

Classes Mondays, 12:00- 14:50 Room: 8.319	Office Hours W, 14:00-17:00 Room: 8.502 Tel: 7172-704-4742 nicola.contessi@nu.edu.kz
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**PLS 457 – International Security and Conflict**  
Syllabus

Nicola Contessi, PhD

*Overview and Objectives*

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This is an advanced undergraduate seminar in the field of international security. By the end of the semester you will be familiar with major theoretical perspectives on security; and able to use them to analyze key substantive issues in the field. Starting from a multifaceted conceptualization of international security and an overview of the three main theoretical perspectives, we will examine key issues ranging from coercive diplomacy to the conduct of war. We will survey important issues in security policy like nuclear strategy and deterrence, sanctions and coercive diplomacy, the onset of war, collective security and multilateralism, alliances, civil wars, terrorism, intervention.

*Contents*

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Definitions and Concept ♦ Theoretical Perspectives: Self-help, Cooperation, Community ♦ Leaders, perception and misperception ♦ Great Power Politics ♦ Nuclear Weapons ♦ Coercive Diplomacy ♦ Terrorism ♦ International Intervention ♦ International Organizations and Security ♦ Insurgency and Counterinsurgency ♦ The Onset of War

*Evaluation*

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**Class Attendance and Participation (15%)**

This course is a senior seminar. Your grade will be partly determined by your presence to scheduled classes and active participation in classroom discussions throughout the semester.

Evaluation Criteria:
• You take part in weekly discussions in a pertinent fashion and masters the assigned literature.

**Oral Presentation (15%)**

You will deliver an oral presentation on a topic related to the program of study of about 15-20 minutes and answer a 10 minutes Q & A session. You must use PPT slides to illustrate your topic. The presentation must not be a summary of the weekly readings and must be based on your own independent research on the subject. You are required to upload your slideshow into Moodle after the presentation for your course mates. Students are required to sign up for their preferred date on Moodle.

Evaluation Criteria:
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The problem is well stated and its multiple facets are laid bare.</li><li>• The language and the presentation are clear and articulate.</li><li>• Pertinence of the arguments.</li></ul> |
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**Midterm Exam (40%)**

Students will be presented with a set of three questions on any topic covered during the course prior to the exam date. Students will have 170 minutes to answer only one of the three questions. No references or notes are allowed. The answer must be developed in essay form. The Midterm will be held in week 10 (**Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup>**).

Evaluation Criteria:
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The answer is well written and touches upon most aspects of the question as treated in the literature or the lectures.</li><li>• Extra points are given if the response goes beyond classroom materials.</li><li>• Accuracy of language and spelling.</li></ul> |
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**Quizzes (30%)**

Three short quizzes of 30 minutes each will be administered in weeks 5, 9 and 15. Each test is weighed at 10% of the grade and will be in the form of Q&A and/or multiple-choice questionnaires. The class will continue as scheduled at the conclusion of the quiz.

Evaluation Criteria:
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The answers provided are correct and clear</li><li>• The prose is succinct and to the point.</li></ul> |
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## *Course Policies*

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**Disabilities:** If you have a certified disability that may impair your performance in the course, please come to my office hours to discuss what type of accommodation you may require.

**Written Expression:** The quality of written English constitutes an underlying evaluation criterion. Students are reminded to proofread their documents for spelling, syntax or grammar mistakes prior to submission. You are also encouraged to consult the Writing Center to improve your writing skills.

**Consultation:** During office hours and by appointment

**Technology:** While every effort to stay apace of technological change is greatly encouraged, devices like tablets, smart and dumb phones are not permitted in this class. You may use laptops for the sole purpose of taking notes, and your Wi-Fi connection must be turned off during classes. However, note taking in handwriting is strongly encouraged. Emailing, browsing, gaming, tweeting, social networking and other online activities are strictly prohibited and will be treated as misconduct.

**Academic Integrity:** All students are expected to honor the university's standards on plagiarism and cheating. Therefore, all assignments turned in for this class must be the product of your own work; all classroom exams and tests should be completed with probity. Academic dishonesty is not tolerated under any circumstances and will be referred to the appropriate university authorities. For your information, plagiarism refers to presenting somebody else's work or ideas as one's own- whether intentionally or unintentionally; cheating refers to "acting dishonestly or unfairly in order to gain an advantage (in examinations)". You can search online and visit the Writing Center to find out how to avoid plagiarism.

### **Penalties**

**Delay:** A 10 per cent penalty will be applied for each late day, unless expressly authorized in light of serious reasons. Assignments due in other classes do not constitute a valid serious reason.

**Plagiarism:** Instances of plagiarism on home assignments will receive a zero and students will be reported to university authorities in keeping with the Nazarbayev University's Student Code of Conduct and [Academic Policies And Procedures for Undergraduate Schools of Nazarbayev University](#).

**Cheating:** Students found cheating on exams and/or quizzes will receive a zero and will be reported to university authorities in keeping with Nazarbayev University's Student Code of Conduct and [Academic Policies And Procedures for Undergraduate Schools of Nazarbayev University](#).

**N.B. This syllabus may be subject to changes in the course of the semester. I will notify the class in due time, should this be the case.**

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## Overview of Classes

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### **Week 1: Introduction**

Monday, January 8

Course Presentation

### **Week 2: Definitions and Concept**

Monday, January 15

BALDWIN, David A. "The Concept of Security," *Review of International Studies* 23, 1 (1997): 5-26.

LUCIANI, Giacomo. "The Economic Content of Security," *Journal of Public Policy* 8, 2 (1988): 151-173.

CHA, Victor. "Globalization and the Study of International Security," *Journal of Peace Research* 37, 3 (2000): 391-403.

BUZAN, Barry, Ole WÆVER, and Jaap DE WILDE. *Security: a new framework for analysis* (Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner, 1998), Chapter 2.

VON BOEMCKEN, Marc and Conrad SCHETTER. *Security. What is it? What does it do?* Think Piece 09, Berlin: Friederich Ebert Stiftung, 2016. [**Optional**]

### **Week 3: Theoretical Perspectives: Self-help, Cooperation, Community**

Monday, January 22

HERZ, John. "Idealist Internationalism and the Security Dilemma," *World Politics*, 2, 2 (1950): 157-180.

TANG, Shiping. "The security dilemma: A conceptual analysis," *Security Studies* 18, 3 (2009): 587-623.

KUPCHAN, Charles and Clifford KUPCHAN. "The Promise of Collective Security," *International Security* 20, 1 (1995): 52-61.

ADLER, Emanuel and Micheal N. BARNETT. "Governing Anarchy: A Research Agenda for the Study of Security Communities," *Ethics and International Affairs* 10 (1996): 1-36.

HOWORTH, Jolyon. "Discourse, ideas, and epistemic communities in European security and defence policy," *West European Politics* 27, 2 (2004): 211-234.

#### **Week 4: Great Power Rivalry**

Monday, January 29

PAUL, T. V. "The accommodation of rising powers in world politics", in T.V. Paul (Ed.) *Accommodating Rising Powers: Past, Present, and Future* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2016), pp. 3-32.

CONTESSI, Nicola. "Prospects for the accommodation of a resurgent Russia", in T.V. Paul (Ed.) *Accommodating Rising Powers: Past, Present, and Future* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2016), pp. 268-292.

HE, Kai. "China's bargaining strategies for a peaceful accommodation after the Cold War", in T.V. Paul (Ed.) *Accommodating Rising Powers: Past, Present, and Future* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2016), pp. 201-221.

MARES, David R. "Brazil: revising the status quo with soft power?" in T.V. Paul (Ed.) *Accommodating Rising Powers: Past, Present, and Future* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2016), pp. 246-267.

#### **Week 5: Nuclear Weapons**

Monday, February 5

- **Quiz #1**

DOWNS, G.W. "The Rational Deterrence Debate." *World Politics* 41, 2 (1989): 225-237.

PAUL, T.V. "Taboo or tradition? The non-use of nuclear weapons in world politics," *Review of International Studies* 36, 4 (2010): 853-863.

WALTZ, Kenneth N. "The Spread of Nuclear Weapons: More May Be Better: Introduction," *The Adelphi Papers* 21 (1981): 1-10, Issue 171: The Spread of Nuclear Weapons: More May Be Better.

THAYER, Bradley A. "The Causes of Nuclear Proliferation and the Utility of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Regime." *Security Studies* 4, 3 (1995): 463-519.

#### **Week 6: Coercive Diplomacy**

Monday, February 12

FREEDMAN, Lawrence and Srinath RAGHAVAN. "Coercion" in *Security Studies: An Introduction*, Ed. Paul D. Williams (New York, NY: Routledge, 2013), pp. 206-220.

SCHELLING, Thomas. *Arms and Influence* (New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2008), Chapter 1.

JENTLESON, Bruce. "Coercive diplomacy: Scope and Limits in the contemporary world," *The Stanley Foundation* (2006): 1-12.

BRATTON, Patrick C. [\*When is coercion successful? And why can't we agree on it?\*](#) Newport, RI: Naval War College, 2005.

MANSFIELD, Edward D. "International Institutions and Economic Sanctions," *World Politics* 47, 4 (1995): 575-605.

## **Week 7: Terrorism**

Monday, February 19

CRENSHAW, Martha. "The Causes of Terrorism," *Comparative Politics* 13, 4 (1981): 379-399.

CRENSHAW, Martha. "The Logic of Terrorism: Terrorist Behavior as a Product of Choice," *Terrorism and Counter Terrorism* 2, 1 (1998): 54-64.

PAPE, Robert A. "The strategic logic of suicide terrorism," *American political science review* 97, 3 (2003): 343-361.

CAMPANA, Aurélie and Luc LAPOINTE. "The Structural "Root" Causes of Non-Suicide Terrorism: A Systematic Scoping Review," *Terrorism and Political Violence* 24, 1 (2012): 79-104.

KYDD, Andrew H., and Barbara F. WALTER. "The strategies of terrorism," *International Security* 31, 1 (2006): 49-80. [Optional]

## **Week 8: International Interventions**

Monday, February 26

REGAN, Patrick M. *Civil Wars and Foreign Powers: Outside intervention in intrastate conflict* (University of Michigan Press, 2002), Chapter 1.

ROBERTS, Adam. "Humanitarian war: military intervention and human rights," *International Affairs* 69, 3 (1993): 429-449.

STERN, Paul C. and Daniel DRUCKMAN. "Evaluating interventions in history: the case of international conflict resolution," in *International conflict resolution after the Cold War* (National Academy Press, 2000)

FORTNA, Virginia Page. "Does peacekeeping keep peace? International intervention and the duration of peace after civil war," *International Studies Quarterly* 48, 2 (2004): 269-292.

LABERGE, Pierre. "Humanitarian intervention: Three ethical positions," *Ethics & International Affairs* 9, 1 (1995): 15-35. [Optional]

## **Week 9: International Organizations and Security**

Monday, March 5

### • **Quiz #2**

DUFFIELD, John S. "[International Security Institutions: Rules, Tools, Schools, or Fools?](#)" in *Oxford Handbook of Political Institutions*, eds. R. A. W. Rhodes, Sarah Binder and Bert Rockman (New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2006), pp. 633-653.

WALLANDER, Celeste A. "[International Institutions and Russian Security Cooperation](#)," *PONARS Policy Memo* 48 (November 1998).

VOETEN, Erik. "The political origins of the UN Security Council's ability to legitimize the use of force," *International Organization* 59, 3 (2005): 527-557.

GOULDING, Marrack. "The Evolution of United Nations Peacekeeping," *International Affairs* 69, 3 (1993): 451-464.

**Week 10: Midterm**

Monday, March 12

**Classroom Exam**

**Week 11: Spring Break**

March 19-23

No Classes

**Week 12: Insurgency and Counterinsurgency**

Monday, March 26

FALL, Bernard. "The theory and practice of insurgency and counterinsurgency," *Naval War College Review* 17 (2015): 40-59.

HOFFMAN, Bruce. "Insurgency and counterinsurgency in Iraq," *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* 29, 2 (2006): 103-121.

MACK, Andrew. "Why Big Nations Lose Small Wars: The Politics of Asymmetric Conflict," *World Politics* 27, 2 (1975): 175-200.

KILCULLEN, David J. "Countering global insurgency," *The Journal of Strategic Studies* 28, 4 (2005): 597-617.

MAECHLING, Charles. "Insurgency and counterinsurgency: the role of strategic theory," *Parameters* 14, 3 (1984): 32-41. **[Optional]**

**Week 13: The Onset of war**

Monday, April 2

BUENO DE MESQUITA, Bruce. "The Contribution of Expected Utility Theory to the Study of International Conflict," *Journal of Interdisciplinary History* 18, 4 (1988): 629-652.

FEARON, J. D. "Rationalist Explanations for War," *International Organization* 49, 3 (1995): 379-414.

POWELL, Robert. "Bargaining Theory and International Conflict," *Annual Review of Political Science* 5 (2002): 1-30.

WAGNER, R. Harrison. "Bargaining and War," *American Journal of Political Science* 44, 3 (2000): 469-484.

LAKE, David A. "International Relations Theory and Internal Conflict: Insights from the Interstices," *International Studies Review* 5, 4 (2003): 81- 89. **[Optional]**

### **Week 14: Leaders, perception and misperception**

Monday, April 9

BYMAN, Daniel L. and Kenneth M. POLLACK. "Let us now Praise Great Men: Bringing the Statesman Back In," *International Security* 25, 4 (2001): 107-146.

SAUNDERS, Elizabeth N. "Transformative choices: leaders and the origins of intervention strategy," *International Security* 34, 2 (2009): 119-161.

STEIN, Janice Gross. "Psychological Explanations of International Conflict," in Carlsnaes, W., Risse, T. & Simmons, B., (eds.) *Handbook of International Relations* (London: Sage, 2002).

LEVY, J. S. "Misperception and the Causes of War: Theoretical Linkages and Analytical Problems," *World Politics* 36, 1 (1983): 76-99.

### **Week 15: Course Retrospective**

Monday, April 16

- **Quiz #3**

Discussions