Description

The foremost function of the state is to provide for the security and well-being of its people. The pursuit of security involves governments in a wide range of both domestic and international activities—political, economic, and military. How do governments promote national security? What challenges do they face at home and abroad, and what tools have they developed to meet those challenges? How secure can states expect to be in the modern world, and at what cost?

The course explores these and other questions related to national and international security policy in contemporary world politics. We examine the role of national power, strategy, and the use of military force; the workings of the American national security establishment, including the intelligence community; cooperative security systems like NATO and the United Nations; and the tradeoffs between homeland security and civil liberties. On all these topics, the course will emphasize both theoretical and practical issues.

Evaluation

Undergraduate course grades are based on a midterm exam and either a final exam or a term paper. Graduate course grades are based in a midterm exam and a term paper. Graduate students will also be asked to present their preliminary research findings and conclusions toward the end of the term.

Readings

There are no textbooks for this course. All assigned readings, whether from books or journals, will be available online or placed on reserve.