

**GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY
LIBERAL STUDIES PROGRAM SYLLABUS**

The Defense Debate: U.S. Defense Policy
LSHV-426-01 – Spring 2008
Mondays, 1/14 – 4/7
6:00 - 9:00pm

Dr. Joseph P. Smaldone
405 Golf Course Ct, Arnold, MD 21012
(410) 757-4771
email: jsmaldone@verizon.net

Themes and Concerns: Since September 2001, U.S. defense policy and priorities have been dominated by antiterrorism and homeland defense. But these national preoccupations have not superseded all that went before: strong institutional and policy continuities persist even while policies and forces are being transformed. This semester we will examine and debate the *continuities and new thrusts* in U.S. defense policy. For the first seven classes, our 3 texts will provide a solid foundation in defense policy issues – both process and substance. Thereafter, we will consider other selected *current defense policy issues and choices* facing the Bush administration, as *determined by class members' interests*. Class discussions and research projects will assess security risks and threats, evaluate alternative defense policies, and recommend policy choices.

Texts/Reading Assignments:

1. Sarkesian, Sam C., et al. *U.S. National Security*. 4th ed. (Rienner, 2007)
2. Mueller, K. P. & Castillo, J. J., *Striking First: Preemptive & Preventive Attack...* (RAND, 2007)
3. Cordesman, A. H., *Salvaging American Defense* (CSIS Press, 2007)
4. Internet and/or other reading assignments TBA, depending on topics of interest to class.

Grades: Grades will be based on one or two written papers totaling 20-25 pp. double-spaced/10-13 pp. single-spaced text (*excluding* notes, biblio., etc.) worth 2/3, and class attendance/participation worth 1/3; you may opt to have the paper(s) be the sole basis for grading. Papers may be book review essays, research or analytical/reflective papers. There will be no exams. See details about class participation, writing assignments, and grading policies on p. 2; additional guidelines will be provided in class.

Format: This is a “readings course” with seminar-style focused discussion of issues, not lectures. Read assignments beforehand, be fully prepared for all meetings, and contribute actively to our discussions – everyone’s views are equally valued. You will also have an opportunity to present your ideas, assessments, and paper(s) to the class (*paper presentations last two classes*). Guest speakers may also be invited.

Course Outline:

1. 1/14 Course introduction and administration;
National Security Context and Establishment: Read Sarkesian, chs. 1-5.
2. 1/28 National Security Process: Read Sarkesian, chs. 6-11.
3. 2/4 National Security Policies: Finish Sarkesian.
4. 2/11 Bush Doctrine/Strike First assessed (I): Read Mueller & Castillo, 1st half.
5. 2/25 Bush Doctrine/Strike First assessed (II): Finish Mueller & Castillo.
6. 3/10 Defense Problems & Recommendations (I): Read Cordesman, 1st half.

7. 3/17 Defense Problems & Recommendations (II): Finish Cordesman.
8. 3/31 Special Topics: Readings TBA; presentation of papers.
9. 4/7 Special Topics: Readings TBA; presentation of papers.

Course Policies/Written Assignments:

1. *Class attendance* is expected/required. Cumulative one-grade penalties are assessed for 1st and 2nd *unexcused* absences (i.e., A to A-, to B+). Each *excused* absence requires a compensatory 2-3 pp. paper, or adding 2-3 pp. to major paper. *3 absences = withdrawal, regardless of reasons!*
2. *Class participation* (CP). Everyone is encouraged/expected to participate in class discussions. If you opt to receive credit for CP, it will be *one-third of your grade*. Your contributions to class discussions will weigh heavily in the evaluation of CP. Informed, thoughtful, constructive responses and interventions, based at least in part on reading assignments, are essential. *Frequent* commentary is welcome, as long as it “adds value” and does not “dominate.” So speak up a few times at each class!
3. *Writing assignments*: Written and verbal guidance will be provided in class. All class members have the same writing assignments. All papers are expected to meet high standards of originality, scholarship, and excellence, to demonstrate appropriate composition skills, and to use a wide range of relevant sources. Undergrads’ papers will be raised to the next higher grade to compensate for graduate-level standards of evaluation of papers.
4. *Paper topics*: Since each writing assignment and your approach to it are unique, we should have a “common understanding” and “mutual expectations” about them. To this end, topics must be selected or changed with the consent of the instructor; outlines, bibliographies, and progress reports may be required. *Individual consultations are a must!*
5. *General research rule*: for a single 20+ page paper, *use/cite at least 20 specialized relevant books/journal articles and/or comparable Internet sources on the specific subject of the paper.*
6. If you choose to write two papers, *at least one* must be submitted by 4/7, to warrant consideration of an “Incomplete.”
7. *Due dates*: all written assignments are due by 4/7. Thereafter, please *mail* papers; postmark will be considered the submission date if late penalties are applicable. Unless otherwise requested, *don’t* send by fax, email, FEDEX, certified/registered/signature confirmation mail. Keep a copy of papers sent by mail. There is a grace period thru 4/14, after which penalties will be assessed for lapsed time periods (i.e., 4/15-21 will be reduced to A-; 4/22-28 to B+; 4/29-5/5 to B; 5/6-5/12 to B-); none accepted after 5/12. On 6/15/08 “incompletes” convert to F!
8. Comments on papers and course grades will be emailed to you. Papers are not usually returned.
9. *Beware plagiarism!* Plagiarism is the presentation of another person’s ideas, words, or other products as your own, including failure to acknowledge and cite sources. Ideas borrowed from others must be acknowledged in written assignments. Acknowledgments can be made either by using quotation marks with a citation, or paraphrasing in your own words with a citation. Plagiarism will result in an F for the course and be reported to the Dean.

Disabilities Statement:

If you believe you have a disability, then you should contact the Academic Resource Center (arc@georgetown.edu) for further information. The Center is located in the Leavey Center, Suite 335. The Academic Resource Center is the campus office responsible for reviewing documentation provided by students with disabilities and for determining reasonable accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and University policies.