Course Description
The course surveys current issues in international security and world politics. Themes that will be addressed include: What do global trends in international security tell us about where the world is heading? What are non-Western visions of global and regional order? What is U.S. grand strategy and what kind of strategy should it pursue? Is the world still unipolar or have we already entered a “post-American” multipolar or nonpolar world? What are the problems posed by the rise of China for U.S. security and the stability of East Asia? What are the prospects for peace and development in Africa? Can the world effectively manage the non-traditional security threats of epidemic disease and global climate change? What are the problems and prospects for nuclear proliferation? Can we got to “zero”? Should we want a world without nuclear weapons?

Course Requirements
In addition to class participation, you are required to write one paper of roughly 25 pages in length. A great deal of flexibility will be allowed regarding topics and formats. One possible format is to use case studies to test a theoretically-grounded argument. Historical cases are appropriate, though their relevance to contemporary issues should be explained. You may also write a policy paper, though it should be informed by relevant theories. The final version of the paper is due on the last day of class.

Required Texts:

- Foreign Affairs Journal (A Digital, STUDENT subscription, $19.95).

Topic 1: Introduction

Topic 2: Models of the Coming International Order

The current international order is in transition. On the other side of this transition, what sort of order might emerge? What variables and circumstances might shape outcomes, e.g., demographic change, disruptive technologies, power shifts from West to East, great power alliances, economic boom and bust, etc.? What are the logics of these alternative futures and the sort of pathways of change that might facilitate or inhibit their
emergence? Six alternative futures defined in terms of a specific driver are explored:

1. **A New Cold War.** Does the rise of powerful authoritarian-capitalist states signal the advent of a new, more competitive Cold-War division of the world into armed liberal and authoritarian camps?

2. **Great Power Concert.** The unipolar system transitions to a multipolar system in which the great powers (old and new) find ways to build a global architecture for joint management of the system.

3. **Great Power Conflict.** The unipolar system transitions to a multipolar system that is permeated by the problems of anarchy – insecurity, rivalry, arms races, nationalism, competition for resources, etc.

4. **Economic Breakdown and Closure.** This is an order in which the Liberal world economy gives way to blocs, spheres, and geo-economic conflict. The 1930s are the inspiration for this future.

5. **Global Disorder is the New Normal.** This is a system in which states do not have the capacities to shape and direct outcomes. No state or group of states is in control. What order arises must do so spontaneously or not at all.

6. **Non-State Actors and the Grey Zone Conflict.** All sorts of non-state actors—terrorist groups, bankers, NGOs, and transnational actors—grow in importance and reshape the system.
   - Martha Finnemore, “Behind Every Scenario, Rising Non-State Power,” NIC memo

**Topic 3: Democracy and War: Extensions of the Theory**


**Topic 4: Unipolarity and Its Consequences**


**Topic 5: Drones, Cyberwar, and Gray Zones**


Topic 7: China’s Rise: Implications for International and Regional Order

- Stephen Biddle and Ivan Oelrich, “Future Warfare in the Western Pacific: Chinese


**Topic 8: Security Issues in South Asia**


**Topic 9: Intervention: Humanitarian, Impartial, and Otherwise**


Topic 10: Terrorism


Topic 11: Nuclear Proliferation: Problems and Prospects


Topic 12: Status in World Politics

- Deborah Larson and Alexei Shevchenko, “Admission into the Great-Power...
