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PSC 495.01: National Security Policy Making

Michael Punke

The University Of Montana, michael.punke@umontana.edu

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PSC 495: National Security Policy-Making
Professor Michael Punke
Spring 2005

Part I: An Introduction to National Security Policy-Making

January 25, 2005. Course Overview.

January 27, 2005. National Security: A Brief Post-War History

Reading: Jordan et al, American National Security ("Jordan"), Chapters 4 and 3, Forward (pages vii-ix).

Part II: The Institutions of American National Security Policy

February 1, 2005. The Institution of the Presidency.

Reading: Jordan et al, Chapter 5. US Constitution, Article II.

February 3, 2005. The National Security Council.

Reading: Jordan et al, Chapter 10.

February 8, 2005. The Department of Defense.

Reading: Jordan et al, Chapter 8. 9-11 Commission Report, pages 95-98.

February 10, 2005. The Intelligence Community.

Reading: Jordan et al, Chapter 9. 9-11 Commission Report, pages 86-93, 407-419.

Due Date: topic selection for projects, including honors and graduate papers

February 15, 2005. The Department of Homeland Security.

Reading: Stephen E. Flynn, "America the Vulnerable," *Foreign Affairs*, January/February 2002. 9-11 Commission Report, 385-393.

Discussion: Writing Project I

February 17, 2005. The Department of State.

Reading: Jordan et al, pp 105-109, 152. 9-11 Commission Report, pages 93-95.

February 22, 2005. Public Opinion, Congress, and the Press.

Reading: Bob Woodward, *The Commanders*, "A Note to the Reader," pp 31-34; Jordan et al Chapter 6; US Constitution, Article I. 9-11 Commission Report, pages 419-423.

February 24, 2005. Economic Agencies: The NEC, Treasury and USTR.

Reading: Robert Rubin, *In an Uncertain World*

Part III: Case Studies in National Security Policy

March 1, 2005. The Cuban Missile Crisis.

Reading: Allison, *Essence of Decision*, Chapters 2, 6.

March 3, 2005. The Cuban Missile Crisis (cont.)

Reading: Allison, *Essence of Decision*, pp 13-23; 143-147; 255-258.

March 8, 2005. The First Gulf War

Reading: Bob Woodward, *The Commanders*, Chapters 16-21.

March 10, 2005. The First Gulf War: (cont.)

Reading: Bob Woodward, *The Commanders*, Chapters 22-25.

March 15, 2005. 9-11 – Before and During

Reading: 9-11 Commission Report, pages 1-14, Chapter 2, pages 160-169, Chapters 8 and 10.

March 17, 2005. 9-11 – After

Reading: Woodward, *Plan of Attack*

Due Date: Writing Project I

Discussion: Writing Project II

March 22, 2005. Spring Break.

March 24, 2005. Spring Break

March 29, 2005. Afghanistan/Iraq.

Reading: Woodward, Plan of Attack

March 31, 2005. Iraq

Reading: Woodward, Plan of Attack

April 5, 2005. Lessons of 9/11 and Iraq.

The 9-11 Commission Report, Chapters 11 and 13.

Part IV: Current Issues in National Security Policy

April 7, 2005. Iraq Today.

Due Date: Writing Project II

April 12, 2005. Student Presentations.

April 14, 2005. Student Presentations.

April 19, 2005. Globalization.

Reading: Friedman, *The Lexus and the Olive Tree*

April 21, 2005. International Trade.

Reading: to be assigned.

April 26, 2005. Human Rights

Reading: Suettinger, Beyond Tiananmen.

April 28, 2005. The United Nations/Humanitarian Aid.

Reading: Jordan et al, Chapter 22.

May 3, 2005. National Security and Politics.

Reading: to be provided

May 5, 2005. Review for test and test-taking skills.

Due Date: Writing Project III (Honors and Graduate students)

May 9-13, 2004. Final exam week. Date for PSC 495 to be announced.

Books.

Jordan, Taylor, and Mazarr, *American National Security*
Graham Allison, *Essence of Decision*
The 9-11 Commission Report
Bob Woodward, *The Commanders*
Bob Woodward, *Plan of Attack*
Thomas Friedman, *The Lexus and the Olive Tree*

Class participation. This will be an active class, with an emphasis on discussion as much as lecturing. I will use a Socratic format (like law school), calling upon pre-designated students to draw out key parts of assigned readings. Much of what you learn will come from your classmates. Because of this format, I will expect that students arrive at class prepared, having completed the assigned reading. Part of your grade will be determined by your class participation.

Writing assignments. In addition to the substance of national security policy-making, this class will emphasize writing. In particular, the class will emphasize the type of writing done commonly in policy-oriented jobs (e.g., legislative assistant, White House aide). Each student will complete two short projects, both of which will relate to a short class presentation in April.

Honors/Graduate increment. Honors students, graduate students (and any other student wishing to do so) will complete an additional writing project ("Writing Project III"), details to be discussed individually.

Grading. Grades will be based on the following breakdown:

Class Participation: 10%
Writing Project I: 20%
Writing Project II: 20%
Final Exam: 50%

(Honors/Graduate Students/Others electing to complete Writing Project III: Same as above except that the final exam will count for 25% and Writing Project III will count for 25%.)

Office Hours. I will maintain office hours from 9:30 to 10:30 on Tuesday and Thursday (after class). My office is located at DHC #106. If this time does not work for you (e.g., because of conflict with another class), please contact me to arrange another time. I can also be contacted by email at mpunke2003@yahoo.com.

Possible Topics for Writing Projects/Oral Presentation

In consultation with me, you will pick *a single research topic* that will form the background for Writing Project I, Writing Project II, and the short oral presentation. (In other words, you will *not* pick a different subject for each of these three projects.) **No two people can pick the same topic, so reserve a topic early if you are passionate about a particular subject.** Pick your topic by emailing me; the first student to email me gets the topic. Once you have confirmed your topic selection with me, visit me during office hours so that we can narrow your research. Other specifics of these projects will be discussed in class.

You may propose your own topic, subject to my approval. Possible subjects include the following:

- Post-Election Iraq
- Middle East peace talks
- Humanitarian Relief
- China/Taiwan dispute
- Donald Rumsfeld's role in formulating National Security Policy
- Condoleezza Rice's role in formulating National Security Policy
- George Tenet's role in formulating National Security Policy
- Bush's immigration policy and the US relationship with Mexico
- Europe's role in international security
- The US embargo of Canadian cattle over "mad cow" concerns
- Drug interdiction and the US relationship with Colombia
- Current US global efforts to halt the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction
- US efforts to keep North Korea from building nuclear weapons
- The US relationship with Saudi Arabia
- US efforts to combat AIDS internationally
- US efforts to combat global warming
- The role of the United States in the United Nations
- The role of the United States in the WTO
- Foreign Policy and Montana