

War, Peace, and National Security

Fall 2019
Room: Atkinson 0015
Time: MWF 11:30-12:20

Dmitriy R. Nurullayev
Office: Stubbs 239
Email: dnurul1@lsu.edu

"The ignorance of one voter in a democracy impairs the security of all."

-John F. Kennedy

Course Description

This is an upper division course on War and Peace in the context of U.S. National Security. The subject of U.S. national security can span a wide array of topics from defense to global climate change and there is no course that could cover the full range of issues impacting U.S. National Security. Further, the list of problems which constitute national security differs from one administration to another and is often based more on domestic politics rather than objective levels of threat presented by specific issues. This course will largely focus on more traditional issues that impact national security.

The course is designed to give you a sampling of readings related to war and peace between nation states. The objective is NOT to provide you with definitive answers, but instead, to raise philosophical questions and grapple with prominent scholarship that has attempted to create theoretical foundations focused on answering these questions.

The course does not, on its own, prepare you for any kind of career in the field of national security. However, if you do have an interest in such a career, the course can serve as a helpful gateway to start thinking about the issues in a structured way. We will take a discussion based approach in this course, and you, as students, will be expected to make frequent contributions, ask good questions, and be helpful colleagues to your peers. We will also cover a healthy amount of reading and you are expected to manage your time in a way that allows you to be prepared for each class meeting.

It is important that you carefully familiarize yourself with the syllabus. Throughout the semester you will be responsible for following all of the course regulations and policies.

Required Text

Silence of the Rational Center by Stefan Halper (Available at LSU Bookstore)
Arms and Influence by Thomas Schelling (Available at LSU Bookstore)
Anticipating Surprise (Declassified Manual) by Cynthia Grabo (PDF Available on Moodle)
The Evolution of Cooperation by Robert Axelrod (Available at LSU Bookstore)

Course Policies

Academic Integrity: Academic integrity is of paramount importance and evidence of plagiarism or cheating will result in a referral to the office of the dean.

Late Submissions: I do not accept late work. Please make arrangements to turn in your work on time.

Electronic Devices: All electronic devices, including laptops, are prohibited. If you have a disability or a special circumstance that necessitates the use of an electronic device, please let me know.

Attendance: Attendance will be taken every class period. This is a discussion based course and requires regular attendance. I understand that things come up; you are allowed to miss 3 classes without a penalty. Any additional absences will result in 1 point reduction in your total course grade per absence. Missing 7 class meetings (beyond the allowable 3) will automatically result in a failing grade for the course. Think of this as a statutory requirement. Having a respectable excuse will not negate this policy.

Free Passes on Weekly Assignments: You get 3 free passes on your weekly reflection assignments (See below under: **Weekly Reflection Assignments**). I encourage you to use these "free passes" conservatively or not use them at all. Given this policy, no late work will be accepted under any circumstances. You cannot use up your free passes and later miss an assignment due to an emergency. It is your responsibility to save the passes for emergencies. If you do not use your free passes, I will simply drop your lowest three grades on weekly assignments.

Grades: Grades will be allocated according to the following schedule.

Score	Grade	Score	Grade	Score	Grade	Score	Grade
97-100	A+	87-89	B+	77-79	C+	67-69	D+
93-96	A	83-86	B	73-76	C	63-66	D
90-92	A-	80-82	B-	70-72	C-	60-62	D-
						< 60	F

Special Needs: Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments is requested to speak with the Disability Services and with me, as early in the semester as possible. All

