

## INR4314: Grand Strategy in International Relations

Spring 2021 (12666)

ONLINE

Office Phone: 474-3008

Office and Office Hours: Bldg 50/Rm 126, MW 1:00-2:00, TR 1:30-3:30 or by appointment

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### Course Description

“A nation, despicable by its weakness, forfeits even the privilege of being neutral.” — attributed to Alexander Hamilton, *The Federalist* no. 10

“A great deal of world politics is a fundamental struggle, but it is also a struggle that has to be waged intelligently.” — Zbigniew Brzeziński

“Plans are worthless, planning is everything.” –Dwight Eisenhower

This course immerses students in grand strategic thinking through a combination of classic readings, competitive simulation, and contemporary analysis. As a topic, “grand strategy” refers to the link between a state’s goals and capabilities, and it entails historical, philosophical and systematic thought. It is how states understand and pursue their perceived interests and roles in the world. Understanding grand strategies offers an essential tool to evaluate states’ foreign policies as well as the international system. Next, as members of working groups, students will then grapple with a pressing contemporary issue, such as cybersecurity, in the context of a number of case studies, including Russia and China. These working groups then present and discuss strategic proposals they have developed. The course concludes with students guiding the fate of a nation through a collaborative, competitive online simulation. This experience involves diplomacy, planning and cooperation along with guile, spontaneity, and competition.

### Student Learning Outcomes

- Students will appraise and categorize current and historical grand strategies.
- In small groups, students will employ categories and characteristics in order to research and diagnose a grand strategy for an assigned state.
- Students will collaborate on decision making for a statecraft simulation.
- Students will review and analyze their own performance on the simulation and group work.

### Topics

- Historical examples of grand strategy and the debates and analyses surrounding them.
- Current examples, characteristics and types of grand strategy among great and middle powers.
- Theories and philosophies of strategy and foreign policy.
- Analytical tools to assess and diagnose grand strategy.

### Course Materials

- **Sign Up:** Go to the website listed below and sign up (at the top, click on “Login/Sign Up.” The account is \$35. Our class code is ARGO-GS2021.)
  - o [www.statecraftsim.com](http://www.statecraftsim.com)
- Thierry Balzacq, et al., eds. (2019) *Comparative Grand Strategy: A Framework and Cases* Oxford University Press. ISBN: 9780198840855

- *Recommended:* Lawrence Freedman (2013) *Strategy: A History* Oxford University Press. ISBN: 978-0-19-932515-3

### **Course Requirements**

You will be graded on

- participation (15%)
- Quizzes (15%)
- the Statecraft simulation (15%)
- the Statecraft analysis paper (20%)
- your country brief group project (15%)
- your country brief analysis paper (20%)

### ***Participation***

We will engage in online discussions in addition to regular memos during the simulation. I prioritize considered, thoughtful contributions over many contributions. You can refer to the “Shively Online Discussion Rubric” for more information on expectations for the discussion forums.

### **Simulation Memos**

- 1) Note country/world developments, group dynamics, and decisions in each turn.
  - a. Follow the memo template online
- 2) Each week turn in a memo of about 200 words reviewing these developments and your individual assessment. This includes what you think is working well, problems for your country/government, emerging strategies, likely outcomes, and likely future moves of your government and others.
- 3) Upload in Assignments in Canvas.

### ***Simulation***

You will sign up for an account with Statecraft Simulation, as described above. (Note: tutorials and other support are available any time on the website.) You will be graded on several dimensions.

- 4) Performance – 10% of course grade. Assessed as a group score.
  - a. Points received in 3 categories: Cooperation (available to everyone); Competitiveness; Development. 10-25 points is typical, but 24 will be considered 100%. I will consider anything above that for possible **extra credit**.

### ***Simulation Analysis Paper***

At least 4 pp, double-spaced. This is an individual project. Did your team explicitly or implicitly develop a grand strategy? Did it apply certain principles or assumptions? What was successful? Refer to course materials and principles in your paper (there is no minimum, but strong papers will integrate as many as possible). Upload in Assignments on Canvas.

### **Country Brief Project**

This will be a presentation of 8-10 minutes or an equivalent set of slides.

Imagine that you and your team work for an agency like the US Department of State or Department of Defense (your choice), and you are tasked with analyzing another government's grand strategy. Your team will be assigned a real state, and you will need to do two things: 1) identify that state's current grand strategy and 2) evaluate how that state is pursuing or is likely to pursue its foreign policy and interests in the immediate (1-4 years), middle term (5-20 years), and long term (beyond 20 years).

Upload your final group project to the assignment in Canvas.

Your team will be graded on your application of course concepts, systematic (as opposed to impressionistic or inconsistent) analysis, clarity, focus and fit with the time parameters.

### **Country Brief Analysis Paper**

At least 5 pp, double-spaced. This is an individual project. Include two elements. Submit to the Canvas "Assignment" page. TREAT THIS AS A FINAL EXAM.

- (1) 1/3 of paper: Write your portion of the research/work as an essay. You may add additional content and analysis not included in the briefing. If your work was primarily organizational, write an overview of the briefing. Describe your role in the group and your analysis of how well (or not well) you worked as a team.
- (2) 2/3 of paper: Use materials and concepts from throughout the course. Which are relevant for analyzing strategy in this case? Which *don't* work? Basically, show me your grasp of the course material in the context of your case.

*LATE SIMUATION & FINAL PAPERS lose 5 points a day.*

### **Letter Grades**

94% or better	A	87% to 89%	B+	77% to 79%	C+	67% to 69%	D+
90% to 93%	A-	83% to 86%	B	73% to 76%	C	60% to 66%	D
		80% to 82%	B-	70% to 72%	C-	59% or less	F

GRADING In general, I consider how well you followed directions and focused tightly on your given topic; your mastery (i.e. correct understanding and general use) of the readings and other course material; your argument's clarity, consistency and accuracy; overall structure and logic; overall clarity and grammar. See the document "Shively Paper Grading Rubric" for detailed break-down.

### Academic Conduct

PLAGIARISM and ACADEMIC DISHONESTY involve adding others' words to your text as if they were your own and will not be tolerated. For University policies on plagiarism and other misconduct, see the Student Code of Conduct: <http://uwf.edu/osrr/documents/BOTApprovedStudentCodeofConduct-2010edition.pdf>.

### Assistance for Students with Special Needs

If there are aspects of the instruction or design of this course that hinder your full participation, such as time-limited exams, inaccessible web content, or the use of non-captioned videos and podcasts, reasonable accommodations can be arranged. Prior to receiving accommodations, you must register with the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC) at <http://uwf.edu/sdrc/internal/>, which requires documented needs of the individual. For information, e-mail [sdrc@uwf.edu](mailto:sdrc@uwf.edu) or call 850.474.2387.

### Career Development & Community Engagement

Career Development & Community Engagement (CDCE) is a free, on-campus resource designed to equip UWF students and alumni with the tools necessary for professional success. CDCE is located in Building 19 and offers resume reviews, assistance with your job or internship search, interviewing tips, and many other strategies to become career ready. For more information, check out Handshake ([uwf.joinhandshake.com](http://uwf.joinhandshake.com)), visit [uwf.edu/career](http://uwf.edu/career) or call 850-474-2254.

### Military & Veterans Services

The UWF Military & Veterans Resource Center (MVRC) serves as a leading campus advocate for military and veterans students, working to ensure the needs of these individuals are met through coordinating with multiple university offices and services. The center provides assistance with the following: GI Bill<sup>®</sup> education benefits, active duty tuition assistance, out of state fee waiver, tutoring, paper reading, counseling, disability accommodations, coordinating academic advising and referral to state /federal resources and services. The MVRC is located in bldg. 38. For more information on MVRC services, call 474-2550 or visit <http://uwf.edu/militaryveterans>.

### Your Major

If you are interested in but not yet a major in **Political Science, Pre-Law, or International Studies** you should contact **The Department of Government at 474-2929 or [govt@uwf.edu](mailto:govt@uwf.edu)**. If you are undecided about your major you should contact your academic advisor or the Career Center at 850-474-2254.

**COURSE SCHEDULE**

- Readings not in assigned texts will appear in PDF form in Canvas > Home >Week
- Some dates and assignments may be changed. I will announce these by email and in class.

<u>Week 1</u> Jan 19	<u>Introduction</u>  <p style="text-align: center;">STRATEGY</p> <u>Definitions</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Biddle, "Strategy in War"</li> <li>- Brands, "The Meaning and Challenge of Grand Strategy"</li> <li>- <i>See also "Recommended" articles posted in Week 1 for more background on the concept of grand strategy.</i></li> </ul>
<u>Week 2</u>  Jan 25	SIGN UP for StatecraftSims.com  <u>Classic Writings</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gaddis, "Crossing the Hellespont"</li> <li>- Plutarch, "How to Profit by One's Enemies." §§1, 4, 8, 9, 11</li> <li>- Cicero, "On Running for the Consulship." §§1, 3, 6, 10, 12, 14</li> <li>- Machiavelli, The Prince. "Dedication" and ch. 8, 9, 14-18, 21, 24, 25</li> </ul>
<u>Week 3</u> Feb 1	<i>Statecraft</i> : TURN 0
<u>Week 4</u> Feb 8	<i>Statecraft</i> : TURN 1 <u>Geostrategy</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mackinder, "The Geographic Pivot of History."</li> <li>- Mahan, "Influence of Sea Power Upon History." Ch 1 (pp 25-29 &amp; 89)</li> </ul>
<u>Week 5</u> Feb 15	<i>Statecraft</i> : TURNS 2, 3
<u>Week 6</u> Feb 22	<i>Statecraft</i> : TURN 4 <u>Business Competition and Social Movements</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Freedman, ch 29</li> <li>- Freedman, ch 23</li> </ul>
<u>Week 7</u> Mar 1	<i>Statecraft</i> : TURNS 5, 6
<u>Week 8</u> Mar 8	<i>Statecraft</i> : TURN 7 <u>Rationality &amp; Culture</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Freedman, ch 13</li> <li>- Freedman, ch 17</li> </ul>
<u>Week 9</u> Mar 15	<i>Statecraft</i> : TURNS 8, 9
<u>Week 10</u> Mar 22	<i>Statecraft</i> : TURN 10 <u>Historical Approaches</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Kagan, "Redefining Roman Grand Strategy"</li> <li>- Synopsis of Kennedy, "The Rise and Fall of the Great Powers"</li> </ul>
<u>Week 11</u> Mar 29	<i>Statecraft</i> : TURNS 11, 12 <i>possible</i> *  *Final turn in sim may be 10, 11 OR 12.

ANALYZING GRAND STRATEGY	
<u>Week 12</u> Apr 5	<u>Grand Strategy &amp; National Security Policy</u> - B,D & R, ch 1
<u>Week 13</u> Apr 12	SIMULATION ANALYSIS PAPER DUE by Sunday, 11:59 PM <u>Theories &amp; Comparisons</u> - B,D & R, ch 3, 4
<u>Week 14</u> Apr 19	Country Analysis Groups - B,D & R, ch 5, 8
<u>Week 15</u> Apr 26	Country Analysis Groups - B,D & R, ch 9
<u>Week 16</u> May 5 May 7	COUNTRY ANALYSIS PRESENTATION, DUE by 11:59 PM COUNTRY ANALYSIS PAPER, DUE by 11:59 PM