Objectives – In this course, we will
• expose you to scholarly work in international security (IS), mostly of the last decade.
• analyze and debate arguments on major IS topics.
• develop skills in 1) critiquing arguments and 2) repairing and building arguments, both orally and in writing. Sometimes this may mean a specific focus on methodological issues in political science research.
• conduct scholarly research. (if you choose option 2 below)

Another way to summarize the aims of the course is that by the end of the course, you should feel more comfortable dissecting works in IS, comparing and contrasting them, and writing and talking about them. You should also have increased your substantive knowledge on the issues that these books and articles address.

Participation (25%) – Read the books and articles. Make comments and ask questions in class. Bring the readings to class. Be respectful of others. Try not to be silent. Try not to monopolize the discussion. Don’t get distracted by phones and electronics. If you have readings open on your laptop, please shut off social media and email programs.

Option 1
**Three Papers** (25% each) - Each paper is due 24 hours before class by email to me, meaning by 1:30 pm on a Tuesday. You may not write a paper for a class that has already occurred. Write a critical assessment of the coming week’s readings. You may refer to other readings we have already read, but the essence of the paper should be about that Wednesday’s readings. You should mention all readings from a given week and substantively engage with at least two of them. If a week includes most or all of a book, you must substantively engage with that book.

By critical assessment, I mean write a persuasive, analytical paper about important IR security angles of the work we read. Some examples:
- compare & contrast different assigned works. Highlight similarities and/or contradictions
- look for flaws, limits, gaps, oversights. Perhaps offer correctives.
- explicate arguments or assumptions embedded in the work
- critique the methodology or case selection. Offer correctives.
- connect to real-world issues, especially if you think applying different works from a week might yield different implication
- Does the evidence support the argument(s)?
- Is the work generalizable? Under what conditions? (This may be a case of comparing what the author claims to what you think. It would not be as compelling a paper if author says under conditions X and you just agree.)

Be concise, insightful, and clear. Have a brief introduction (that sketches your key argument) and brief conclusion (e.g. may sum things up, ask follow-on questions, and/or point to gaps in research). 750-900 words per paper. No cover page. Number your pages. Include a word count. You may not turn in more than two papers in any given month. This is not a research paper.
Option 2

**Research Paper** (65%) – Due Friday, April 27, 2018 by 5 pm. You must choose a topic within international security. It should be either 1) a researchable question with 2 or more competing answers or 2) a review article. It must be 6000-7500 words including footnotes. Include a word count. For a review article, I expect you to integrate at least 25 different scholarly sources on the topic. You may want to look at sample review articles in *International Studies Review* or *Annual Review of Political Science*. (Another example: Jack Levy or Parkinson & Zaks on syllabus.) No late papers. Cite properly. Do not plagiarize.

Research paper statement (10%) – Length: 500-750 words. This is a preliminary written presentation of your paper topic. It is due February 9 or earlier by email. What is your research question? What are possible answers? Why does it matter* (theory? history? policy?)? What method(s) will you use? Where and how will you gather evidence? // If you plan to write a review article, what is the topic? What are the important gaps and debates on that topic that you plan to explore? Mention & cite many authors.

*Other ways to ask this question: What is significant about your topic? Or, “so what?”

You may choose either option. Please email me your choice on or before January 24. Under option 1, once you have handed in a paper, you may not switch to option 2. Otherwise, you may switch options anytime before February 9.

Note: You may not record, livestream, or livetweet any part of class without the express, written permission of Prof. Pressman.

* in Husky CT
** for sale at UConn bookstore
^ on library reserve [the library also has many e-book subscriptions now]

January 17 – Introduction
January 24 – Causes of War


January 31 - Nuclear war


(“Early Conversion Efforts at the Defense Department”)

Optional: John Hersey, *Hiroshima*. The book describes the brutal reality of the survivors of nuclear war in Japan. The original magazine version (1946) is here: https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/1946/08/31/hiroshima


February 7 - Rape & War


February 14 - Targeting civilians


February 21 - Forced migration


February 28 – (US) Intelligence

March 7 - Rebel success and failure


http://www.jstor.org/stable/41495066


March 21 - Occupations


March 28 – Occupation: Israel-Palestine


Optional: Watch Disturbing the Peace on Netflix. (Or the show Fauda, also on Netflix)

April 4 – Counter-insurgency


*Chapter One of Department of the [US] Army, Counterinsurgency, December 2006. Get the gist of the approach. Chapter one is about 40pp. Feel free to read more if you like.

April 11 – Military Alliances


April 18 - Defining numbers


Smyth post on Iranian aid. (2018) [I will share with you]

April 25 - Defining security