

**Security Studies: Theories and Concepts
PSCI / IS 3104**

**Department of Political Science
Virginia Tech
Spring 2022**

Paul Avey

Course Information

Course Time: TR 2:00pm – 3:15pm

Course Room: Randolph 116

Contact Information

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Office Hours: TR 3:30pm – 4:30pm or by appointment (In person or online)

Course Description

This course provides an overview of security studies as a field of study. Part One introduces key methods and approaches used to understand international security issues. In Part Two the class explores major historical conflicts with a focus on the role played by factors such as the international system, regimes, and individuals. Part Three considers prominent issues in security studies. In Part Four we apply insights developed throughout the course to explore several contemporary security environments.

Grading

There are 200 total points in the class. Grades are based on reading reactions, one film questionnaire, discussion session participation, four online quizzes, and four discussion essays. There is no attendance requirement for in-person classes. Any late assignment will automatically lose 10% of the grade for each day that it is late. There are no extensions for any assignment except in the case of documented health or family emergencies. If you are not available on the date an assignment is due for any reason that you know of in advance, including excused absences for athletics, religious holidays, service, etc., you must turn that assignment in prior to that class period.

All assignments will be done on Canvas or uploaded to Canvas. For those assignments that you need to upload to Canvas, submit the assignment as a Word document. If you do not have Word, contact the professor to make alternative arrangements. When uploading your assignment be certain to check that it has loaded properly and that you can access and read it. Files that do not appear or cannot be opened will be marked late even if you completed the assignment by the due date. If you have trouble uploading the file to Canvas you must notify the professor and email an electronic copy before the assignment is due.

The grade you receive at the end of the semester is final and will not be rounded up or down. The only exceptions are if there is a calculation error in your point total. If you believe there are any errors or omissions with your grade immediately contact the professor.

Reading Reactions (2.5 points each; 10 points total)

You must comment on one reading in each part of the course. Post your reaction in the Discussions tab on Canvas. The reading reaction should be 3-5 sentences and identify a major piece of information from one of the chapters/articles or across multiple chapters/articles that you found interesting or generates further discussion. Be sure to identify the reading(s) in your post. Which reading you want to comment on is up to you, but it must be from that part of the course. For example, during part 1 you must comment on a reading assigned in part 1, during part 2 a reading assigned in part 2, etc. You may comment on the reading for each part of the course at any time during that part of the course up to the beginning of the last substantive class in each section of the course: February 10 (Part 1); March 1 (Part 2); April 12 (Part 3); and April 28 (Part 4).

Film Questionnaire (15 points)

The questionnaire will cover the film *The Battle of Algiers*. The film is available to watch online through the Virginia Tech Library: <https://viriniatech.on.worldcat.org/oclc/900276236> (it is also available to rent on Amazon and currently available on HBO Max). If you have trouble accessing the film, contact the professor by the start of the film class on March 29 (Class 19). The film questionnaire will be available on Canvas at 3:15pm on March 24 (Class 18). We will not meet in class on March 29 (Class 19) or March 31 (Class 20). Instead, use that time to watch the film and finish the film questionnaire. The assignment is due electronically by the end of class on March 31 (Class 20). Note that this film contains depictions of violence and torture. If you have concerns, please contact the professor before viewing to discuss options.

Quizzes (15 points each; 60 points total)

There are four online quizzes. You will have 45 minutes to complete the quiz once you begin. These will be available beginning at 2pm the day before each Discussion class. The quiz will close at the beginning of each Discussion class. You must complete the quiz during that time. For example, Quiz 2 will be available beginning at 2pm on March 2 and will close at 2pm on March 3. For each quiz you must answer ten multiple choice questions and one identification term. For the identification you need to briefly explain the term and its significance. Each identification answer should be 1-3 paragraphs. Quizzes are open book and open notes, but you must complete the quiz on your own.

Discussion Essays (25 points each; 100 points total)

There are four short 800-1,300 word discussion essays. I will distribute questions the week before the essay is due along with more detailed instructions. The essays are due electronically by the start of each Discussion class: February 15 (Class 9); March 3 (Class 14); April 14 (Class

24); and May 3 (Class 29). Be prepared to discuss your essays during the online discussion. Submit your essay as a Word document (not a pdf); if you do not have Word, contact the professor for alternative arrangements. It is your responsibility to make sure the essay uploads properly. Check that you can access and read it after you have uploaded it. Essays that do not appear or cannot be opened by the professor or teaching assistant will be marked late.

Discussion Participation (5 points each; up to 15 points total)

There are four online Discussion classes. The link is: [Removed]. The link will also be listed in the Course Reading Schedule below. There will be no recording to allow everyone to feel comfortable to respectfully express their views. For each session, you earn 1.5 points for attending, 1 point for having your camera on, and 2.5 points if you participate in the session. You can earn up to 5 points for each session you attend and 15 points for the semester. You do not need to talk the entire class, but to get full credit you must attend with your camera on and participate with substantive comments in at least three sessions. If you have connection issues, contact the professor for accommodations or alternative arrangements. Students may make alternative arrangements to get full credit only if they have documented health or family emergencies for two or more sessions. The grade is cumulative for the semester.

Academic Integrity

The Undergraduate Honor Code pledge that each member of the university community agrees to abide by states:

“As a Hokie, I will conduct myself with honor and integrity at all times. I will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor will I accept the actions of those who do.”

Students enrolled in this course are responsible for abiding by the Honor Code. A student who has doubts about how the Honor Code applies to any assignment is responsible for obtaining specific guidance from the course instructor before submitting the assignment for evaluation. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the University community from the requirements and expectations of the Honor Code.

Academic integrity expectations are the same for online classes as they are for in person classes. All university policies and procedures apply in any Virginia Tech academic environment, and all students are expected to follow them.

For additional information about the Honor Code, please visit: <https://www.honorsystem.vt.edu/>

Required Reading

The following two books are required and will be available for purchase at the university bookstore or through online distributors. Due to supply chain disruptions the Collins textbook will only be available as an ebook from the university bookstore, but physical copies are

available at BookHolders and through online distributors. Be sure that you get the correct edition (5th) of the Collins textbook.

- 1) Alan Collins, *Contemporary Security Studies*, 5th edition (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019)
- 2) Frank McDonough, *The Origins of the First and Second World Wars* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997).

Readings with a URL can be accessed by clicking on the link in the Canvas syllabus or entering the URL manually. Readings with an AC are from the Collins textbook. Readings with an * are available in the Files folder on the Canvas course webpage.

Several of the articles are behind paywalls. You will need to be logged into your university or library account to access them. You can also access them by going to the Library Homepage Quicklinks section, find the link for Journals, and then enter the Journal Title into the Journal Title Database. Be sure you use the Journal Title, not Article Title. For example, use *Foreign Affairs*, not the title of the article. You can then select from various options that have different years of access to different journals. Select the option that covers the year you need and go to the specific year, volume, and number. You can usually also use the search function once into a specific journal database (e.g., JSTOR, Project MUSE).

Electronics Policy

Laptops and tablets are allowed only for notetaking and consulting course material (e.g., readings, slides) during class. By using an electronic device, you agree to only use it for only these class related purposes. This means that you will not use it to check email, visit social media sites, watch videos, communicate with friends, or any other purpose. Failure to abide by this policy may result in a grade reduction. These types of non-class activities can hinder the learning of your classmates.

Students with Disabilities

I am strongly committed to working with students who have any disability recognized under the Americans with Disabilities Act to ensure that they are able to fully participate in class activities. If you feel you require reasonable accommodations please follow the process outlined by the Services for Students with Disabilities office, at: <http://www.ssd.vt.edu/>.

Health

Virginia Tech is committed to protecting the health and safety of all members of its community. By participating in this class, students agree to abide by university guidelines to reduce the spread of the coronavirus. As of the start of this course, that includes that all students wear masks in the classroom. Current guidelines and information on resources available to students can be found at: <https://ready.vt.edu/public-health-guidelines.html>. You can also visit <https://ready.vt.edu/>; <https://ready.vt.edu/faq.html>; and <https://ready.vt.edu/well.html> for additional information and updates. The course will adapt if guidelines change.

Course Outline

Part 1: Concepts and Approaches

January 18 (T)	Class 1	Introduction
January 20 (R)	Class 2	Theory
January 25 (T)	Class 3	Anarchy and Force
January 27 (R)	Class 4	Realism
February 1 (T)	Class 5	Liberalism
February 3 (R)	Class 6	Workshop
February 8 (T)	Class 7	Constructivism
February 10 (R)	Class 8	Critical Studies
February 15 (T)	Class 9	Discussion (Online Synchronous)

Part 2: Hot and Cold Wars

February 17 (R)	Class 10	World War I
February 22 (T)	Class 11	World War II
February 24 (R)	Class 12	Cold War
March 1 (T)	Class 13	Iraq
March 3 (R)	Class 14	Discussion (Online Synchronous)
March 8 – 10	<i>No Class</i>	<i>Spring Break</i>

Part 3: Issues

March 15 (T)	Class 15	Environment
March 17 (R)	Class 16	Economics
March 22 (T)	Class 17	WMD
March 24 (R)	Class 18	Terrorism
March 29 (T)	Class 19	Film (Online Asynchronous)
March 31 (R)	Class 20	Film (Online Asynchronous)
April 5 (T)	Class 21	Humanitarian Intervention
April 7 (R)	Class 22	Health
April 12 (T)	Class 23	Cyber
April 14 (R)	Class 24	Discussion (Online Synchronous)

Part 4: Contemporary Environments

April 19 (T)	Class 25	Asia
April 21 (R)	Class 26	Europe
April 26 (T)	Class 27	Middle East
April 28 (R)	Class 28	A Liberal Order?
May 3 (T)	Class 29	Discussion (Online Synchronous)

Course Reading Schedule

Part 1: Concepts and Approaches

January 18 (T) Class 1. Introduction

- No reading

January 20 (R) Class 2. Theory

- Tom Nichols, "How America Lost Faith in Expertise," *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 96, No. 2 (March/April 2017), pages 60-73,
<https://heinonline.org/HOL/P?h=hein.journals/fora96&i=290>
- * Nate Silver, *The Signal and the Noise*, (New York: Penguin Press, 2012), pages 185-189, 194-197

January 25 (T) Class 3. Anarchy and Force

- * Thucydides, *History of the Peloponnesian War*, pages 400-408 (sections 84-116)
- Tami Davis Biddle, "Coercion Theory: A Basic Introduction for Practitioners," *Texas National Security Review*, Vol. 3, No. 2 (Spring 2020), pages 95-109,
<https://tnsr.org/2020/02/coercion-theory-a-basic-introduction-for-practitioners>

January 27 (R) Class 4. Realism

- AC, Charles L. Glaser, "Realism," pages 13-29 (Chapter 2)

February 1 (T) Class 5. Liberalism

- AC, Patrick Morgan, "Liberalism and Liberal Internationalism," pages 30-46 (Chapter 3)

February 3 (R) Class 6. Workshop

- No reading

February 8 (T) Class 7. Constructivism

- AC, Christine Agius, "Social Constructivism," pages 74-90 (Chapter 6)

Discussion Essay 1 available on Canvas at 3:15pm. Due by beginning of class on February 15.

February 10 (R) Class 8. Critical Studies

- AC, David Mutimer, "Critical Security Studies: A Schematic History," pages 91-110 (Chapter 7)

Reading reaction for Part 1 due by beginning of class. The reading must be from Part 1.

February 15 (T) Class 9. Discussion (Online Synchronous)

- No reading
- Do not come to classroom – join Zoom meeting at start of class:

Online Quiz due by beginning of class. The quiz will be available on Canvas beginning at 2pm on February 14. Once you begin the quiz you will have 45 minutes to complete it. Note the quiz will end at the beginning of class, if you begin the quiz after 1:15pm on February 15 you will not get extra time.

Discussion essay due electronically on Canvas by the beginning of class.

Part 2: Hot and Cold Wars

February 17 (R) Class 10. World War I

- McDonough, *The Origins of the First and Second World Wars*, pages 3-18

February 22 (T) Class 11. World War II

- McDonough, *The Origins of the First and Second World Wars*, pages 43-64, 69-82

February 24 (R) Class 12. Cold War

- John Lewis Gaddis, "The Long Peace: Elements of Stability in the Postwar International System," *International Security*, Vol. 10, No. 4 (1986), pages 99-142, <https://www-jstor-org.ezproxy.lib.vt.edu/stable/2538951>

Discussion Essay 2 available on Canvas at 3:15pm. Due by beginning of class on March 3.

March 1 (T) Class 13. Iraq

- * Hal Brands, "The Dangers of Being Grand: George W. Bush and the Post-9/11 Era," pages 144-189.

Reading reaction for Part 2 due by beginning of class. The reading must be from Part 2.

March 3 (R) Class 14. Discussion (Online Synchronous)

- No Reading
- Do not come to classroom – join Zoom meeting at start of class:

Online Quiz due by beginning of class. The quiz will be available on Canvas beginning at 2pm on March 2. Once you begin the quiz you will have 45 minutes to complete it. Note the quiz will end at the beginning of class on March 3, if you begin the quiz after 1:15pm on March 3 you will not get extra time.

Discussion essay due electronically on Canvas by the beginning of class.

March 8 – 10 No Class Spring Break

Part 3: Issues

March 15 (T) Class 15. Environment

- AC, John Barnett and Geoff Dabelko, "Environmental Security," pages 235-252 (Chapter 16)

March 17 (R) Class 16. Economics

- AC, Gary M. Shiffman, "Economic Security," pages 253-267 (Chapter 17)

March 22 (T) Class 17. WMD

- AC, James J. Wirtz, “Weapons of Mass Destruction,” pages 300-317 (Chapter 20)

March 24 (R) Class 18. Terrorism

- AC, Brenda Lutz and James Lutz, “Terrorism,” pages 318-333 (Chapter 21)

Film questionnaire available on Canvas at 3:15pm.

March 29 (T) Class 19. Film (Online Asynchronous)

- No Reading - Do not come to classroom – watch the film *The Battle of Algiers* on your own time and begin film questionnaire

March 31 (R) Class 20. Film (Online Asynchronous)

- No Reading - Do not come to classroom – watch the film *The Battle of Algiers* on your own time and complete film questionnaire

Film questionnaire due by the end of class.

April 5 (T) Class 21. Humanitarian Intervention

- AC, Alex J. Bellamy and Stephen McLoughlin, “Humanitarian Intervention,” pages 334-349 (Chapter 22)

April 7 (R) Class 22. Health

- AC, Stefan Elbe, “Health and Security,” pages 379-392 (Chapter 25)

Discussion Essay 3 available on Canvas at 3:15pm. Due by beginning of class on April 14.

April 12 (T) Class 23. Cyber

- AC, Myriam Dunn Cavelty, “Cyber-Security,” pages 410-427 (Chapter 27)

Reading reaction for Part 3 due by beginning of class. The reading must be from Part 3.

April 14 (4) Class 24. Discussion (Online Synchronous)

- No Reading
- Do not come to classroom – join Zoom meeting at start of class:

Online Quiz due by beginning of class. The quiz will be available on Canvas beginning at 2pm on April 13. Once you begin the quiz you will have 45 minutes to complete it. Note the quiz will end at the beginning of class on April 14, if you begin the quiz after 1:15pm on April 14 you will not get extra time.

Discussion essay due electronically on Canvas by the beginning of class.

Part 4: Contemporary Environments

April 19 (T) Class 25. Asia

- Jennifer Lind, “Life in China’s Asia,” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 97, No. 2 (Mar/Apr 2018), pages 71-82, <https://heinonline.org/HOL/P?h=hein.journals/fora97&i=289>

- Daniel H. Rosen, “China’s Economic Reckoning: The Price of Failed Reforms,” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 100, No. 4 (Jul/Aug 2021), pages 20-29, <https://heinonline.org/HOL/P?h=hein.journals/fora100&i=694>

April 21 (R) Class 26. Europe

- Robert Kagan, “The New German Question: What Happens When Europe Comes Apart?” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 98, No. 3 (May/Jun 2019), pages 108-121, <https://heinonline.org/HOL/P?h=hein.journals/fora98&i=530>
- Mary E. Sarotte, “Containment Beyond the Cold War: How Washington Lost the Post-Soviet Peace,” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 100, No. 6 (Nov/Dec 2021), pages 22-35, <https://heinonline.org/HOL/P?h=hein.journals/fora100&i=1156>

April 26 (T) Class 27. Middle East

- Marc Lynch, “The Arab Uprisings Never Ended: The Enduring Struggle to Remake the Middle East,” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 100, No. 1 (Jan/Feb 2021), 111-122, <https://heinonline.org/HOL/P?h=hein.journals/fora100&i=113>
- Maha Yahya “The Middle East’s Lost Decades,” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 98, No. 6 (Nov/Dec 2019), pages 48-55, <https://heinonline.org/HOL/P?h=hein.journals/fora98&i=1150>

Discussion Essay 4 available on Canvas at 3:15pm. Due by beginning of class on May 3.

April 28 (R) Class 28. A Liberal Order?

- Graham Allison, “The Myth of the Liberal Order,” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 97, No. 4 (Jul/Aug 2018), pages 124-133, <https://heinonline.org/HOL/P?h=hein.journals/fora97&i=764>
- Alexander Cooley and Daniel H. Nexon, “The Real Crisis of Global Order: Illiberalism on the Rise,” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 101, No. 1 (Jan/Feb 2022), pages 103-118, URL not yet available.
- G. John Ikenberry, “The Next Liberal Order,” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 99, No. 4 (Jul/Aug 2020), pages 133-142, <https://heinonline.org/HOL/P?h=hein.journals/fora99&i=763>

Reading reaction for Part 4 due by beginning of class. The reading must be from Part 4.

May 3 (T) Class 28. Discussion and Quiz (Online Synchronous)

- No Reading
- Do not come to classroom – join Zoom meeting at start of class:

Online Quiz due by beginning of class. The quiz will be available on Canvas beginning at 2pm on May 2. Once you begin the quiz you will have 45 minutes to complete it. Note the quiz will end at the beginning of class on May 3, if you begin the quiz after 1:15pm on May 3 you will not get extra time.

Discussion essay due electronically on Canvas by the beginning of class.