

International Security

Last Updated: Mon, 01/05/2026

Course prefix: INTA

Course number: 6103

Section: A

CRN

26511

Instructor first name: Robert

Instructor last name: Hines

Semester: Spring

Academic year: 2026

Course description:

This graduate-level course (for MA and PhD students) surveys prominent scholarship on the theory and practice of international security. Although this course covers several topics central to the study of international security, it is by no means exhaustive. Thus, graduate students preparing for comprehensive exams are encouraged to read more widely, including recommended readings in this syllabus and other syllabi on security studies. Some of the topics that will be covered in this course include debates about the security studies field, deterrence, coercion, bargaining, audience costs, war termination, causes of war, leaders, psychology, status, reputation, emotions, memory, power transitions, grand strategy, alliances, offense-defense balance, military doctrine, strategic culture, nuclear weapons, weapons of mass destruction, civil war, terrorism, humanitarian intervention, and emerging technologies. This course will draw on a combination of classical works in the field of security studies as well as more contemporary policy-focused works. Throughout the course, students will ask what security means, what constitutes threats, how the nature of conflict has changed (or not) in world politics today. Students will develop a foundation of knowledge about important debates in the field of international security and draw upon concepts from the course to understand contemporary events in international security. In addition to the content on international security, students will also develop their policy writing, research, and analysis skills. Due to time constraints, the course cannot cover every topic in international security, and it will only provide cursory overviews of some topics that are regularly offered and covered much more thoroughly in other INTA courses (i.e., terrorism, WMDs, nuclear weapons). Students are strongly encouraged to take courses offered by other INTA faculty for a deeper study of these topics. Similarly, while this course draws upon concepts from international relations theory, it does not duplicate material covered in INTA 6102, International Relations Theory.

Academic honesty/integrity statement:

Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. All work submitted must be original and properly cited. Plagiarism, cheating, or any form of academic dishonesty will result in immediate consequences as outlined in the university's academic integrity policy.