COURSE OBJECTIVES

In this course we will:
1. Examine a number of the more important security challenges facing American foreign policy, including nation-building and democratization, military intervention, wars of insurgency and counterinsurgency, public opinion, terrorism, nuclear weapons proliferation, and the rise of China.
2. Learn to think rigorously and systematically about the nature of these challenges through the mastery and application of theory.
3. Do a lot of reading, thinking, and writing.

REQUIREMENTS

Your grade for the course will be based on the following:

* Analysis papers (3) 48% (192 points)
* Midterm exam 26% (104 points)
* Final exam 26% (104 points)

Total: 100% (400 points)

ASSIGNMENTS

Exams: Each exam will draw upon information from the required readings, course lectures, and discussions.

The midterm exam will be given in class, Wednesday, October 25.
The final exam will be given at its scheduled time, Wednesday, December 13, 8:30-11:00 am. This exam is cumulative. Per university policy, the final exam may not be taken at another time or on another date. Plan for this now.

Analysis papers: You will write three analysis papers during the term on topics assigned by the instructor. The purpose of these assignments is to help you gain a mastery of the readings and to give you some practice in the application of IR theory to the real world. You will receive your topics about two weeks before each paper is due. Rely on the course’s readings, lectures, and discussions in crafting your responses. Each paper should be well written. Poorly written work will earn a lower grade on the assignment. Length: 1000 to 1200 words.

Submit your analysis papers as Word documents via e-mail by 11:30 p.m. on the dates they are due (see schedule below). Late papers will be penalized a letter grade for each day they are late. You are responsible for making sure your papers are submitted on time. Double check to make sure you have attached the paper to your e-mail. Make sure that the attachment can be opened and read. E-mails without your attached paper (as well as e-mails with attachments that cannot be opened and read) do
not count as papers having been submitted on time. In such instances the late-grade penalty will apply.

**A note on plagiarism:** When you borrow someone else’s ideas (which we all do when writing papers; this is part of the creative process), you are required to use in-text citations, giving credit where credit is due. **Presenting another author’s work as your own is plagiarism.** This includes paraphrasing another author’s ideas without attribution. Plagiarism is the academic equivalent of stealing and will result in severe penalties up to and including a failing grade for the course as well as university disciplinary action. If you have any doubts at any time as to when you should cite someone else’s work, please see me. See also the university’s pamphlet, “Plagiarism & Academic Integrity” ([http://www.furman.edu/academics/academics/academic-resources/Documents/plagiarism.pdf](http://www.furman.edu/academics/academics/academic-resources/Documents/plagiarism.pdf)). I have also included materials on Moodle that provide additional guidance on when and how to cite sources. Review these materials.

**Class attendance:** Expected. Repeated absences and/or habitually coming late to class will negatively affect your overall course grade. Furthermore, following university academic regulations, first-year students “will be withdrawn from a course if absent, for any reason, 15 percent of the class meetings. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors will be withdrawn from a course if absent 25 percent of the class meetings. In both cases, a failing (F) grade [for the course] will be recorded unless the absences were due to providential reasons, in which cases a withdrawal (W) grade [for the course] may be assigned after consultation with the Associate Academic Dean.”

**Electronic devices in class:** As a courtesy to the class, cell phones and other similar devices should be turned off and put away, out of sight, in your backpack or purse before you walk into the classroom. On exam days, if I see a cell phone or other similar device (e.g., a smart phone) in your hand, on your lap, on your desktop, or anywhere else other than put away and out of sight in your backpack or purse, you will fail the exam, regardless of the reason. Laptops and other similar devices are prohibited (please see “Digital Distractions,” on Moodle). Audio/video recording of class lectures and discussions without my permission is prohibited.

**Please note:** Failure to complete any of the assignments in this course for reasons other than providential will result in an “F” for the course.

**Accessibility Resources at Furman:** Students who think they may need an academic accommodation in this course should immediately make an appointment to see Judy Bagley, the director of Furman’s Student Office for Accessibility Resources. Her office is in room 002, in the lower level of the Earle Infirmary. She may be reached at 294-2320.

**A note on classroom decorum:** Once class begins no one is to leave the room until class ends, except for a medical emergency. This includes times when we are viewing documentaries or any other multimedia materials. Failure to abide by this standard will mean a lower grade in the course.
COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS

Section 1. Idealism and Realism in American Foreign Policy


Section 2. Nation-building, State-building, Democratization, and Humanitarian Intervention


Section 3. Insurgency (in theory and practice)


Section 4. Counterinsurgency (in theory)

and “Summary.” In Counterinsurgency (FM 3-24/MCWP 3-33.5), 1-26 to 1-29. Washington, DC: Department of the Army; US Marine Corps. [Moodle]


Section 5. Counterinsurgency (in practice)


Section 6. On War: Sentimentality vs. Reason


Section 7. American Public Opinion and Foreign Policy


Section 8. Terrorism


Section 9. Nuclear Weapons Proliferation

Section 10. The Rise of China


ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE, POL-251, FALL 2017

Week 1 (August 22-26) Classes begin: Tuesday, August 22

Week 2 (August 27-September 2)

Week 3 (September 3-9)
   No class Monday, September 4

Week 4 (September 10-16)
   Analysis 1 due 11:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 12

Week 5 (September 17-23)

Week 6 (September 24-30)

Week 7 (October 1-7)
   Analysis 2 due 11:30 p.m., Tuesday, October 3

Week 8 (October 8-14)
   No class Monday, October 9

Week 9 (October 15-21)

Week 10 (October 22-28)
   Midterm exam, Wednesday, October 25

Week 11 (October 29-November 4)

Week 12 (November 5-11)

Week 13 (November 12-18)

Week 14 (November 19-25)
   No class Wednesday, November 22 and Friday, November 24

Week 15 (November 26-December 2)
   Analysis 3 due 11:30 p.m., Wednesday, November 29

Week 16 (December 3-9) Classes end: Tuesday, December 5

Final exam: Wednesday, December 13, 8:30-11:00 am