University of California Irvine  
Department of Political Science  
PSC 149 The Politics of International Security  
Fall 2008

Professor Deborah Avant  
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Office Hours: Th. 1-3  
SST 569

Class Meets:  T/Th. 11:00-12:20  
SSL 270

This course is designed to give students an overview of security studies in world politics – what security is and how states and other actors try to generate it for themselves and for others. In the recent past, security was something largely, if not exclusively, thought of in terms of nation states. Though states still dominate analysts’ thinking about security, increasingly transnational actors affect the security of states (positively and negatively). Also many have begun to conceive of security in international, global, and human terms rather than only in terms of nation states. The course readings will cover the state-centric approaches dominant in the 20th century, more recent non state-centric studies of security, and debates about how to define, analyze, and practice security in today’s world.

Course Requirements
Grades will be based on:
Midterm (25%)  
Take-home final essay (25%)  
In-class final (25%)  
Class participation (25%).

- Play list journal – at the beginning of class each day a song will be playing to set the tone. Your assignment is to explain why you think this song fits and/or suggest another and explain why it would be better. Each entry is due before the next class (email is fine). Please keep all entries and turn them in together at the end of the quarter.

- Assorted in-class activities

All writing assignments will be graded on the basis of persuasiveness of argument, use of evidence, consideration of alternative viewpoints, demonstrated knowledge of lectures and readings, and attention to detail. Common mistakes include: telling the reader what you feel or believe rather than what can be demonstrated empirically or logically, failing to anticipate obvious counter arguments, lacking a thesis and/or clear logical progression of the argument, and sloppy writing and grammar.

Required Readings
Most of the readings will be articles that will be posted on the class website or under “course files” on the EEE website for this course. We will also read large sections of the following books that can be purchased at the University bookstore or on-line:


Students are expected to keep up with the reading each week (and there will be periodic pop quizzes that will reward those who do!) as well as to follow events related to international affairs, international security, *and the US election debate on these* in a reputable newspaper (i.e., *Los Angeles Times*, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*).

**Weekly Assignments:**

**Introduction**

**Thursday:** Introduction – Political Science and Security Studies: variation in definitions, concerns and theories

Randy Newman, *Political Science*

**Week 1 (9/30)**

**Tuesday:** Dependent and Independent Variables Defined


Witchy Poo, *Epistemology*

**National Security**

**Thursday:** Anarchy, relative gains and security

**Reading:** Kenneth Waltz, “The Anarchic Structure of World Politics,” in Art and Jervis

John Mearsheimer, “Anarchy and the Struggle for Power,” in Art and Jervis

The Exploited, *I still believe in anarchy*

**Week 2 (10/7)**

**Tuesday:** The Security Dilemma and WWI

Movie Day – Gallipoli (my very favorite WWI movie)

**Thursday:** Security Dilemmas, Domestic Politics and World War I

**Reading:** Robert Jervis, “Offense, Defense and the Security Dilemma,” in Art and Jervis


The Kinks, *Destroyer*

**International Security**

*Week 3 (10/14)*

**Tuesday:** International Security - Stability or War  
**Reading:** Kenneth Oye, “The Conditions for Cooperation in World Politics,” in Art and Jervis  
Alexander Wendt, “Anarchy is what states make of it,” in Art and Jervis

**John Lennon, *Imagine***

**Thursday:** Deterrence and the Cold War  

**Bob Dylan, *Let me die in my footsteps***

*Week 4 (10/21)*

**Tuesday:** The Democratic Peace  
**Reading:** Michael Doyle, “Kant, Liberal Legacies and Foreign Affairs,” in Art and Jervis

**Cat Stevens, *Peace Train***

**Thursday:** midterm  
**Wilco, *Shake it off***

**Global and Human Security**

*Week 5 (10/28)*

**Tuesday:** Global and Human Security  
**Reading:** Garrett Hardin, “Tragedy of the Commons” in Art and Jervis  

**The Beatles, *Come Together***

**Contemporary Problems and Cases**

*Thursday:* Globalization and its effects  
Week 6 (11/4)
Tuesday: Globalization and its effects (continued)
Phil Williams, “Transnational Organized Crime and the State,” in Art and Jervis

Pink Floyd, Money

Thursday: The New Wars: State Collapse and Intervention

Bob Marley, War

Week 7 (11/11)
Tuesday: The Balkans

The Cranberries, Bosnia

Thursday: Africa

King Sunny Ade, Africa and America

Week 8 (11/18)
Tuesday: Terrorism
Reading: Bruce Hoffman, “What is Terrorism?” in Art and Jervis.
Robert Pape, “The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism,” in Art and Jervis.
John Mueller, “Is there Still a Terrorism Threat?” Foreign Affairs (September/October 2006)
Alan Krueger and David Laitin, “Misunderstanding Terrorism,” Foreign Affairs September/October 2004

Mint, Ma Petite Terroriste

Thursday: Responses to Terrorism
Philip H. Gordon, “Can the war on terror be won?” in Art and Jervis.

Led Zeppelin, Good Time Bad Times

Week 9 (11/25)
Tuesday: Old New Wars: Intervention – why do they happen?

Tears for Fears, Everybody Wants to Rule the World
Thursday: No class – Happy Thanksgiving!

Week 10 (12/2)
Tuesday: Old New Wars: Intervention - when do they succeed?
Reading: James Dobbins, “Nation Building: UN Surpasses U.S. on Learning Curve,” in Art and Jervis

Rolling Stones, You can’t always get what you want

Thursday: Trade offs in Security – National v International or Global Security; Human Violence v Disasters
(Sum up, conclusion and final take home handed out.)
Elvis Costello, (what’s so funny ‘bout) peace, love and understanding