Political Science 945 Seminar: National Security Affairs
Andrew Kydd
Department of Political Science
University of Wisconsin

Syllabus
Spring 2017

Course Description

The course is a selective survey of security studies in international relations. The course is organized by topic, with a mix of theoretical and empirical readings for most weeks. Emphasis will be on recent work. Topics covered will be grand theory, polarity and balancing, nuclear weapons, technology and war, and limited war.

Course Requirements

The grade will be based on class participation (50%) and a research paper (50%). Students should consult with the professor on a topic in the first few weeks of the class.

Readings

These books are available from the bookstore.


Most of the readings are articles. The student is responsible for downloading these from the UW library system.

Some additional readings are chapters from books. These will be circulated by the professor.
### Schedule: Spring 2017

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Reading Assignments

Class 1  Introduction

Class 2  Offensive Realism
Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*

Class 3  Defensive Realism
Glaser, *Rational Theory of International Politics*

Class 4  Dynamic Realism (Preventive War)


Chapter 1.

Class 5  Grand Strategy, Unipolarity and Balancing


Class 6  The Rise of China


Class 7  Nuclear Proliferation


Class 8  Nuclear Strategy and Deterrence


**Class 9 Beyond MAD?**


**Class 10 Modern War and How to Win It**

Biddle, *Military Power*


**Class 11 Drones, Robots and Cyberwar**


**Class 12 Intervention**


**Class 13 Counterinsurgency**


**Class 14 Terrorism**


