

Course Syllabus, Fall 2007, Villanova University, Tuesdays, 7:30–9:30 p.m., 210 St. Augustine Center, Prof. David M. Barrett, 262 St. Augustine; phone: 610-519-412; email: david.barrett@villanova.edu My webpage: [www.homepage.villanova.edu/david.barrett/](http://www.homepage.villanova.edu/david.barrett/) Office hours: 1:30-2:30 Mondays, 4:00–5:00 Tuesdays, or by appointment, or stop by, or call any time. I am away from my office teaching from 3:45-7:30p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays. I'm in my office most other days until 6 p.m., sometimes much later, and on many Sunday evenings. I will seem distracted if you try to meet with me in the hour or so before I teach, but at other times, I should be able to give you my full attention.

Course overview: In the last seventeen years, the world has gone through many changes, including the end of the Cold War and the USSR. Contrary to the hopes of many, world peace has not prevailed since the 1990s began. September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001 dashed the hope that Americans could stop thinking about “national security.” Questions about how America should defend itself, its interests, and its ideals are as relevant and controversial as ever. In this course, I hope you will acquire (or improve) your knowledge of how the U.S. pursued "national security" during the Cold War and post-Cold War years, what deep historical roots there might have been to such policies, and what principles and strategies went along with those policies. Further, I hope you will master some important issues now at hand over how the U.S. should proceed in the uncertain future of world politics.

The course will be a hybrid of brief lectures by the professor, presentations by students, and—especially—discussions of the readings. The brief lectures will focus on topics including basic conventional- nuclear-warfighting and intelligence strategies used in the past and present by the American government, plus some theories of politics and policymaking.

Each student will be graded for his/her (1) class **participation** [25% of the course grade]; (2) a **presentation** to the class [10% of the course grade] (based, if you wish, on the reading you are doing for your research paper or on any topic relevant and suitable to the course); (3) the **research paper** [which will count for 40% of the grade]; and (4) weekly **quizzes** on the readings [25% of your course grade].

Plan to be at all class meetings, since we meet only once a week. Absences will result in a lower grade.

Required reading: Assigned chapters in all books require close reading and re-reading. We will read (1) Donald M. Snow, National Security for a New Era (2<sup>nd</sup> ed.); (2) Michael Turner, Why Secret Intelligence Fails (Revised Ed.); (3) Steve Coll, Ghost Wars: The Secret History of the CIA, Afghanistan, and bin Laden, from the Soviet Invasion to September 10, 2001 (rev. ed.); (4) Andrew Bacevich, The New American Militarism: How Americans are Seduced by War. These books are available at the bookstore. (Some are available inexpensively elsewhere.) We will also read an article or two most weeks in the Washington Post (at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/>) weekly, and possible other articles posted on the Web. A brief, but free registration is required to make regular use of that web site.

A separate memorandum to the class will elaborate guidelines for the presentation and the research paper.

Schedule of readings:

August 28—None

September 4—Snow, ch. 1-4.

11—Snow, ch. 5-6. (Note: our meeting will begin at 300 St. Augustine, where I'll be doing a presentation open to the university community. After that event, we class members will gather at our regular class room for a brief session which will not go longer than 9:30 p.m.)

18—Snow, ch. 7-10.

25—Turner, Preface, ch. 1-5.

October 2—Turner, ch. 6-11.

9—Coll, Prologue, ch. 1-5.

**[Fall Break]**

23—Coll, ch. 6-12.

30—Coll, ch. 13-19,

November 6—Coll, ch. 20-25.

13—Coll, ch. 26-32.

20—Bacevich, Preface, ch. 1-2.

27—Bacevich, ch. 3-4

December 4—Bacevich, ch.5-6.

11—Bacevich, ch. 7-8, Afterword.

To: Students in graduate seminar, "National Security Policy"

From: Prof. Barrett      Re: Research paper and presentation

(1) There are innumerable possible topics for your research paper, considering the long history and continued importance of U.S. national security policy, and the institutions, officeholders, and events (in the U. S. and elsewhere) which affect those policies. Choose a topic that you would enjoy researching and writing about and for which you can find sufficient sources in our library or elsewhere. I am available for consultation in person and by phone on potential topics. I will be lecturing about aspects of policymaking and theories which claim to have relevance to the topic. These plus our readings will give you some context in which to think about your paper topic.

I expect you to put whatever your topic is into a proper context of history. However, remember that this is a political science course, not primarily a history course. Empirical political science attempts to explain a political phenomenon, in part by looking at the pattern or context in which that phenomenon exists. Theories are derived from those patterns or contexts and are used to explain why particular events or phenomena occur. (For example, the Vietnam War occurred in a certain era/context of Vietnamese, American, and world history. A paper attempting to explain some aspect of U.S. policy in relation to that war would draw on the historical and theoretical literature dealing with those topics.) I expect you to explain why something happens or happened the way that it did. Since political science sometimes also attempts to make predictions about the future, based on past phenomena, you may (as an option) wish to make predictions about the future based on what the "past" and theories derived from that past teach us.

The paper should use one of the standard citation formats used in the academic world. I assume you are familiar with these; if not, use articles in academic journals as your model. (As an example, you might look at Political Science Quarterly, which is in our library.) The paper should be journal article length (e.g., 20-25 pages). Your sources should be diverse! Do not rely solely on books, or magazines/newspapers, or government documents, or journal articles, but rather a combination of all these types of sources. *The first thing I examine when reading a paper is its bibliography*; take this as a hint regarding the importance I place on finding and using good, diverse sources. **I particularly value the usage of "primary sources," which I will discuss with you in class.**

It can almost go without saying that the paper should be well-written, clean, and clearly formatted, without spelling or other errors. Clarity in writing is very important to me.

You may wish to look through bibliographies of the books we are reading, or wander past the shelves of books in the library on U.S. foreign/defense policies, the presidency, the military, terrorism, American politics and government, international affairs, etc. to help you choose a topic.

Due date for paper: Friday, Dec. 7, 6:00 p.m. is the deadline. Leave the paper under my office door (262 SAC) or in my office mail box (202 SAC). You, of course, may turn in your paper sooner.

Later in the semester, I will announce a mid-semester date for you to give me a written abstract of your planned paper. I strongly suggest you starting thinking now about a topic.

(2) Your presentation can be on any substantive topic relating to national security policy. It should be about 10 minutes long. You may wish to tell us something about an aspect of your research findings in preparation for the paper; another possibility is to present to us regarding an interesting article or document you have come across about some office-holder, event, or issue. You do not need to turn in any materials to me; I will grade you on the presentation, itself. As long as it is intelligent, informative, interesting, and delivered in a clear, understandable fashion, you will earn a good grade. Please inform me one or two weeks in advance of your presentation as to its topic. We will determine the dates of presentations in class tonight.