

PSC 403I Section 1: National Security Policy

Spring 2008

Instructor: Dr. Cathy Hanks

Email: Cathy.Hanks@unlv.edu

Office: Wright Hall A218

Phone: 895-3757

Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:30 to 2:15 and Thursdays 8:30 to 9:45

Providing security for its citizens is a primary function of government. This course will explore how the United States government is organized to carry out that function, the theoretical and practical underpinning of the choices it makes, successes and failures of those choices, and challenges facing the United States in the post-9/11 world.

Course Books and Readings

- Sam Sarkesian, John Williams, and Stephen Cimbala. U.S. National Security: Policymakers, Processes, and Politics 4th edition (Lynne Rienner Publishers, 2008)

In addition to this text, there will be readings available on reserve at the Lied Library, on the Internet, or on the class WebCampus site.

Requirements

1. Attendance: Regular class attendance is required. More than two unexcused absences will result in a reduction of a full letter grade for the course grade. Absences will be excused in only the most serious of circumstances (such as hospitalization or a death in the immediate family) and will require appropriate documentation.
2. Readings: You are required to prepare for each class by completing the assigned readings. This will enable you to both participate in class discussions and benefit from the lecture material and other students' views.
3. Current Events: Discussions of current events related to national security are an integral part of this course. A reliable and credible source of news should be consulted on a daily basis. Examples of appropriate sources are *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *L.A. Times*, or *Wall Street Journal*, either in print or online.
5. Examinations: There will be two exams, one at approximately mid-semester and the other during exam week. Make-up exams for the first exam will be given only with formal documentation of a serious illness or emergency. There will be no make-up exam for the second examination.
6. Research Papers: Each student will be required to complete two research papers. Guidelines will be provided in a separate handout.

Grading

Examinations (2@20% each)	40%
Research Paper: Use of Military Force	30%
Research Paper: County-specific Policy	30%

90% - 100% = A

70% - 79% = C

below 60% = F

80% - 89% = B

60% - 69% = D

Academic Integrity

“Academic integrity is a legitimate concern for every member of the campus community; all share in upholding the fundamental values of honesty, trust, respect, fairness, responsibility and professionalism. By choosing to join the UNLV community, students accept the expectations of the Academic Misconduct Policy and are encouraged when faced with choices to always take the ethical path.” - *Student Academic Misconduct Policy*

For this course, any attempt to cheat on an examination or to present someone else’s work (including material copied from the Internet) as your own for a written assignment will be subject to the most severe penalty the University allows.

Class Interruptions

Please keep interruptions once class begins to a minimum. Cell phones and pagers must be turned off and late arrivals and early departures avoided.

Religious Holidays and Extracurricular Activities

If the date of any of the examinations conflicts with a religious holiday that you observe or an official extracurricular activity, please notify the instructor at least 2 weeks prior to the examination and for extracurricular activities provide official written notification no less than 1 week prior to the examination so that alternative arrangements can be made.

Writing Center and Other Student Assistance

One-on-one or small group assistance with writing is available free of charge to students at the Writing Center, located in CDC-301. Although some drop-in times are sometimes available, students with appointments will receive priority assistance. Appointments may be made in person or by calling (702) 895-3908. When you go to your appointment, please bring a copy of your assignment and two copies of any writing that you may have completed on it. One copy will be for you to use, and the second copy will be for the consultant to use. Another source of information on UNLV organizations whose purpose is to support students' academic activities, a short description of their function, and contact information can be found at http://tlc.unlv.edu/student_success.htm

Disabilities

UNLV complies with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and offers reasonable accommodations to qualified students with documented disabilities. If you have a documented disability that may require accommodations, you will need to contact the DRC for the coordination of services. The DRC is located in the Student Services Complex (SSC), Room 137, and the contact numbers are: VOICE (702) 895-0866, TTY (702) 895-0652, FAX (702) 895-0651. For additional information, please visit: <http://studentlife.unlv.edu/disability/>.

Class Schedule

The examination dates and due dates for assignments on the following schedule are firm; dates of specific topics are estimates.

Date	Topic	Readings	
		Sarkesian	Assignment Due
25-Jan	Class Introduction		
	Introduction to National Security	1, 2, 3	
1-Feb	I. NSP Participants		Research Paper #1 Topic Due
	A. The Presidency and Executive Office of the President	4, 5	
	B. National Security Council and Staff		
	C. State Department		
8-Feb	D. Department of Defense	6, 7	
	Review of MLA format		
15-Feb	E. Intelligence Community	8	Research Paper #1 "Works Cited" and first three pages of text
	F. Covert Operations		
22-Feb	G. Other Executive Branch Agencies		
	H. Legislative Branch		
29-Feb	I. International Organization and Alliances		
	J. President and Congress	10	
7-Mar	Iran Contra		Research Paper #1 due
14-Mar	First Exam		
21-Mar	Spring Break		
28-Mar	K. Public Interaction	11	Research Paper #2 Topic Due
	L. The Policy Process	9	
4-Apr	II. Nuclear Weapons	14	
11-Apr	III. Just War Theory		
18-Apr	VII. Current Strategies		
25-Apr	VIII. Post-9/11 Challenges	13	Research Paper #2 Due
2-May	IX. Interactions with Other Policies and Issues		
9-May	Capstone Discussion		
16-May	2nd Exam (3:10 pm)		