

Political Science POLS 13181-02
Debating Great Articles in Security Studies and U.S. Foreign Policy
DeBartolo Hall 149 TR 11:00 AM-12:15 PM

Syllabus

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In this course, students will present articles and critique them. This course has several goals:

1. To help you learn to present and critique orally before an audience.
 2. To help you learn how to respond on your feet to criticism.
 3. To think aggressively and critically when reading, writing, and during public interactions.
- Our articles will be drawn principally from the journals *International Security* and *Security Studies*. *IS* is the leading journal in security studies, and its articles are well known for substance and clarity. Examples of such articles are given below.

Readings

For each class session, we will read one or two articles. A two student team will present the article as if they had written it. This will last 30-45 minutes. The rest of the class can ask questions anytime and will discuss the article in depth after the presentation. The non-presenting students in the class will write down three or more comments, critiques, and responses (CCRs), and I will randomly call on these students to offer their critiques. All presentation, discussion, and CCRs will be handed in to me at the end of class to be checked off and assure compliance. In the pursuit of excellence, students often use suave powerpoints or other presentation tools to make their cases. I will send you some sample presentations.

Talks

Students must attend at least three IR/FP related talks each semester. This topic is broadly defined and good talks can be found sponsored by the Notre Dame International Security Center, the Keough School, and related centers and institutes. Please write up and submit very short summaries and critiques of the talks you attend.

Papers

Students will first write an 8 page paper critiquing in depth one or two of the articles we've read. This will be due about a month into the semester. Second, students will write a 15 page paper on a topic relevant to the course materials modeled on the articles we read. It will be due about 10 days before classes end. The aim is write a mini-*IS* article. These tend to critique other scholars while also adding original arguments, develop new theories, and/or discuss policy problems in detail. These papers will be distributed, presented, and critiqued in the final class sessions. Do not forget this is a USEM with a required emphasis on writing and speaking.

Grading

Presentations and participation: 45%; Talks: 5%; Papers: 20%; 25%; Discretion ~10%. Not all students are great participants *and* writers. So long as the student really tries at both, I reserve the right to alter the above percents and weight the grade to the student's strengths. At no point will a student's grades go down!

Additional Comments (please see the end of the syllabus for University provided language on abiding by health protocols, etc).

Note that the presentations and critiques are similar to the format used in political science conferences, and that the paper mimics some of the best articles in political science. Hence, the course should be good training for anyone contemplating a life in academe. Of course, learning how to make presentations, make arguments, give and take criticism are skills for almost any profession.

Students may wish to use this guide on how to read to focus their presentations and critiques: <http://www.nd.edu/~dlindley/handouts/howtoread.html>

More information on political science conferences is here:
<http://www.nd.edu/~dlindley/handouts/LindleyAdviceonAttendingAcademicConferences.htm>
Typically, the Notre Dame political science department sends a few undergraduates to conferences every year. This could be you!!! You will be well prepared.

Cheating

Do not cheat. Your work must be your own. In writing for political science courses, cheating is most likely to take the form of plagiarism. Plagiarism is when writers use other people's words or ideas and do not give them credit. Use footnotes or endnotes to give credit for direct quotes, paraphrased quotes, or borrowed ideas. I will explain how to use footnotes and endnotes in class, in section, and in handouts. If you don't know what footnotes or endnotes are...Ask! Do not copy other people's old papers. Do not use your own old papers or use work done for another course. Do not copy or buy papers or sections of papers from the web or other sources. Do not quote or paraphrase without giving credit in footnotes or endnotes. This is true regardless of source from Wikipedia to online articles to books and other print sources.

Your ideas, your arguments, and the vast majority of your text must be your own. Everything which is not your own must be noted. Penalties for cheating range include redoing work, lowered grades, course failure, letters on your permanent record, and expulsion. Every year, a number of students are not allowed to graduate because they cheated. That is a ~\$45,000 mistake. I will be furious and feel personally betrayed if anyone cheats in my class. As you may know, the University acquired an institutional license for Turnitin.com, the leading plagiarism detection service on the internet. If papers are suspected of having been plagiarized, I will use Turnitin.com as per the guidance provided by the University Honor Code Committee. For more information on cheating and its consequences, please consult the University Honor Code. Let me repeat: if you have any questions about how to use citations or about plagiarism, please ask!

You **MUST** use foot/endnotes when:

- you use other people’s words or ideas in any way from direct quotes to paraphrasing to borrowed ideas.
- you include a fact that is not commonly known. Anything you had to look up must be cited.

There are several links that explain citations and how to use them, via this link, under Writing: <http://www.nd.edu/~dlindley/handouts/handoutlinks.html>

Despite all this tough talk, which is most sincere, there are three other reasons not to cheat. First, it may alter grading curves and injure others by lowering the grades of students who did not cheat. While I do not have strict curves, that effect is nonetheless a possibility. Second, as student scholars, you are aspiring to learn how to be scholars. Scholars in the social sciences and indeed in all scholarly disciplines use citations so that others can see how and how well they built their arguments and discovered new thought. Do not shortchange yourself. My writing assignments require you - believe it or not (!!) - to do independent research. If you view this as an invitation, you will flourish. And this is a serious business, so please use citations. Finally, you are paying a lot of money to learn critical reading, writing, and above all thinking and argumentational skills. Do you really want to short-change yourself? Do you not want to learn what original thinking is? To come up with ideas that are your own, and develop arguments and deploy evidence to support them? I’ve worked hard to provide assignments that aim to improve writing and allow you to explore your interests. If you are here to learn, do not cheat. In line with this line of argumentation, you must also NOT use CHAT GPT or any AI to do any of your writing. Spell checkers are encouraged and grammar checkers may also help - especially with passive voice problems. Learning to write trains your mind to clarify, simplify, and make arguments. These are critical skills. Do not cheat yourself!

The University’s policy on generative AI, including editing tools powered by AI is: “Representing work that you did not produce as your own, including work generated or materially modified by AI, constitutes academic dishonesty. Use of generative AI in a way that violates an instructor’s articulated policy, or using it to complete coursework in a way not expressly permitted by the faculty member, will be considered a violation of the Honor Code.”

Unprofessional Behavior

Arriving late without good reason or making distracting noise in class (whispering, beepers, cell phones, etc.) is unprofessional and selfish. Such behavior bothers others who have paid money to concentrate and learn something in class. Arriving without a mask is perhaps the ultimate distraction and will be punished as specified above.

Please do not play computer games, surf the web, check email, or do anything other than take notes with your computers and other electronic devices. If you must do these rude and distracting activities, please sit in the back row so as not to disturb the more serious consumers. If you are observed using electronic devices for purposes other than taking notes, I will be made grumpy by the sign of disrespect, I will wonder why you bothered to show up for class, and you will have to worry for the rest of the semester about unspecified retribution (read Arthur Clarke’s *Childhood’s End*; that’s a threat that brought down governments). Note that papers and tests are graded without regard to personal histories, favorable or unfavorable. Fairness first and above all.

If you use the words 'like' and 'you know' (or other language ticks) excessively and when they add no meaning to what you are saying, you should know that many people consider those ticks unprofessional, casual, and sloppy. Literally. Take this opportunity to think about what you are saying and to refrain from excess use of such language.

I encourage you to be fairly formal in your interactions with me and the TAs, if any. Unfortunately, I once had a hard time writing a stellar letter of recommendation for an otherwise good student because he/she was in the habit of starting his/her emails with “Hey Prof!” I had to mention this in the letter as a reservation because of the risk of sending this student before an interview board and having him/her come across as informal and flip. I take this business seriously and will reserve my maximum respect for those who share that sense of purpose (regardless of your feelings for me or the course).

Finally, use of personal electronic devices during class is NOT allowed except when presenting. Research about education has shown that students who use laptop computers or other electronic screens to take notes during class learn the material less well than those who take notes by hand. Computerized notes tempt you to try to take dictation during class rather than to try to process the information that you are receiving. Computers also present the temptation to engage in non-class activities, and notifications of incoming messages can be distracting. Finally, use (and abuse) of computer screens can distract your classmates as well, harming their educations (https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/22/business/laptops-not-during-lecture-or-meeting.html?_r=0). Consequently, we do not permit students to use laptop computers or other electronic screens in class unless we arrange a specific exception to this policy.

READINGS

Important notes: These are just some of the readings for some of the classes. Sometimes, I will just lecture/discuss things like WMD. We also discuss current events almost every class and that can alter the schedule. Sometimes, we may watch a film, or I may lecture on WMD.

I will post all the listed articles and this syllabus on Sakai. I will also send these articles out several days before we will discuss them. If you wish them in some other way, you can ask me. Or simply google them. Most are easily available online, and many are in the JSTOR subscription service which ND gets. In your search, add the term JSTOR to the terms below to find out.

Most importantly, these are just some samples from previous terms. We can pick any topics we wish within the purview of the class, focus on articles related to current events, etc.

S21

1. Betts and Posen Ethnic Conf
2. Jervis SecDilem
3. Mearsh Back to Future
4. SVE Primed for Pax
5. Goldstein China and Xi
6. Allison CMC
7. Byman and Pollack Statesment
8. Jervis Hypos on Misper
9. Wendt Anarchy
10. Walt, Bal Threat
- 11.11. Owen Democ Pax
12. Rosato anti Dem Pax
13. Keck and Sikkink Trans Actors
14. Bob Trans Actors
15. Dr. Strangelove
16. Parent and Bafumi Partisanship
17. Power vs. Kuperman on Rwanda
18. Van Evera and WWI
19. Putnam and Ostrom on bargaining/games
20. Vietnam
21. Future Class??

F20:

1. Betts and Posen Eth Conf
2. Jervis SD
3. Allison CMC
4. Byman and Pollack Statesment
5. Mearsheimer Back to Fut
6. SVE Primed for Pax
7. Wendt Anarchy
8. Byman War on Terr and Reconstr
9. Keck and Sikkink Trans
10. Bob Trans
11. Owen Libism and DP
12. Rosato DPT
13. Goldstein China and Xi
14. Narang Ind CtrFrc
15. Ostrom Commons
16. Power Rwanda
17. Kuperman RW More!

F19:

1. Betts and Posen
2. Jervis SD
3. Liff and Iken
4. Mearsh Back to Future
5. SVE Primed for pax
6. Nukes
7. Wendt Anarchy

8. Byman and Pollack Statesman
9. Keck and Sikkink Chap 1
10. Bob chaps 1 and 2
- F18:**
1. Class 1
 - a. Posen, Security Dilemma and Ethnic Conflict; Betts, Delusion of Impartial Intervention
2. Class 2
 - a. Jervis and the Security Dilemma
3. Class 3
 - a. Ikenberry/Liff, China Security Dilemma
4. Class 4
 - a. Chestnut, North Korean Smuggling Networks
 - b. Park, Food Insecurity in North Korea
5. Class 5
 - a. Jervis, Hypotheses on Misperception
 - b. Ops eds by Greenfield and Weiner
6. Class 6
 - a. Allison, Conceptual Models and the Cuban Missile Crisis
 - b. 20 Mishaps That Could Have Led to Nuclear War
 - c. Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, Global Nuclear Inventories 1945-2013
7. Class 7
 - a. Byman and Pollack, Bringing Statesmen Back In
8. Class 8
 - a. Janis, Vietnam - How It Happened (Groupthink)
9. Class 9
 - a. Mearsheimer, Back to the Future
10. Class 10
 - a. Van Evera, Primed for Peace
11. Class 11
 - a. Owen, Liberalism and the Democratic Peace
12. Class 12
 - a. Rosato, Flawed Logic of the Democratic Peace
13. Class 13+
 - a. Lieber and Press, End of MAD
 - b. Foreign Affairs debate of article
 - c. Lieber and Press, New Era of Counterforce
14. Class 13, 14, 15 - Surprise Attacks
 - a. 9/11 Commission Report executive summary, and full report - excerpts
 - b. Dahl, Surprise Attack, preface
 - c. Dahl, Surprise Attack, chap 1 overview
 - d. Dahl, Surprise Attack, chap 2 Pearl Harbor
 - e. Dahl, Surprise Attack, chap 9 - classic cases
 - f. Dahl, Surprise Attack, chap on 9/11
 - g. PFIAB on 1983 Able Archer Exercise war scare

15. Class 16,

a. Ganguly Nuclear SE Asia

p. What do you want to cover, or avoid?? This goes back to prior topics and articles, too.

F19:

1. Betts and Posen
2. Jervis SD
3. Liff and Iken
4. Mearsh Back to Future
5. SVE Primed for pax
6. Nukes
7. Wendt Anarchy
8. Byman and Pollack Statesman
9. Keck and Sikkink Chap 1
10. Bob chaps 1 and 2