Percentage	Grade Point
A	93-100%	4.0
A -	90-92.9%	3.7
B +	87-89.9%	3.3
B	83-86.9%	3.0
B -	80-82.9%	2.7
C +	77-79.9%	2.3
C	75-76.9%	2.0
C -	73-74.9%	1.7
D +	70-72.9%	1.3
D	67-69.9%	1.0
D-	63-66.9%	0.7
F	0-62.9%	0.0

For complete information on the Grading Policy for Bachelor Degree students, please refer to the [CGCS Online Catalog](#) (Sub-Section of Catalog on "Grades.")

All written work for this course requires use of APA formatting. Please refer to the **Writing Guides** section of your classroom for further information regarding APA formatting.

[Academic Honesty and the Norwich University Honor Code](#)

A student must submit work that represents the student's own original analysis and writing. Copying another's work is not appropriate. If the student relies on the research or writing of others, the student must cite those sources. Words or ideas that require citations include, but are not limited to all hardcopy or electronic publications, whether copyrighted or not, and all verbal or visual communication when the content of such communication clearly originates from an identifiable source. While students are encouraged to seek editing feedback, extensive revisions of one's work by another person is considered a lack of academic honesty, as it is representing another student's work as one's own.

For more information see:

[Academic Dishonesty](#)
[Academic Integrity](#)
[Norwich University Honor Code](#)

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Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973/ADA

Please consult [Appendix H: University Policy - Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973/Americans with Disabilities Act \(ADA\)](#) for instructions on obtaining an accommodation.

Disclaimer: Please note the specifics of this Course Syllabus are subject to change. Students are responsible for abiding by any such changes. Your instructor will notify you of any changes.

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