Draft date: 1 July 2017

Syllabus will be revised and updated periodically during the semester.

PUBP 505
Politics and Practice of International Security Policy
Fall 2017
Wednesdays, 7:20 – 10:00 PM

Instructor: Professor Ellen Laipson
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Office Hours: T/W/Th 4-6 pm

Course Description:

This class is a core course in the master’s program in international security. Drawing on current and historical cases, the course provides deep understanding about how policies about international security are conceptualized, decided and implemented. For three of the cases, students will examine in depth the interests and decision making of the non-US actors; most of the course will focus on US policymaking.

Course Goals:

Effective participation in international security analysis and policy action requires a range of skills. Individuals must be able to assess and evaluate the threat environment and the drivers of international security challenges and crises. They must understand how decisions are made, and what are the constraints on decision makers, from domestic and international sources. They also need to address how strategies are developed, and what mechanisms monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of various strategies. The course is intended to provide a solid foundation for further study of specific challenges in international security, and particular capabilities for government to respond to those challenges.

Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this course, students should have acquired:

- fundamental knowledge about the institutions and processes that comprise the US national security system
- improved understanding of the evolution of the threat environment that sets the international security policy agenda
improved critical reasoning skills regarding the decision making process and the motivations and behavior of participants in domestic and international security forums
expanded skills in communicating in written and oral formats about major international security issues
enhanced ability to work collaboratively

Course Materials

The course will draw on case studies available on line and for purchase from the Harvard Kennedy School and the Georgetown Institute for the Study of Diplomacy, supplemented by think tank essays and monographs and other online materials.

http://case.hks.harvard.edu/

Case 279.0 Kennedy and the Bay of Pigs
Case 298/299 Korea and the Thirties, A/B
Case 494.0 Verdun and Versailles
Case 1264 The Gulf Crisis: Building a Coalition for War
Case 1356 Getting to Dayton: Negotiating an End to the War in Bosnia

http://isd-georgetown-university.myshopify.com

Case 125.0 The US and the Cuban Revolution, 1958-60
Case 188.0 The 1940 Destroyer Deal with Great Britain
Additional cases to be assigned

In addition, here are four recommended books on three of the cases we will consider: 1) Suez Crisis of 1956; 2) Cuba/Bay of Pigs/Missile Crisis; and 3) North Korean Missile Crisis and the Six Party Process. Students should select at least two of these, and orient their papers to the topics on which they are doing extensive reading.

Suez:

Warriors at Suez: Eisenhower Takes America into the Middle East, by Donald Neff (Linden Press, 1981)

Ike’s Gamble: America’s Rise to Dominance in the Middle East, by Michael Doran (Free Press, 2016)

Cuba:

North Korea:

**Strategic Thinking about the Korean Nuclear Crisis**: Four Parties Caught between North Korea and the United States, by Gilbert Rozman (Palgrave MacMillan, 2007)

**Requirements and Grading:**

Class members are required to complete all assigned readings prior to class meetings; to class prepared to participate fully and thoughtfully, to contribute constructively to discussions and exercises, and to complete all required writing assignments prior to the beginning of class meetings. Writing assignments will be framed either as brief policy memos based on case materials, or as analytic comparisons of two or more cases, or two or more conceptual or operational problems.

Grading for the class will break down roughly as follows:

- Participation in class discussion: 50%
- Individual Policy Memos (2): 30%
- Group Policy Memos (2): 20%

Course grading is not a curve; class members are not competing with each other for marks. Course members are encouraged to work collaboratively, even though two papers will be individual authored, and two as a group exercise.

**Academic Accommodations for a Disability:**

If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the Office of Disability Services (ODS) at 703-993-2474. All academic accommodations must be arranged through the ODS.

**Schar School Policy on Plagiarism:**

The following is Schar School policy on plagiarism:

“The faculty of the Schar School takes plagiarism seriously and has adopted a zero tolerance policy. Any plagiarized assignment will receive an automatic grade of F. This may lead to failure for the course, resulting in dismissal from the University. This dismissal will be noted on the student’s transcript. For foreign students who are on a university sponsored visa (e.g., F-1, J-1, J-2), dismissal also results in the revocation of their visa.

To help enforce the Schar School policy on plagiarism, all written work submitted in partial fulfillment of course or degree requirements must be available in electronic form so that it can be compared with electronic databases, as well as submitted to
commercial services to which the School subscribes. Faculty may at any time submit student’s work without prior permission from the student. Individual instructors may require that written work be submitted in electronic as well as printed form. The Schar School policy on plagiarism is supplementary to the George Mason University Honor Codes; it is not intended to replace it or substitute for it. (http://www.gmu.edu/facstaff/handbook)

**Schedule:**

1. **August 30**: Overview of International Security Institutions, Processes and Proposals for Reform

   The National Security Act of 1947  

   Recent Reform Proposals  
   [https://www.brookings.edu/research/a-new-nsc-for-a-new-administration/](https://www.brookings.edu/research/a-new-nsc-for-a-new-administration/)  

2. **September 6**: Security after World War II

   HKS Case Study Verdun and Versailles
   Georgetown Case Study 1940 Destroyer Deal

3. **September 13**: The Bay of Pigs, Part One

   G’town Case Study  The US and the Cuban Revolution, 1958-1960
   HKS 279.0  Kennedy and the Bay of Pigs

4. **September 20**: The Cuban Missile Crisis

   Essence of Decision, Graham Allison and Philip Zelikow

5. **September 27**: Korean War

   HKS Case Study Korea and the Thirties Parts A/B

   First Paper Due - individual

6. **October 4**: Six Party Talks
Reading Gilbert Rozman, Strategic Thinking about the Korean Nuclear Crisis (Palgrave MacMillan 2007)

Plus online articles to be assigned

7. October 11: Suez Crisis
two books (Neff and Doran)

8. October 18: Suez Crisis

Second Paper Due – group

9. October 25: Desert Storm

HKS 1264.0 The Gulf Crisis: Building a Coalition for War

10. November 1: Bosnia

HKS 1356 Getting to Dayton
G’town Ivo Daalder’s Dayton

Third Paper due - Individual

11. November 8: Iran Nuclear Negotiations
readings to be assigned later

12. November 15 – will need to be rescheduled

13. November 29 -

Fourth paper due – group papers and presentations

14. December 6: Revisiting the NSC and Institutional Issues, Final Discussion