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 get to “zero”? Should we want a world without nuclear weapons?

Course Requirements
One paper, about 25 pages. 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.

In addition, students will be expected to write one memo regarding a policy topic or a book that we will discuss during the session.

Required Texts:
• Foreign Affairs Journal (A Digital, STUDENT subscription, $19.95).

**Topic 1: 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 are the possibilities and what variables and circumstances will shape outcomes? This session will explore alternative futures. We seek to identify the logic of these alternative futures and the sort of pathways of change that might facilitate or inhibit their emergence. We are open to all sorts of variables that might shape alternative futures – demographic change, disruptive technologies, power shifts from West to East, great power alliances, economic boom and bust, etc. While the reordering of global politics might actually be a blend of alternative logics of (dis)order, the exercise is to identify and isolate the ideal-types so as to see the various moving parts that are at work. The class will be organized around five alternative futures, each defined in terms of a specific driver:


• **Diffusion of Power.** A state system in which states do not have the capacities to shape and direct the system. This is not a power transition process but a power diffusion process. No state or group of states is in control. Randall Schweller, “The Diffusion of Power Model,” NIC Memo; Randall Schweller, “Ennui Becomes Us,” The National Interest (Jan./Feb. 2010); Richard Haass, “The Age of Nonpolarity: What Will Follow U.S. Dominance,” Foreign Affairs (May/June 2008).

• **Great Power Concert.** The unipolar system transitions to a multipolar system in which the great powers (old and new) find ways to build an architecture for joint management of the system. John Ikenberry, “From Unipolarity to a Great Power Concert,” NIC memo; John Ikenberry, “The Rise of China: Power, Institutions, and the Western Order,” in Robert S. Ross and Zhu Feng, eds., China’s Ascent: Power,

- **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. John Mearsheimer, “Great Power Conflict in the 21st Century,” NIC memo; Azar Gat, “The Return of Authoritarian Great Powers,” Foreign Affairs (July/August 2007).


**Topic 2: Eroding Unipolarity and American Decline?**


**Topic 3: Non-Western Visions of a Post-American World Order**

With power more diffused and authority more contested, how will the newly powerful states try to shape (or remake) global rules and order? Are the struggles over order and governance essentially struggles over the distribution of authority (who has a seat at the table; rights and privileges within existing institutions) or deeper struggles over basic principles and organizational visions (who commands and who benefits)? Is Washington’s “stake holder” vision based on a misreading of what non-Western rising states seek? Do ideological divides run North and South or East and West or along other dimensions? Are there any liberal internationalists outside the West?
China is a key player, of course, but this session will look at other states such as India, Brazil, Indonesia, and Turkey. What do these rising states want? What are their ideologies, visions, grand designs for global order? This agenda fits nicely with what is a growing interest in the policy community on rising states and challenges to global/regional architecture. There is also the growing debate about whether the goal of rising states (leave aside China for the moment) is to gain “stake holder” status in existing institutions or to push for more sweeping changes in the principles and organizational logic of global order.

- Steve Weber, Overview. NIC memo, November 2010.
- Omer Taspinar, Turkish visions. NIC memo, November 2010.
- Rahul Sagar, “India and International Order,” NIC memo, November 2010.

**Topic 4: Chinese Thinking About Future International and Regional Order**

David Shambaugh focuses on Chinese thinking about sovereignty, institutions, and engagement of Western order. Minxin Pei surveys elite debates on grand strategy. Taylor Fravel focuses on Chinese thinking about territory, border issues and visions of Asian regionalism. Barry Naughton explores Chinese views of global economic order – trade, resources, energy, etc. Roger Irvine provides a survey of Chinese elites – including IR figures and other policy experts – and their ideas and debates about international order. Evelyn Goh outlines Southeast Asian views of the consequences of China’s rise in the military, political, and economic realms and, then, analyzes Southeast Asian responses to the China challenge with regard to their larger regional security strategies. Iain Johnston explores the issue of whether China is a revisionist or status-quo power. Avery Goldstein looks at crucial systemic and domestic considerations that bear on China’s rise. Jeff Legro focuses on “purpose” changes in Chinese grand strategic thinking. Wu Xinbu takes a Chinese view of the US-Japanese alliance. Evan Medeiros explains US and Chinese hedging policies vis-à-vis each other. Robert Kaplan discusses the geography of Chinese power. And Tom Christensen
examine US policy toward China.


**Topic 5: Africa: Collapsed and Failing States, Insecurity, and War**

- Jeffrey Herbst, States and Power in Africa: Comparative Lessons in Authority and Control (Princeton University Press, 2000)

**Suggested Readings:**

**Topic 6: Non-Traditional Threats: Epidemic Disease, Climate Change, Cybersecurity**


**Topic 7: International Relations Theory after 9/11**


**Topic 8: Nuclear Proliferation: Problems and Prospects**