

**American Defense In The Age of Mass Destruction**  
**INR 4334 10702--Spring 2008**  
**Tuesday/Thursday, 3:05-4:20 p.m. Bldg. 2/2060**

INSTRUCTOR: Associate Professor J. Patrick Plumlee  
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OFFICE HOURS: Tuesday 4:30-6:00 /Wednesday, 10:00-11:30 and 2:00-4:30, or by appointment. I can be reached by e-mail 24/7.  
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URL for Blackboard Access: <http://blackboard.unf.edu/>

**Class Texts (required)**

Books

Snow, Donald M. *National Security for a New Era: Globalization and Geopolitics*. Second Ed. Pearson Longman, 2007.

Ricks, Thomas E. *Fiasco: The American Military Adventure in Iraq*. Penguin Press, 2007.

On-Line (click to access)

[The National Security Strategy of the United States of America](#) (U.S. Government publication)

[National Strategy to Combat Weapons of Mass Destruction](#) (U.S. Government publication)

[Elements of Defense Transformation](#) (U.S. Government publication)

Other material as assigned, including articles, handouts and overheads. These will be available via the Internet or the course Blackboard as they are assigned.

**Catalog Description**

"Prerequisite: POS 2041 or consent of instructor. This course surveys post-1945 defense issues. It offers a retrospective analysis of strategic (nuclear) issues during the Cold War era, then examines selected contemporary defense issues including the U.S. defense budget, post-Cold War strategic doctrines, unilateral and multilateral intervention and peacekeeping, ballistic missile defense, nuclear proliferation."

This course satisfies departmental core requirements for one 3000 or 4000-level CPO or INR course, or counts as one major elective at the 3000 or 4000-level, or one course for the political science minor requirements.

## Course Content

"American Defense in the Age of Mass Destruction" is an examination of the development and nature of American national defense in the post-World War II era. We will examine the substantive (technology and hardware), intellectual (theoretical and strategy), and political (policy and organizational) components of national defense as it developed through the period known as the Cold War, and in the post-Cold War period up to the current time. In the first part of the course, we will review the historical development of American nuclear strategy, and the impact of that strategy on the Cold War. This is important because one of the most common criticisms of American defense policy even after the events of September 11, 2001 has been that our defense policies largely reflected Cold War assumptions. In the second part of the course, we will review more recent developments in national defense, especially the proliferation of "weapons of mass destruction," ballistic missile defense, terrorism and homeland defense, and the use of American military forces as agents of intervention in post-Cold War conflicts. In addition, we will consider the use of just war principles to evaluate the role of WMDs, and preventive/preemptive actions in national defense strategies.

A comprehensive study of national defense encompasses economics, foreign policy, domestic policy making, ideological values, technology, history, and even philosophy. Because we must cast our net so broadly in the course, we will not be able to deal in-depth with more than a few of the multiple dimensions of American defense. However, the course should give you a good overview of defense policy issues, particularly those related to weapons of mass destruction. You should gain a perspective on the history behind some key defense issues, and an understanding of the programs and actions undertaken in response to these challenges. Since this is a policy course, we will also look at institutional actors, national culture, and the budget of the U.S. government as these relate to defense issues.

In summary, the **student learning objectives** of this course are:

1. Students will be able to describe and give examples of the relationship among technology, strategy, and politics in U.S. defense;
2. Students will be able to trace the origins and evolution of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and assess their continuing impact on American national security;
3. Students will be able to differentiate between the two contending perspectives of globalization and geopolitics, and describe how these perspectives influence thinking about U.S. defense policy ;
4. Students will be able to identify the major participants and processes in defense policy making in the U.S.;

5. Students will be able to trace the development of military strategy and doctrine for responding to insurgencies and low intensity conflicts;
6. Students will be able to summarize and analyze the key components of major issues in U.S. defense policy, including military intervention, WMD proliferation, terrorism, and strategic defense in the post-Cold War world;
7. Demonstrate a grasp of course content through recall of factual material, integrative oral and written presentation, and applied analysis of current events/issues pertaining to U.S. defense policy.

### **Course Expectations**

The course will combine lectures, media presentations (material on the media will be covered in the exams, hence it is a good idea to take notes when they are shown), class exercises/projects and discussion. Students are expected to do the readings, attend the video presentations, participate in class activities, and complete all written assignments. Much of the course material will be posted on UNF's Blackboard system, including all assignments for the class. Students, therefore, will need to access this system frequently, either from on-campus or elsewhere. You will also be required to access a great many documents that are available only in PDF (Adobe) format. You should determine early in the course whether or not your computer has the software that allows you to open such documents. In most cases, this software (Adobe Reader) will already be integrated in your Internet browser. If it is not, you will need to download the free Adobe Reader software from the Adobe website and install it on your computer. I will be happy to assist you with this. The inability to read PDF documents will not be acceptable as an excuse for missing assignments.

There will be a mid-term and final examination (multiple choice/essay), which will be worth about 60 percent of the course grade (25/35 percent respectively). Most of the remaining portion of the grade will come from completion of 3 short written essays (3-5 pages on topics assigned). These written essays, with the exception of the first, will be due about every four weeks and will be worth about 10 percent each. We will also have some on-line discussions using the Discussion Board on the class Blackboard. You will be expected to participate in these monitored discussions and an overall grade will be assigned for quality and relevance of contribution. Participation in the discussions will count for about 5-7 percent of the final grade. Attendance (see below) will account for the residual in the final grade.

### **Grading Policy**

Written assignments in the course will be based on topics developed and assigned by the instructor. Each assignment will provide specific guidelines for that assignment. Grading of these assignments will be based on the general expectations for student papers listed under Course Information on the course Blackboard. Each paper will be returned with a set of rubrics

indicating in general the basis for the grade received. Specific comments will also be provided for each paper.

Assignments that are scored with letter grades, such as B or C+, will be converted to numerical scores for purposes of averaging the grades in the course. The specific scale for translating letter grades into numerical scores is as follows: A, 95; A-, 91.5 ; B+, 88.5; B, 85; B-, 81.5; C+, 78.5; C, 75; C-, 71.5; D+, 68.5; D, 65; D-, 61.5; F, 55. This scale is built into the Blackboard gradebook and automatically converts letter grades into their numeric value.

Assignments, such as exams will be scored via numerical grades, for example 87. Actual scores made on these assignments will be used to calculate course averages. In other words, if you make an 85 on the midterm and an A- on one of the essay assignments, your scores on these assignments for course average purposes would be 85 and 91.5, respectively. These will be weighted by the percentage portion each contributes to the final overall grade. You can access your current standing in the course in the Gradebook section of the course Blackboard.

**Grading Scale for Course Average: A, 94+; A-, 90-93; B+, 87-89; B, 83-86; B-, 80-82; C+, 77-79; C, 69-76; D, 59-68; F, 58 or below.** (UNF does not permit A+, C-, D+, or D- as course grades, therefore these grades are not shown on the course average grading scale.)

### **Paper Styles and Format**

Even though this course does not require the traditional term paper, the essays assigned are intended to have an academic component. Where citations are appropriate, I prefer that papers be submitted using the APA format. A brief overview of how to cite various kinds of publications in this format is provided by the UNF Library and can be accessed here: [Style Guide](#) .

### **Attendance Policy**

I do keep attendance (each student will be required to sign in during each class period), and a pattern of unexcused absences (generally, more than 3) during the semester can lead to a penalty on your final average. Excused absences include medical problems verified by a doctor, university sanctioned events, or military deployments or assignments. All other absences will be considered on a case-by-case basis. It is in your interest to attend class.

Unless you have an excused absence for one of the reasons listed above, **I do not permit make-up examinations.** If you think that you might miss an exam, you should make every effort to contact me before the date of the exam. Any written assignments that are turned in after the announced due date will be penalized by one grade point per day. For example, a paper that would have otherwise earned an "A," if turned in two days late, would earn a "B+," three days late a "B," and so forth.

### **Blackboard Information**

Blackboard is a course delivery system that provides faculty and students the opportunity to access the Internet in a consistent and user-friendly way. We will be using the Blackboard system in this course to a significant extent. However, the complete course will not be available on Blackboard. This is not a distance-learning course: you must attend class regularly to meet all of the requirements of the course.

If you have not used Blackboard in any previous classes, a self-paced online tutorial and other help is available. Go to [the UNF Blackboard Student Guide](#)

For additional assistance in accessing Blackboard or other problems, students may call the UNF Computing Service's Help Desk at UNF ext. 4357.

### **Academic Integrity**

In all of your assignments, you must avoid the academic felony of PLAGIARISM, which is defined "as the act of taking someone else's words or ideas and putting them in your writing as if they were your own--without giving credit to the source" (UNF Department of Language and Literature, "Policy Statement," undated, p. 1). Definitions of plagiarism are also given in the UNF Student Handbook and in the printed schedule for each semester's courses. Plagiarism may be deliberate or unintentional, but it is the responsibility of every student to avoid it by doing your own work and providing attribution for material provided by others. Do not borrow another student's work and copy it. This is cheating! Any student who cheats on exams or submits work that I find to be plagiaristic will fail automatically that assignment, and possibly the course as well. Claiming ignorance of what constitutes plagiarism is not an acceptable defense--if you are not sure, ask me!

In addition to plagiarism, other violations of academic integrity include: **cheating, fabrication and falsification, multiple submissions, abuse of academic materials, and complicity in academic dishonesty.** The full UNF Academic Integrity Code, including definitions of the above offenses, can be found in the [UNF Student Handbook](#).

### **ADA Notice**

The University of North Florida is committed to making reasonable accommodations to individuals with disabilities. If you need such accommodations for this course, please inform the instructor prior to the first assignment. Students should not expect to be able to claim a disability after they do poorly on an assignment. Only students who have a disability verified by the UNF Disability Resource Center may claim an ADA accommodation in this class. The instructor will strictly follow the guidelines established by the Resource Center for accommodation of such students.

### **Classroom Courtesy**

The classroom is a learning environment. A learning environment is one in which attention and effort by persons who presumably have an interest in becoming more knowledgeable is dedicated to the subject at hand. *The classroom is not your living room or a movie theater or the inside of your personal vehicle.* Because we are in a classroom, participants in the class will be expected to observe some **common courtesies**, as follows:

**No eating during the class;**

**Arrive on time; do not leave before the class is over;**

**Do not leave the classroom and then come back in.** If you find that you can't go an hour and fifteen minutes without going to the restroom, avoid consuming large quantities of liquid before coming to class, or during class;

**Turn off cell phones, pagers, beepers and PDA alarms.** If you need to transact personal business during class time, then you have selected a course that is obviously incongruous with your personal schedule. Consider changing your schedule;

**Do not sleep during the class.** If you need to nap, you should do so outside the classroom;

**Do not read newspapers, etc. or listen to music, etc. through headphones during class;**

**Do not carry on private conversations with others in the classroom while someone else is speaking** (particularly when the instructor is speaking);

**You may operate personal computers for taking notes or related purposes.** Do not use them to play games, watch DVD's, do homework for other classes, etc.

**Be courteous to your fellow students--respect their views, comments, or questions as you expect them to respect yours.**

### **Course Schedule**

The proposed Course Schedule for INR 4334 10702 may be found on the course Blackboard under "Course Information/Course Schedule."

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The policies, assignments, and schedule in this course are subject to change in the event of extenuating circumstances or by mutual agreement between the instructor and the students.