

W&M in Washington

Spring 2008

U.S. National Security in the Twenty-First Century ***(Taught by Professor Amy Oakes)***

This semester's theme focuses on the challenges of making U.S. national security policy in a new century. By the end of the semester, students will gain a deeper understanding of (1) the difficulties of preparing the United States to meet new security threats, such as nuclear proliferation, international terrorism, and failed states, and (2) how Washington's decisions affect and are viewed by other states and non-state actors. The program will also provide students with a rare chance to explore broader questions about the relationship between the scholarly study of international security and the practice of foreign policy, namely does the field of international relations help policy makers better manage security threats and, if so, how?

U.S. National Security: Causes and Consequences *(4 credit hours)*

This course will explore the formation, content, and consequences of U.S. national security policy. In the first section of the course, we will discuss various influences on foreign policy decision-making, for example, the executive, Congress, the military, the intelligence community, interest groups, and public opinion. In the second section of the course, we will examine current and alternative views of U.S. grand strategy. In the final section of the course, we will focus on the rise of anti-American sentiment around the world. In addition to examining arguments about the sources of anti-Americanism, we will study to what extent it varies across regions (and why) and whether it will undermine the United States' national security.

New and Future Threats to U.S. National Security *(4 credit hours)*

This course focuses on the major security threats the United States faces now and in the future. We will discuss general security challenges, such as terrorism, rogue states, and nuclear proliferation, as well how these issues converge in particular regions (e.g., the Middle East). The course is organized around a series of lectures by policymakers and academic experts together with readings on these critical security questions.

Interdisciplinary Independent Study: The Practice of U.S. National Security Policy *(4 credit hours)*

This independent study course will give students an opportunity to witness first hand the formation of U.S. national security policy through an internship, for example, with a government agency (e.g., the CIA, State Department, and Congress), non-governmental organization, a think tank, or a lobby group. Students can analyze the relationship between theory and practice in the real world of policymaking and will complete a writing assignment on their experiences.

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Spring 2008 Semester Calendar

- Students are eligible to intern Mondays – Thursday, with Friday mornings optional.
- All interns take an academic class on Tuesdays and Thursdays and must report to those classes no later than 6pm.
- All interns take a second academic class on Friday afternoons and must report to that class no later than 12noon.

Monday, January 14, 2008	Internships begin
Monday, March 3, 2008 – Friday, March 7, 2008	Students off for Spring Break
Wednesday, April 16, 2008	Farewell Reception
Thursday, April 17, 2008	Last day for Internships

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

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