

1. Force and Strategy

Force and Strategy
Fall 2008

Session 1: Introduction to the Course

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2. Objectives of PS 160

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- Explore use or threat of armed force in IR
- Examine key theories and concepts that form basis of security studies
- To examine some current security challenges for the United States and other countries, including:
 - Grand strategy
 - Dynamics of coercion (esp. conventional airpower)
 - Nuclear weapons proliferation
 - State failure and ethno-nationalist civil wars
 - Counter-insurgencies
 - Military transformation/RMA

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10 Guiding Questions

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1. How does the international system shape the behavior of states and the prospects of international conflict?
2. How might military technology affect types of security strategies that states pursue and by extension the likelihood of peace and war?
3. Given evolving security environment, what grand strategy should U.S. adopt? What type of military posture should it adopt in pursuit of grand strategic goals?
4. What combination of coercive strategies and instruments are more likely to increase probability of a target's compliance with the coercer's demands?
5. Are the dynamics of nuclear coercion different from the dynamics of coercion with conventional weapons?

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10 Guiding Questions (cont.)

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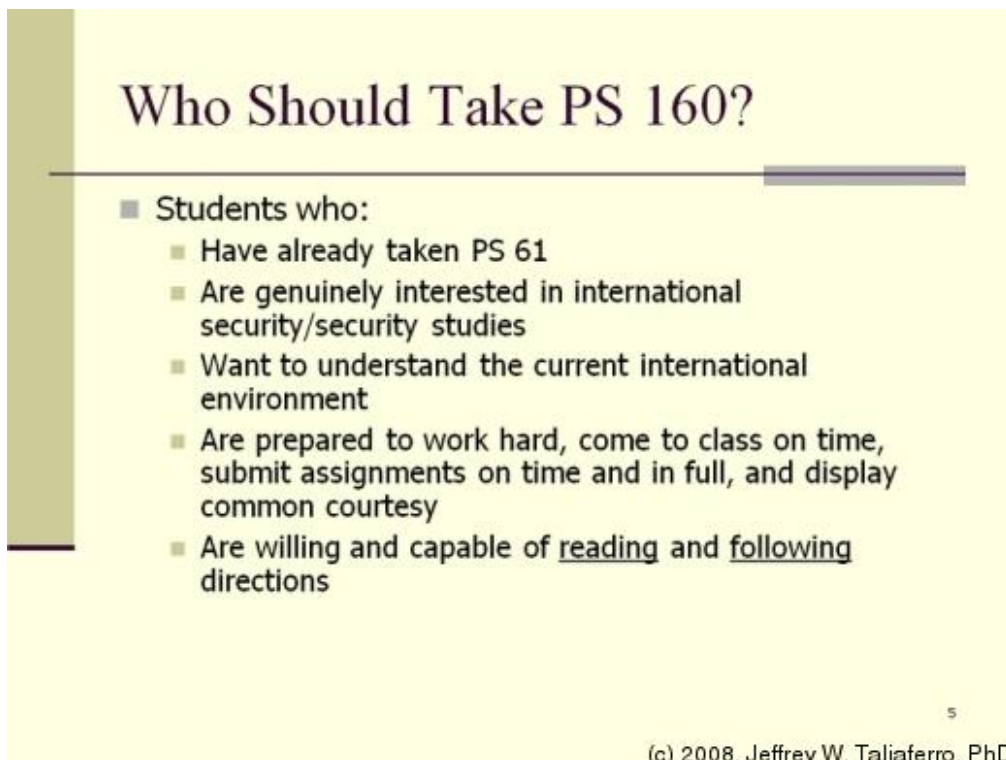
6. What are the dynamics of nuclear weapons proliferation? Will nuclear proliferation necessarily have a destabilizing effect in the Middle East, South Asia, and East Asia?
7. What are private military firms (PMFs)? How has the rise of the private security industry over the past fifteen years changed the relationship between the sovereign state and military force?
8. Why and under what conditions do states erupt into ethnic or nationalist civil wars? What types of intervention strategies should third parties pursue?
9. Why and under what conditions will states sponsor terrorist groups? What makes them stop?
10. What are the challenges of conducting counter-insurgency operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and tribal regions of Pakistan?

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Who Should Take PS 160?



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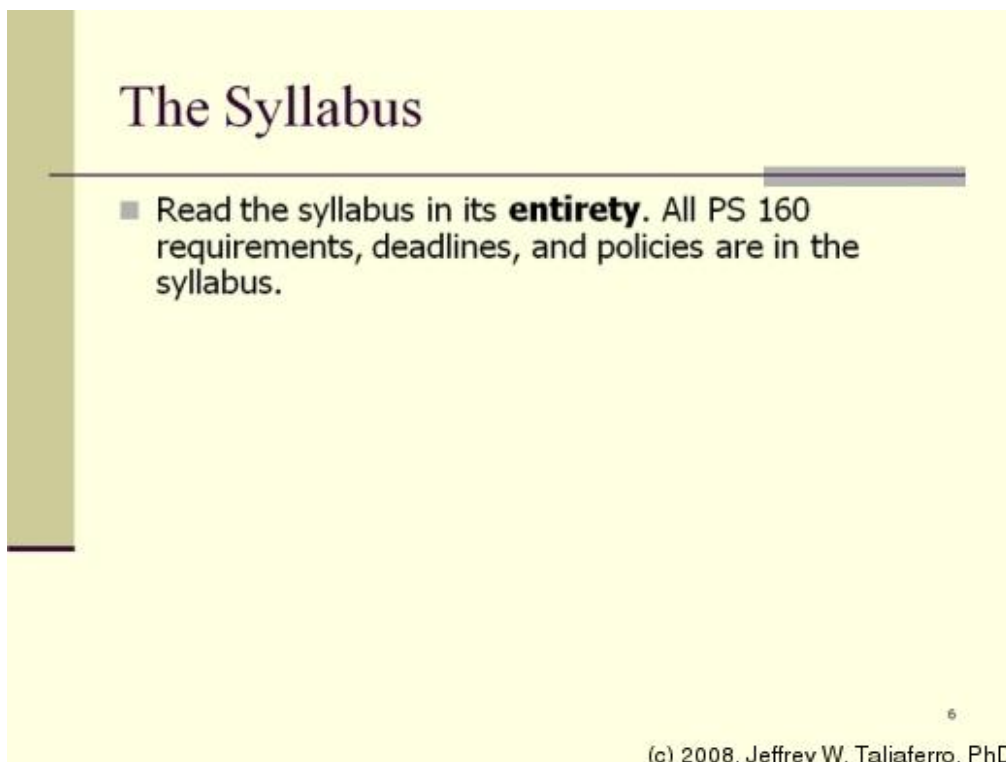
- Students who:
 - Have already taken PS 61
 - Are genuinely interested in international security/security studies
 - Want to understand the current international environment
 - Are prepared to work hard, come to class on time, submit assignments on time and in full, and display common courtesy
 - Are willing and capable of reading and following directions

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The Syllabus



The Syllabus

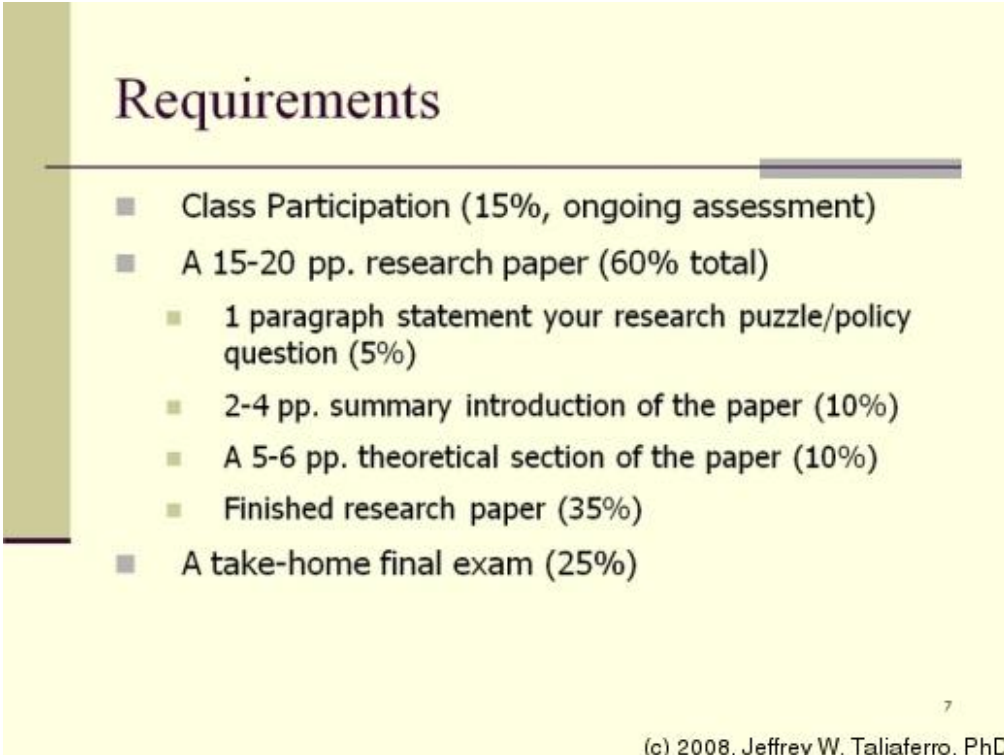
- Read the syllabus in its **entirety**. All PS 160 requirements, deadlines, and policies are in the syllabus.

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Requirements



Requirements

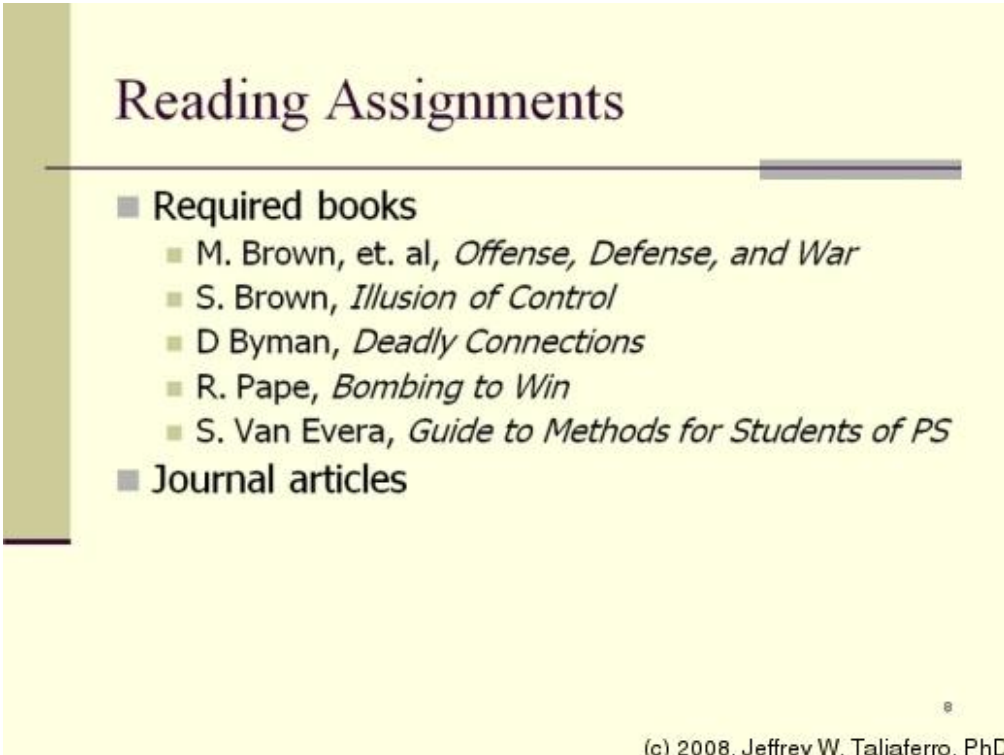
- Class Participation (15%, ongoing assessment)
- A 15-20 pp. research paper (60% total)
 - 1 paragraph statement your research puzzle/policy question (5%)
 - 2-4 pp. summary introduction of the paper (10%)
 - A 5-6 pp. theoretical section of the paper (10%)
 - Finished research paper (35%)
- A take-home final exam (25%)

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Reading Assignments



Reading Assignments

- Required books
 - M. Brown, et. al, *Offense, Defense, and War*
 - S. Brown, *Illusion of Control*
 - D Byman, *Deadly Connections*
 - R. Pape, *Bombing to Win*
 - S. Van Evera, *Guide to Methods for Students of PS*
- Journal articles

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Research Paper Options

Research Paper Options

- Hypothesis-testing paper
 - Case study that tests two competing hypotheses, possibly drawn from one of the IR theories we examine in depth. Goal is to draw causal inferences
- Policy-prescriptive paper
 - Examine one current policy issue involving the national security of particular state or a particular region and offer policy recommendations to appropriate decision maker

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Take-home Final Exam

Take-home Final Exam

- Format?
 - Single essay question
 - Essay should be policy memo to president of U.S. from national security adviser
 - Essay may not exceed 10 pages (double spaced)
- Rules?
 - Open book and open note, but...
 - **Absolutely no** collaboration with other students in writing essay

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