

Faculty of Economics and Political Science

National Security Strategies

Information :

Course Code : PSC 412

Level : Undergraduate

Course Hours : 3.00- Hours

Department : Department of Political Science

Area Of Study :

Shaping the National Security Strategy of a state requires the integration of a number of inputs that include history, ideology, geography, resources, interests, military power, socio-political cohesion, political stability, economic power, perceived threats, nature of society and others. This course is designed to explain the relation between political decision-making with the national security strategy through examining the impact of the different inputs. By the end of the course, students simulate different Arab countries and their enemies/main allies to try to come up with a sound national security strategy for each Arab country and for the Arab world at large.

Course Goals:

- ✓ Comprehend the differences/similarities between national interests and national security.
- ✓ Understand the difference between a national security strategy and a national security policy.
- ✓ Assess the impact of the nature of the ruling regime on the making of the NSS.

Description :

Shaping the National Security Strategy of a state requires the integration of a number of inputs that include history, ideology, geography, resources, interests, military power, socio-political cohesion, political stability, economic power, perceived threats, nature of society and others. This course is designed to explain the relation between political decision-making with the national security strategy through examining the impact of the different inputs. By the end of the course, students simulate different Arab countries and their enemies/main allies to try to come up with a sound national security strategy for each Arab country and for the Arab world at large.

Course outcomes :

a. Knowledge and Understanding: :

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|-----|---|
| 1 - | Understand the making of a national security strategy. |
| 2 - | Recognize the differences between the NSS in developing and developed states. |

b. Intellectual Skills: :

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| 1 - | Compare the strength/weakness of a country in the international system with its NSS. |
| 2 - | Relate the perceived power of a state with its decision on where to place the bar on what constitutes a NS threat. |

c. Professional and Practical Skills: :

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| 1 - | Design a NSS for selected countries through role playing workshop. |
| 2 - | Develop and implement a research paper that applies the class content in a proper academic manner. |

d. General and Transferable Skills: :

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| 1 - | Develop self-learning skills. |
| 2 - | Select and use credible sources of information. |
| 3 - | Practice working in a group. |

4 - Practice role-playing and simulations.

Course Topic And Contents :

Topic	No. of hours	Lecture	Tutorial / Practical
Introduction and Syllabus	3	1	
Definition of Strategy vs. Policy	3	1	
National Security: Overview and Historical Development	3	1	
National Interests vs. National Security	3	1	
Institutions Involved in Shaping NSS	3	1	
Factors and Inputs Involved in Formulating NSS	3	1	
Developed vs. Developing States NSS Making	3	1	
Midterm Exam		1	
Perceived Power of a State and Enemy Identification	3	1	
Dictatorships and NSS Making	3	1	
US Vs. Al-Qaeda: Impact of Magnitude of Threat on NSS Failure/Success	3	1	
Questioning the Existence of NSS in the Arab World	3	1	
Formulating Successful NSS in the Arab World	3	1	
Role-Playing Workshop Session	3	1	
Final Exam		1	

Teaching And Learning Methodologies :

Demonstration videos
Presentation
Simulations
Group discussion
Research Paper

Course Assessment :

Methods of assessment	Relative weight %	Week No	Assess What
Course Work (Attendance, Participation, Assignments, Quizzes, Research Paper & D	30.00		To assess understanding, and to assess theoretical background of the intellectual and practical skills.
Final Exam	40.00	15	To assess knowledge and intellectual skills.
Midterm Exam(s)	30.00	8	To assess professional skills.

Recommended books :

Alan G Stolberg, How Nation-States Craft National Security Strategy Documents, US Army War College: Strategic Studies Institute, 2012. <http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pubs/display.cfm?pubid=1128>

Alix Julia Boucher, National Security Policies and Strategies: A Note on Current Practice, Stimson Center, 2009. http://www.stimson.org/images/uploads/research-pdfs/Stimson_National_Security_Strategy_Note_FINAL_12dec09_1.pdf

Susanna Bearne (et. al.), National Security Decision-Making Structures and Security Sector Reform, RAND Europe, 2005. http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/technical_reports/2005/RAND_TR289.pdf

Periodicals :

David Chuter, From Threats to Tasks: Making and Implementing National Security Policy, Journal of Security Sector Management, 5, 2, 2007 (1-19). http://www.davidchuter.com/Texts/jofssm_0502_chuter.pdf