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Course Description: Grand strategy defines the interests of a state, the threats to those interests, and the policies and military forces needed to minimize the danger posed by those threats. Grand strategy is an important topic in international politics because if a state has clearly defined interests and the means to protect them, the chance of war may be reduced or heightened. This course examines grand strategies of great powers to determine the relationship between a great power's grand strategy and stability in international politics.

Course Objectives: During this course, students will demonstrate an understanding of: 1) the unit-level and systemic factors that affect grand strategy; 2) the grand strategy of the major European powers before World Wars I and II; 3) U.S. grand strategy during the Cold War; and 4) the competing arguments over U.S. grand strategy in the post-Cold War world and how each impacts international stability.

Books: The following books are required reading and are available at the bookstore. Additional readings will be available for photocopying:


**Grades:**
For undergraduates, your grade in this course will be determined by the following
Class participation 10%
Midterm 40%
Final 50%

For graduate students
Participation 10%
25-page paper 50%
Final 40%

**Class Participation and Academic Integrity Requirements:** I expect that every student will come to every class on time, actively participate in course discussions, and demonstrate that he has reflected upon the assigned readings. University policy requires students to attend seventy-five percent of all class sessions to receive credit for this course. Any absences, or attendance without preparation, will adversely affect the class participation grade and therefore the overall course grade.

In addition, all graduate students will meet separately with me for an hour-long discuss every other week, on a day and at a time to be determined.

**Examinations:** There will be two exams in this course—a midterm exam covering the material in the first half of the course, and a comprehensive final exam. Both will be in-class closed-book exams. Graduate students will only take the final exam.

**Paper:** Graduate students are required to submit a 25-page research paper at the conclusion of the course. I accept papers in hardcopy only, and will not accepted emailed papers. Students are required to meet with me by the fifth week of classes to determine a suitable topic for the seminar paper. By the fifth week, students are required to provide me with a brief memorandum describing the paper’s central question, central argument, and reasons you think your question is important. As part of your participation grade you will present your paper to the rest of the graduate students during graduate meetings.

**Policies:**
*Honor Code:* It is understood that students in this course will abide by the Baylor Honor Code. This includes, but is not limited to, the requirement for academic integrity.
Plagiarism or any other form of academic dishonesty is a serious offense and constitutes grounds for failure of the course.

Late Work: Unless documented illness prevents attendance of examination or submission of a paper, absence on examination days or failure to submit a paper when due will receive a penalty of one letter grade per day. Weekends count as one day.

Cell Phones: Please turn off your cell phone before the course begins.

Outline:

**Part One: Introduction to Grand Strategy and the Major Factors That Affect It**

Session One: Organization and Overview

Session Two: Introduction to Grand Strategy


  In addition, graduate students must read:


Session Three: Reflections on Threats and Interests


Session Four: Systemic Influences on Grand Strategy – Constraints, Incentives, and Interactions and Material Influences on Grand Strategy: Geographical Position and National Power

  Systemic Influences:


  Material Influences:
Kennedy, “The First World War and the International Power System,”

In addition, graduate students must read:


Session Five: Unit-Level Influences on Grand Strategy: Military Organizations, Ideology, Nationalism, and Technology


In addition, graduate students must read:


**Part Two: Comparative Grand Strategies**

Session Six: Grand Strategy and Doctrine Among Pre-WWI Land Powers


In addition, graduate students must read:


Session Seven: British Grand Strategy in World War I -- The Anglo-German Rivalry and the British Way in Warfare


In addition, graduate students must read:

Daniel A. Baugh, “British Strategy during the First World War in the Context of Four Centuries: Blue Water versus Continental Commitment,” in Daniel M.

Session Eight: Grand Strategy in World War II – Germany


In addition, graduate students must read:

Magenheimer, Hitler’s War, pp. 1-123, 277-289.

Session Nine: Grand Strategy in World War II – Britain, France, the Soviet Union, and the United States


Part Three: U.S. Grand Strategy during the Cold War

Session Ten: U.S. Grand Strategy during the Cold War

Leffler, A Preponderance of Power, pp. 1-360; 495-518.

Part Four: U.S. Grand Strategy during the Cold War


Eugene Gholz, Daryl Press, and Harvey Sapolsky, “Come Home America,” in America’s Strategic Choices, pp. 55-98.

Layne’s chapters from American Empire.
Session Twelve: U.S. Grand Strategy in the Post-Cold War World—The Case for Primacy

Thayer’s chapters from American Empire.


Huntington, Who Are We?, entire.

In addition, graduate students must read:


Session Fourteen: U.S. Grand Strategy in the Post-Cold War World—Does Primacy Undermine AmericaExternally?


Graduate papers are due.