This course is one of the required core courses for ISEC students. It provides a bridge between the conceptual study of international relations and international security as a subfield of IR, and applies that knowledge to contemporary issues. Historically the field has focused on the phenomenon of war; we will consider the wars as well as a spectrum of issues including coercion, the threat of force, and the deployment of militaries in contingencies other than war.

Among the topics to be covered in this course are:

- post-WWII strategic thinking – definitions and setting course objectives
- strategic policies from the dawn of the nuclear age
- the Vietnam war and the limits of conventional force
- small wars, civil wars, and peace operations
- counterinsurgency – theory and practice
- post-Cold War strategic concepts
- terrorism and wars in Afghanistan and Iraq
- nuclear issues revisited in the 21st century
- rise of China and a new Cold War?
- The international “order” in the 21st century

The course will progress along these themes in roughly chronological order. All students will read the essential readings of four books and 15-20 major journal articles and official government documents. In addition, students will be assigned oral briefings on selected supplementary readings.

The goals of the course are multi-faceted:

1) To ensure that students are familiar with the broad evolution of security concepts and major events that dominated and drove US national security policies from World War II to the present.
2) To provide students an opportunity to build their own voice, their own analytic views about how to define and bound the field of international security, to explore what emerging 21st century challenges belong inside or outside the study of international security.
3) To develop students’ analytic skills and written and oral communications for application in the workplace.
Online Course Approach

This course is entirely online, and will utilize several Blackboard tools. The rhythm of each week and each topic will be as follows:

Formal Class time is **Tuesdays at 7:30 pm**. Students are expected to be available with audio and video capacity to participate for 90 minute sessions. You can inform the professor privately by email if there are any impediments to your ability to fully participate.

Course content will be posted on **Wednesdays**. I will use **BB Course Content and BB Discussion Boards** to provide you short video lectures, links to various writings and media sources, and the assigned readings. Students should work at their own pace to read and watch assigned materials, and post **200-300 word responses to questions posed**. (These posted responses are part of your “participation” grade, along with oral class discussions. The posts need to be completed **before** the Tuesday class time.)

**The Tuesday class on screen will be the culmination of each topic**, and students will be expected to be familiar with the readings and be ready to actively engage in discussion on the topic. Tuesday classes will end with a short preview of the next topic.

On at least three occasions, a portion of our Tuesday meetings will involve small group discussions. Students will be divided into groups of five to work together on various topics, and present them to the full class, all via the BB Collaborate Ultra technology. If desired, groups can meet on Collaborate at other times if coordinated with the professor.

Requirements for grading will include:
One Quiz on readings (15%)
One Analytic Paper (25%)
Class Participation and Oral Presentations (40%)
Final Exam (20%)

Readings

**BOOKS**

**Required:**

*American Force: Dangers, Delusions and Dilemmas in National Security*, by Richard Betts
Columbia University Press 2012

*Asia’s Latent Nuclear Powers: Japan, South Korea and Taiwan*, by Mark Fitzpatrick
Routledge, IISS, 2016

*Coercive Inducement*, by Donald Daniels and Bradd Hayes, USIP, 1999
Military Coercion and US Foreign Policy: The Use of Force Short of War, Edited by Melanie Sisson, James Siebens and Barry Blechman, Routledge Global Security Studies, 2020

Suggested: Students should plan to read at least one additional full-length study in preparation for the analytic paper

Why we Lost: A General’s Inside Account of the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars, by Daniel Bolger
First Mariners Book, paperback 2015

Basic Books, 1990


Ghost Wars OR Directorate S, by Steve Coll. (both about the war on terrorism and Afghanistan)

How Wars End: Why we Always Fight the Last Battle, by Gideon Rose
Simon and Schuster, paperback 2011

Learning to Eat Soup with a Knife: Counterinsurgency Lessons from Malaya and Vietnam, by John Nagl, University of Chicago, paperback edition 2005

The Marines: Counterinsurgency and Strategic Culture, by Jeannie Johnson
Georgetown University Press, 2018

ARTICLES, MONOGRAPHS, REPORTS (Selected)

Thomas Schelling, “Controlled Response and Strategic Warfare,” Adelphi Paper 19 (1965)
Reprinted in IISS volume The Evolution of Strategic Thought 2008


Session One: January 26, 2021

Introduction, Overview, Definitions
Readings:
Betts, Chapters 1 and 2
Walt, 1991

Our first class will be a general discussion of the goals of the course and an introduction to some basic concepts of international security; readings should be done before the onscreen class.

Session Two: February 2, 2021

The Dawn of the Nuclear Age
Readings:
Schelling (1965)
Steinbruner (1978)

We will do a broad-brush review of the early development of nuclear weapons strategy, including reading some of the seminal works on deterrence and mutually assured destruction. Before class, students will have additional material and a short video lecture available on BB – check Discussion Board and Course Content each week.

Session Three: February 9, 2021
Vietnam
Readings:
Students will be divided into groups of five. Each group will be assigned different readings, to be done BEFORE Sept. 8...on Collaborate on Sept 8, you will have 30 minutes to discuss in your small groups, and three groups will then brief the readings to the full class.
The first three topics are: Historical Background, Presidential Decisions and Dilemmas, and Military Issues.

**Sessions Four: February 16, 2021**

*Vietnam Continued*

The other three groups will brief their material to the full class. Topics are: Diplomacy and War Termination, Media/Information/Intelligence Issues, and Strategic Effects of the War.

**Session Five: February 23, 2021**

*Small Wars, Civil Wars, Peace Operations*

There will be a short quiz on the readings of the first month. To be held in class for 45 minutes.

There will also be a guest speaker to address the evolution of international policy on peace operations.

**Readings:**
Betts, 3
Daniels and Hayes, chapters 1, 2 and 7 PLUS one of the case studies (your choice)
Durch, in Military Coercion, Chapter 6

**Session Six: March 2, 2021**

*Counterinsurgency*

**Readings:**
Nagl, book or article in smallwarsjournal.com
US Army Manual on CI
Betts, 6

**Session Seven: March 9, 2021**

*End of the Cold War*

Kaplan
Mathews
Betts, 2

**Session Eight: March 16, 2021    NO ON SCREEN CLASS**
No readings for this week. You have time to work on your paper, due to professor by 11:59 PM on 3/16

PAPER  7-10 page analytic paper
Possible topics – to be cleared with professor in advance
- A broad conceptual issue tested against a particular case
- Intersection of politics, diplomacy, and use of force...could be war termination, peace negotiations, post-conflict policy
- Discussion of 21st century security challenges as reflected in the QDR, QDDR, QHSR

Sessions Nine and Ten: March 23 and March 30

Iraq and Afghanistan – lessons?
Readings:
Betts 7
Reconvening Small Groups for Discussions on Iraq and Afghanistan and Aftermath
More detail in Discussion Board
Groups D, E and F will present on October 20
Groups A, B and C will present on October 27

Session Eleven: April 6

Nuclear Issues Revisited
Readings:
Fitzpatrick on Latent Nuclear Powers in Asia
Think tank reports to be assigned on DPRK, Iran, others
Guest Speaker

Session Twelve: April 13

Rise of China? Asia as new Strategic Arena
Readings:
Military Coercion book. Chapters 8 and 9
Betts, 8 and 10

Session Thirteen: April 20

The International Order Debate
Readings:
Kagan
Others to be assigned
Wrap up Discussion and Review for Final Exam
FINAL EXAM Take home due May 4