

SEC 6302 Introduction to Security Studies

Course Description/Overview

Introduction

Security, along with food and shelter, is the primary need of a human being. In the world of economic scarcities, the craving for security in many cases led to further insecurities. Peace has always been in stake in our volatile world full of struggle for survival. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the history, as it seemed, took a peaceful turn. Bipolar rivalry was over making the end of the seemingly inevitable nuclear holocaust threat. Common values, such as human rights, free market economy and sovereignty started spreading beyond the state borders decreasing the violence between the countries. At first glance, we are living now in a more peaceful world than ever before, but are we more secure...?

The course "Introduction to Security Studies" introduces key concepts and approaches in the study of security. It covers the history, evolution, development and future of international security. During the course the students will learn about many of the theoretical approaches and debates relating to world politics starting from the ancient times to modern settings, national and international security institutions, and regional security complexes. The course deals with many of the theoretical works in the field as well as numerous case studies that concern national security issues that impact current world politics and international security. The studies will also include the origination and causes of wars, role of force in international relations, deterrence and coercion (in both theory and practice), diplomacy and international dynamics, and current threats to national and global security, such as terrorism.

Course Description

The main aim of the course is to create within the group of the students a better-structured vision and improved understanding of national and international security issues. We will embark on our journey in the field of security studies with the key conceptual and theoretical debates. The course will make the students able to interpret key texts from the history of international politics and to grasp the basic security concepts, such as deterrence, pre-emptive/preventive strike, bipolarity, WMD, MAD, security regimes, societal security and many more.

Click this link for a [printable version of the syllabus](#).

Course Textbooks

Required Texts: See Course Bibliography and Required Readings.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

Objectives: As a result of completing this course, you will be able to:

Gain an in-depth knowledge of the theoretical bases of national and international security

Develop an understanding of the main concepts and terminology of national and international security

Know the history, evolution, and current aspects of security studies

Understand and independently analyze modern security challenges

Be able to identify current trends in security studies

Be able to conduct independent research on the topics of national and international security

Graduate Institutional Learning Goals

Graduate Institutional Learning Goals reflect the mission of the University through a focus on specific areas of student learning. Individual departments, programs, and services will provide opportunities and support, where appropriate, for students to attain the skills and dispositions identified by the University as essential to education.

1. Master Knowledge and Skills

Students will:

- Demonstrate advanced knowledge, skills, and values appropriate to the discipline.

2. Demonstrate the ability to work as individual researchers/scholars as well as in collaboration with others.

- Demonstrate the ability to be creative, critical thinkers with the ability to apply new technologies as appropriate to the discipline.

3. Master Communication and Dissemination

Students will:

- Be required to demonstrate advanced oral and written communication skills, as appropriate, to the discipline.
- Demonstrate global perspectives appropriate to the discipline.

4. Master Leadership and Social Responsibility

Students will:

- Comprehend and practice the ethical principles appropriate to the discipline.
- Understand and value individual differences and have the skills for working effectively in a diverse, changing world.

Program/Student Learning Outcomes (PLO/SLO)

Communication

Students will demonstrate a mastery of communication skills with the professor and with fellow classmates, through graded, guided discussions, and written skills through a mastery of written assignments, as applied to global and regional knowledge necessary to attain skills in the field of security studies.

Cultural Appreciation

Students will demonstrate, comprehend, and practice, in the context of the global and regional geopolitical environment, cultural appreciation regarding how individuals and diverse societies/nation States interact with one another, and gain a thorough, demonstrated knowledge of the skills necessary to work effectively in a diverse international environment, and show this ability through the successful completion of active, graded discussions, and written assignments

Advanced Knowledge and Critical Thinking

Students will demonstrate an ability to apply advanced knowledge and critical thinking to national and international security as it applies to both issues and world regions, and show this ability through the successful completion of active, graded discussions, and written assignments

Grading Policies

During the course the students are expected to fully participate in discussions on the above themes via answering week-specific questions and preparing individual Power-point presentations. Effectiveness of comprehension of the course material will be evaluated by the quality of written assignments (a first and a final essay), participation in discussions, and presentations.

Grading of the course consists of the following components:

Assignment	Percent of Grade	Due	Note
Engaged participation (discussion)	20%	Weekly	The instructor will select a weekly discussion from the list of 3-4 questions, which students are expected to cover using the Blackboard tool during their discussions. The length of the primary posting should be approximately 300 words. There are no discussion questions for the weeks with PowerPoint presentations, first essay exam, and final essay exam.
Individual PowerPoint presentations	20%	Sunday of Lesson 2 by 2100 hrs. CST.	Each student is expected to come up with a 10-15 slide presentation on the topics of weekly readings covered so far with relevant annotations to each slide. Presentations should be based on the required readings as well as any additional materials the students find appropriate.
First essay exam	20%	Sunday of Lesson 4 by 2100 hrs. CST.	The first essay exam is meant to evaluate understanding of the topics covered as well as specific terms and their applications in the field of national and international security. The students will be offered a list of six short essay questions out of which they shall chose two. The total length of the first essay exam should be approximately 6-8 pages.

Final essay exam	40%	Wednesday of Lesson 8 by 2100 hrs. CST.	The final essay exam is the key requirement for the course that reflects analytical efforts of the students to independently conduct social science research. The final essay exam serves as an important exercise in how to design an independent social science research project. The students will be offered a list of three essay questions out of which they shall chose one. The total length of the final essay exam should be approximately 12-15 pages and should include individual efforts of a student to cover the issues identified during the course.
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Angelo State University employs a letter grade system. Grades in this course are determined on a percentage scale:

- A = 90 – 100 %
- B = 80 – 89 %
- C = 70 – 79 %
- D = 60 - 69 %
- F = 59 % and below.

Course Organization:

Lesson 1:Power, politics and human nature in international security. Origins of wars introduces the topic of national and international security.

Lesson 2:Strategic foundations of modern warfare covers evolution of the strategic and tactical aspects of warfare.

Lesson 3:Theoretical bases of security studies: Realism, Liberalism and Social Constructivism discusses the viewpoint of the key theoretical schools of thought on national and international security.

Lesson 4:Use of force in international affairs and its limits talks about the application of international legal and moral principles and standards to the power discourse in politics.

Lesson 5: Cold-War threats to security. Balance of Power, Deterrence, Containment and Nuclear rivalry views the international security from the prism of bipolar rivalry.

Lesson 6: Post-Cold War threats to national/international security. "New" wars, terrorism, internal conflicts presents contemporary threats and challenges to the national security of state and global peace.

Lesson 7: Coping with challenges: the US national security process reviews domestic efforts of the US to deal with looming insecurities.

Lesson 8: Coping with challenges: international security in a globalized world outlines the efforts of the international community to deal with contemporary threats

Course Bibliography and Required Readings:

Lesson 1: Power, politics, and human nature in international security. Origins of wars.

Required readings

Thucydides, [History of the Peloponnesian War](#), Book II: "Pericles' Funeral Oration"; Book Three: "The Mytilenian Debate"; Book V: "The Melian Dialogue".

Saint Augustine, The City of God, [Book XII](#), chap. 22-23 (on human nature) [Book XV](#), Chapter 4 and [Book XIX](#), chaps. 11-13 (on peace).

Hobbes, T. 1651. [Leviathan](#). Chapter 10. Of Power, Worth, Dignity, Honour, And Worthinesse; Chapter 13: On the Natural Condition of Mankind as Concerning their Felicity and Misery; Chapter 14: Of The First And Second Naturall Lawes, And Of Contract and Chapter 15: Of Other Lawes Of Nature.

Waltz, K.N. 1959. [Man, the State and War](#). A Theoretical Analysis. Columbia University Press, The First Image: International Conflict and Human Behavior, 1-16.

Lesson 2: Strategic foundations of warfare.

Required readings

Sun Tzu, 2010. [The Art of War](#). Simon & Brown.

von Clausewitz, Carl. [On War](#), Book I: On The Nature of War, and Book III: On Strategy In General.

Hundley, R. 1999. [Past Revolutions, Future Transformations. What Can the History of Revolutions in Military Affairs Tell Us About Transforming the U.S. Military](#) 

RAND publications. Chapter II: The Characteristics of Revolutions in Military Affairs

Young, M.B. 2009. [Limited War, Unlimited](#). Library of Congress Webcast

Scales, R. H, Jr. 1999. *Firepower in Limited War* . National Defense University Press. Chapter 6: Firepower in Future Limited War, 235-248.

Lesson 3: Theoretical bases of security studies: Realism, Liberalism and Social Constructivism.

Required readings

Realism: it's all about power

Morgenthau, H.J. '[Six Principles of Political Realism](#)' 

Robert J. Art and Robert Jervis (eds.) 2009. *International Politics*. Pearson Education Ltd., 7-14.

Art, R.J. '[The Four Functions of Force](#)' 

Robert J. Art and Robert Jervis (eds.) 2009. *International Politics*. Pearson Education Ltd., 131-138.

Liberalism: it's all about peace.

Russett, B. '[Democratic Theory and Its Effects](#)' In Kaufman 

D.J., Parker, J.M., Howell, P. V., Doty, G.R. (eds.) 2004. *Understanding International Relations. The Value of Alternative Lenses*. McGraw Hill, 375-394.

Nye, J.S. and Keohane, R.O. 1971. [Transnational Relations and World Politics: An Introduction, in International Organization](#) , 25 (3), Transnational Relations and World Politics, 329-349.

Constructivism: it all depends...

Wendt. A. 1992. [Anarchy Is What States Make of It](#) 

International Organization, 46(2), 391-425.

Legro, J.W. 1996. [Culture and Preferences in the International Cooperation Two-Step](#) 

The American Political Science Review, 90(1), 118-137

Lesson 4: Use of force in international affairs and its limits

Required readings

Morgenthau, H. [Politics among Nations](#) 

The Struggle for Power and Peace. Alfred A. Knopf. Chapter 16: International morality.

[The Geneva Conventions](#)

[Introduction to the Law of Armed Conflict](#) 

Basic Knowledge, ICRC, 2002.

Fixdal, M. and Smith, D. 1998. [Humanitarian Intervention and Just War](#), *Mershon International Studies Review*, 42(2), 283-312.

UN Charter, [Chapter VII](#) Action With Respect To Threats To The Peace, Breaches Of The Peace, And Acts Of Aggression.

Lesson 5: Cold- War threats to security. Balance of Power, Deterrence, Containment and Nuclear rivalry.

Required readings

Jervis, R. 1978. [Cooperation under the Security Dilemma](#), in *World Politics*, 30(2), 167-214.

Morgenthau, H. J. ' [The Balance of Power](#) 

In Kaufman, D.J., Parker, J.M., Howell, P. V., Doty, G.R. (eds.) 2004. *Understanding International Relations. The Value of Alternative Lenses*. McGraw Hill, 237-258.

Nalebuff, B. 1988. [Minimal Nuclear Deterrence](#), in *The Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 32(3), pp. 411-425.

Lesson 6: Post-Cold War threats to national/international security. "New" wars, terrorism, internal conflicts.

Required readings

Dannreuther, R. 2008. [International Security](#) 

The Contemporary Agenda. Polity Press. Chapter 2: Thinking about Security after the Cold War, 13-33.

Kaldor, M. 2001. [New and Old Wars: Organized Violence in a Global Era](#) 

Oxford: Blackwell, Chapters 1, 2 and 3, 1-68.

Posen, B. 1993. [The Security Dilemma and Ethnic Conflict](#), in *Survival*, 35(1), 27-47.

Roe, P. 1999. [The Intrastate Security Dilemma: Ethnic Conflict as a 'Tragedy'?](#) in *Journal of Peace Research*, 36(2), 183-202.

Kegley, C.W. Jr. (ed.) 2003. [The New Global Terrorism. Characteristics, Causes, Controls.](#) 

Prentice Hall. *The Characteristics, Causes, and Control of the New Global Terrorism: An Introduction*, 1-14; Chapter 7: *The Mysteries of the New Global Terrorism: Old Myth, New Realities?* 84-91; Chapter 11: *Postmodern Terrorism*, 151-159.

Chakravorti, R. 1994. [Terrorism: Past, Present and Future](#). *Economic and Political Lessons*, 29(36), 2340-2343.

Lesson 7: Coping with challenges: US national security process

Required readings

Jordan, A.A., Taylor, W.T.Jr. et al. 1981. [American National Security. Policy and Process](#) 

The Johns Hopkins University Press. Chapter II: National Security Policy: Actors and Processes, esp. 93-195.

Doyle, R. 2007. [The U.S. National Security Strategy: Policy, Process, Problems](#), in Public Administration Review, 624-629.

[US National Security Strategy 2002](#)

[US National Security Strategy 2015](#)

[US National Security Strategy 2017](#) 

[Combating Terrorism](#). Interagency Framework and Agency Programs to Address the Overseas Threat, Government Accountability Office, 2003, especially 53-88.

Lesson 8: Coping with challenges: international security in a globalized world.

Required readings

Schachter, O. ' [Sovereignty and Threats to Peace](#) 

Weiss, T.G. (ed.) 1993. Collective Security in a Changing World. Lynne Reiner Publishers, 19-44.

Frederking, B. 2003. [Constructing Post-Cold War Collective Security](#), in The American Political Science Review, 97(3), 363-378.

Nalbandov, R. 2009. [Foreign Interventions in Ethnic Conflicts](#). Ashgate Publishing. Introduction, 1-9; Chapter 1: Theories of Third-party Intervention, 9-24.

Claude, I.L. ' [Collective Security as Approach to Peace](#) 

Kaufman, D.J., Parker, J.M., Howell, P. V., Doty, G.R. (eds.) 2004. Understanding International Relations. The Value of Alternative Lenses. McGraw Hill, 353-364.

Communication

Office Hours/Contacting the Instructor

See the Instructor Information section for contact information.

University Policies

Academic Integrity

Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding and complying with the university [Academic Honor Code](#) and the [ASU Student Handbook](#).

Accommodations for Disability

ASU is committed to the principle that no qualified individual with a disability shall, on the basis of disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied the benefits of the services, programs or activities of the university, or be subjected to discrimination by the university, as provided by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), the Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments of 2008 (ADAAA), and subsequent legislation.

Student Affairs is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability, and it is the student's responsibility to initiate such a request by emailing studentservices@angelo.edu, or by contacting:

Office of Student Affairs
University Center, Suite 112
325-942-2047 Office
325-942-2211 FAX

Blackboard Ally is a new tool available in your Blackboard courses. Ally can be used to download your course files in formats that match your device and needs. Select the dropdown icon next to your course files and select "Alternative Formats." Learn more by visiting the [Blackboard Help for Students](#).

Student absence for religious holidays

A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.

Title IX at Angelo State University

Angelo State University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from sex discrimination of any kind. In accordance with Title VII, Title IX, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), the Campus Sexual Violence Elimination Act (SaVE), and other federal and state laws, the University prohibits discrimination based on sex, which includes pregnancy, and other types of Sexual Misconduct. Sexual Misconduct is a broad term encompassing all forms of gender-based harassment or discrimination and unwelcome behavior of a sexual nature. The term includes sexual harassment, nonconsensual sexual contact, nonconsensual sexual intercourse, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, stalking, public indecency, interpersonal violence (domestic violence or dating violence), sexual

violence, and any other misconduct based on sex. You are encouraged to report any incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Office of Title IX Compliance and the Director of Title IX Compliance/Title IX Coordinator, Michelle Boone, J.D. You may submit reports in the following manner: Online: www.angelo.edu/incident-form Face to Face: Mayer Administration Building, Room 210 Phone: 325-942-2022 E-Mail: michelle.boone@angelo.edu Note, as a faculty member at Angelo State, I am a mandatory reporter and must report incidents involving sexual misconduct to the Title IX Coordinator. Should you wish to speak to someone in confidence about an issue, you may contact the University Counseling Center (325-942-2371), the 24-Hour Crisis Helpline (325-486-6345), or the University Health Clinic (325-942-2171). For more information about resources related to sexual misconduct, Title IX, or Angelo State's policy please visit: www.angelo.edu/title-ix.