National Security and International Relations

School of International Studies
Jawaharlal Nehru University

Winter Semester 2014
MA Optional Course
Course No: IS 557N

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Room - 236, SIS, JNU

Office Hours: By apt
Email: nsir2011@gmail.com

Class Timings:
Monday 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm
Friday 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Course Syllabus

Content, Structure and Objectives
The aim of the course is to undertake and encourage critical engagements with the concept of security in general and the notion of national security in International Relations in particular. It does so by examining the concept of national security from historical, theoretical and critical perspectives even as it engages the various contemporary issues of the international system and the politics therein. This combination of historico-theoretical analysis and contemporary discourses on security will enable the students in gaining a comprehensive understanding of the subject. I hope that the course will help the students make informed critiques of various issues confronting the humanity today.

Course Requirements
The class will meet twice every week. Students are expected to be compulsorily present for the classes. The assignments include one book review two research papers and seminar presentations. While the final examination would account for 40-50% of the marks, internal assessment is going to take care of the rest.

All assignments are to be submitted both in hard copy as well as by email on specified dates failing which they won’t be considered for grading. Students must contact the contact teacher prior to assignment due dates if they wish to request extensions which will be granted only in cases of emergency.
Grading
The break up of the internal assessment is as follows:

- Two research papers of approx. 3000-3500 words - 30%
- One Book Review of approx. 1000 words - 10%

Research Papers
Research papers should be approximately 3500 words in length, typed, and double spaced using a 12 point font, and must have footnotes/endnotes and a bibliography. All direct quotations and paraphrases must be cited. For a discussion of research methods, see Stephen Van Evera, Guide to Methods for Students of Political Science. SIS Research Manual may be consulted to know more about referencing styles in research papers:

Plagiarism
Plagiarism of any kind is to be avoided and the slightest hint of such behaviour will be dealt with sternly. Disciplinary measures will be initiated against students who are found engaging in such unfair and unethical practices.

Readings and Resources
Most of the required readings prescribed for the course would be available with the Teaching Assistant. You can collect them from him. In addition, we will try and get a course reading package ready. You would be able to purchase it from the photocopy shop located in the basement of SIS as soon as the course begins. Always bring the assigned readings for the class since we will often refer to specific sections in them. Needless to remind that students taking this course agree to come to class prepared to discuss the assigned reading.

Course Email id: nsir2011@gmail.com

Readings

A. Historical and Conceptual Narratives

State Formation, Power, Legitimacy and Security


**Evolution of Security Studies**


**B. Conceptual Debates**

**Security vs. Power: What do states want?**

National Interest, National Security and Security Dilemma


C. Theoretical Aspects

Realism, liberalism and National Security


Constructivism and National Security


Critical Theory and National Security

Subaltern Realism and National Security


Securitisation and Desecuritisation


D. Nuclear Deterrence and Stability

Concept of Deterrence


Nuclear Stability

34. Scott Sagan and Kenneth N. Waltz, “More may be Better” (by Waltz) and “More will be worse” (by Sagan) in The Spread of Nuclear Weapons: A Debate Renewed, W. W Norton and Company, New York, 2003

F. War in International Relations

Causes of War


**How to deal with war?**


44. Dan Reiter, “Bargaining, Information, and Ending Wars” in *How Wars End*, Princeton University Press, 2009 (Chapters to be decided)


**Suggested**