IS/PSCI 3074 National Security Strategy

The Grand Strategy of the European Union, the United States, Russia, France, and Great Britain

Virginia Polytechnic Institute & State University

Fall 2024

Instructor's Contact Details

Instructor:	Prof., Dr. Yannis Stivachtis
Office:	528 Major Williams Hall
E-mail:	ystivach@vt.edu
Tel:	(540) 231-5816
Office Hours:	Monday, Tuesday, & Wednesday 4:00-5:00 pm or with appointment
Zoom Meeting:	https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/8826427416

Class Information

Lectures:	Tuesdays & Thursdays: 11:00-12:15 pm
Location:	HUTCH 209

Course Description

This course introduces the students to the fundamentals of grand strategy and examines their relevance and applicability to the strategies of the United States, Russia, the European Union, France, and Britain. Topics under examination include the importance and relevance of grand strategy in contemporary world politics; approaches and definitions of grand strategy; the idea and theory of grand strategy; types of grand strategy; grand strategy formulation, implementation and assessment; the relationship between strategy and policy; analysis and comparison of EU, US, Russian, French, and British grand strategies.

Learning Objectives

As a result of completing this course, students will be able to:

1. Apply the theoretical tools associated with strategy analysis to analyze the strategy of the US, the EU, Russia, France and Britain;
2. Assess the effectiveness of the of the US, the EU, Russian, French and British grand strategy
3. Design and propose alternative strategies to address security issues;
4. Assimilate material and develop arguments in a short time period;
5. Present and defend rational and well researched arguments relating to strategic responses to security issues and constructively criticize the arguments of others; and
6. Conduct research on the subject matter and write a competitive research paper.

Required Readings

Sven Bishop, *Grand Strategy: A Guide to Great Power Politics in the 21st Century* (Bristol, UK: Bristol University Press, 2021).

Sven Bishop, *European Strategy in the 21st Century* (London: Routledge, 2019).

Benjamin Miller, *Grand Strategy from Truman to Trump* (Chicago: Chicago university Press, 2020).

Andrew Monaghan (ed.), *Russian Grand Strategy in the Era of Global Power Competition* (Manchester, UK: Manchester University Press, 2022).

*If needed, additional material will be distributed by the instructor.

Suggested Readings

Thierry Balzacq, Peter Dombrowski, and Simon Reich, *Comparative Grand Strategy*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019).

Peter Layton, *Grand Strategy* (2018).

Official Documents

US National Security Strategy documents 1987-2006
https://history.defense.gov/Historical-Sources/National-Security-Strategy/

US National Security Strategy 2010
http://nssarchive.us/national-security-strategy-2010/

US National Security Strategy 2015
http://nssarchive.us/national-security-strategy-2015/

US National Security Strategy 2017
https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/NSS-Final-12-18-2017-0905-2.pdf

European Security Strategy 2003

https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/documents-publications/publications/european-security-strategy-secure-europe-better-world/#

The Global Strategy of the European Union 2016
http://eeas.europa.eu/archives/docs/top_stories/pdf/eugs_review_web.pdf

Course Requirements

Students will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

Total numbers of points: 100

Tests:	30 points (3X10 points)
Presentations:	20 points (2X10 points)
Research Papers:	40 points (2X20 points)
Professionalism:	10 points

Tests

Students are required to take three (3) tests during PART I and PART II of the course. The tests will be available on-line and will be taken out of class. The tests will include short answers/essay questions. **The days and times of those tests will be determined at the beginning of the semester in consultation with the students.**

Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory. Students will receive 1 penalization point for each class session they miss **unless a note from the Office of the Dean of Students is provided excusing the student's absence**. Penalization points will be subtracted from the students' grade for 'Professionalism'.

Only students who are in the classroom during the first ten (10) minutes of the class will count as being present.

If a student needs to leave the class early, s/he needs to inform the instructor. Students, who 'walk out' of class without doing so, will not receive credit for attendance and participation on the day or the class section in question and will be regarded as absent.

Professionalism

Professionalism includes in-class behavior and class attendance. Classroom discussion should be open, frank, and casual. Please respect the perspectives and inquiries of your peers and instructor. Do not interrupt someone who is speaking and refrain from deliberately demeaning language or intimidating behavior.

Research Papers

Students are required to write two (2) research papers of a maximum length of 2,000 words (excluding references).

No extensions will be provided. Late submissions will receive a 1.0 penalization point per day.

Research Paper 1: To be submitted on Tuesday, October 8, 11:00 am.

Research Topic: Taking into account the various types of grand strategies, in your opinion, what type of grand strategy did the post-9/11 American presidents pursue? Exemplify your answer.

Research Paper 2: To be submitted on Tuesday, December 3, 11:00 am.

Research Topic: Provide a critical assessment of the European Union's grand strategy. In your opinion, what are the factors that prevent the European Union to pursue a more effective grand strategy?

Author's Guidelines

Assignments should be submitted as email attachments.

The assignment should be typed in single space, justified and presented in Times New Roman 12 format.

The author should use APA style.

The length of the assignment should not exceed the 2,000-word limit (excluding references and bibliography).

The research paper should include at least five (5) different bibliographical sources.

Research Paper Grading

The following criteria will be used in assessing students' research papers:

1. Definition of the topic

- Has the topic been clearly defined and directly addressed?

2. Structure of the essay

- Does the introduction present a clear statement of the issues to be covered?
- Does the essay have a clear structure or organization in which a) the main points are developed logically; and b) the relevance of the material to the theme or argument is clear?
- Is there an effective conclusion which draws together the main points?

3. Content

- Is there evidence of adequate reading and research?
- Is the breadth of coverage adequate?
- Are the issues and ideas analyzed in sufficient depth?
- Are arguments supported by evidence, examples, sources and quotations?

4. Analysis

- Are the arguments logical and consistent?
- Are opinions based on evidence and/or logic?
- Does the essay show evidence of original or independent thought?

5. Presentation

- Fluency and style of writing
- Spelling, grammar, paragraphing
- Presentation of data: effective use of figures and tables and correct use of units and quantities
- Neatness and legibility
- Sources: are sources acknowledged? Are references cited? Are references presented correctly?

Students with Special Needs

Students who need special assistance with note and exam taking should contact the course instructor within the first week of classes. However, those students should contact the relevant university office to obtain the necessary documentation before they meet with the course instructor. The instructor will do everything to address students' needs.

Course Evaluation

Toward the end of the semester, the online Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) questionnaire (https://eval.scholar.vt.edu) will be used to gather feedback on particular aspects of the course and instruction. I read and consider all student comments regarding the course and instruction. For example, power point slides are posted prior to class because feedback indicated that this would help students to organize their notes.

Grade Scale

Please note that for this course the applicable grade scale is as follows:

A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D+	67-69
D	64-66
D-	60-63
F	0-59
F*	

Please note that grades ending at .5 will be rounded up.

* A student who receives a sanction of **F*** as their final course grade shall have it documented on their transcript with the notation "FAILURE DUE TO ACADEMIC HONOR CODE VIOLATION." You would be required to complete an education program administered by the Honor System in order to have the "*" and notation "FAILURE DUE TO ACADEMIC HONOR CODE VIOLATION" removed from your transcript. The "F" however would be permanently on your transcript."

Honor Code

Students are encouraged to complete the Academic Integrity Success Module. It may be found at this link: https://canvas.vt.edu/enroll/CE7YK9

This module covers necessary information regarding Academic Integrity at Virginia Tech that students will need throughout their time as a student. This information includes our policies and the importance of academic integrity at Virginia Tech. Even if a student has completed the module in the past, a refresher is always helpful.

Syllabus Statement

The Undergraduate Honor Code pledge that each member of the university community agrees to abide by states:

> *"As a Hokie, I will conduct myself with honor and integrity at all times. I will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor will I accept the actions of those who do."*

Students enrolled in this course are responsible for abiding by the Honor Code. A student who has doubts about how the Honor Code applies to any assignment is responsible for obtaining specific guidance from the course instructor before submitting the assignment for evaluation.

Students are strongly discouraged from misusing sites such as Chegg and CourseHero, as well as misusing ChatGPT and other Generative Artificial Intelligence. Students are strongly encouraged to consult their faculty members regarding the use of such outside materials as the misuse of these

sources may constitute a violation of the Honor Code. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the University community from the requirements and expectations of the Honor Code.

All university policies and procedures apply in any Virginia Tech academic environment, and all students are expected to follow them. For additional information about the Honor Code, please visit: https://www.honorsystem.vt.edu/

Honor Code Pledge for Assignments: The Virginia Tech honor code pledge for assignments is as follows:

"I have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance on this assignment."

The pledge is to be written out on all graded assignments at the university and signed by the student. The honor pledge represents both an expression of the student's support of the honor code and a commitment to uphold the academic standards at Virginia Tech.

If you have questions or are unclear about what constitutes academic misconduct on an assignment, please speak with me. I take the honor code very seriously in the course. The normal sanction I will recommend for a violation of the Honor Code is an 'F*' sanction as your final course grade. The 'F' represents failure in the course. The "*" is intended to identify a student who has failed to uphold the values of academic integrity at Virginia Tech. A student who receives a sanction of F* as their final course grade shall have it documented on their transcript with the notation "FAILURE DUE TO ACADEMIC HONOR CODE VIOLATION." You would be required to complete an education program administered by the Honor System in order to have the "*" and notation "FAILURE DUE TO ACADEMIC HONOR CODE VIOLATION" removed from your transcript. The "F" however would be permanently on your transcript.

Your written assignments may be reviewed through the University's plagiarism prevention and detection software called Turnitin- Feedback Studio, which is a resource designed to detect and prevent plagiarism. This software is a tool that works by cross-referencing submitted materials with journals, essays, newspaper articles, papers, books, the internet, and other literary works. Turintin-Feedback Studio does not identify all forms of plagiarism. The software also does not replace my judgement regarding what constitutes plagiarism.

Students enrolled in this course are responsible for abiding by the Honor Code. A student who has doubts about how the Honor Code applies to any assignment is responsible for obtaining specific guidance from the course instructor before submitting the assignment for evaluation. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the University community from the requirements and expectations of the Honor Code.

For additional information about the Honor Code, please visit: https://www.honorsystem.vt.edu/

All assignments submitted shall be considered "graded work" and all aspects of your coursework are covered by the Honor Code. All projects and homework assignments are to be completed individually unless otherwise specified.

Commission of any of the following acts shall constitute academic misconduct. This listing is not, however, exclusive of other acts that may reasonably be said to constitute academic misconduct. Clarification is provided for each definition with some examples of prohibited behaviors in the Undergraduate Honor Code Manual located at https://www.honorsystem.vt.edu/

A. CHEATING

Cheating includes the intentional use of unauthorized materials, information, notes, study aids or other devices or materials in any academic exercise, or attempts thereof.

B. PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism includes the copying of the language, structure, programming, computer code, ideas, and/or thoughts of another and passing off the same as one's own original work, or attempts thereof.

C. FALSIFICATION

Falsification includes the statement of any untruth, either verbally or in writing, with respect to any element of one's academic work, or attempts thereof.

D. FABRICATION

Fabrication includes making up data and results, and recording or reporting them, or submitting fabricated documents, or attempts thereof.

E. MULTIPLE SUBMISSION

Multiple submission involves the submission for credit—without authorization of the instructor receiving the work—of substantial portions of any work (including oral reports) previously submitted for credit at any academic institution, or attempts thereof.

F. COMPLICITY

Complicity includes intentionally helping another to engage in an act of academic misconduct, or attempts thereof.

G. VIOLATION OF UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE, DEPARTMENTAL, PROGRAM, COURSE, OR FACULTY RULES

The violation of any University, College, Departmental, Program, Course, or Faculty Rules relating to academic matters that may lead to an unfair academic advantage by the student violating the rule(s).

Instructor's Bio

Yannis A. Stivachtis is Professor of Political Science, holder of the Jean Monnet Chair, and Director of the Center for European & Transatlantic Studies (CEUTS), which is recognized by the European Commission as a *Jean Monnet Center of Excellence*.

He was awarded (2019) the *Jean Monnet Chair* in recognition of his excellence in European Studies by the Education, Audiovisual and Cultural Executive Agency (EACEA) of the European Commission. He has also been recognized as *National Security Scholar* by the U.S. Department of Defense (2014).

He is also the editor of the *Critical European Studies* book series (Routledge) and co-editor of the *Athens Journal of Mediterranean Studies*. He currently serves as Senior Advisor of the Center for European and Mediterranean Affairs (CEMA) of the Athens Institute for Education & Research (ATINER) (Greece); External Expert for the Research Executive Agency (REA) of the European Commission; External Expert of the Hellenic Authority for Higher Education (HAHE), Greek Ministry of Education; Advisory Board member of the Center for Intelligence and Security Studies, Bellevue University; and Senior Advisor of the Research Institute for European & American Studies (RIEAS, Greece).

His research and teaching interests include international relations theory (with particular emphasis on the English School of International Relations including the study of the evolution of international society and the study of regional international system/society in Europe, Eurasia, and the Middle East), Security/Strategic Studies (with emphasis on national and international security, strategic theory, and arms control and disarmament), and European Studies (including EU strategy, EU's foreign, security, and defense policy, EU's external relations and interior policies, and European organizations).

His previous appointments include Professor of International Relations, Geneva School of Diplomacy (Switzerland); Professor of International Relations, The American College of Switzerland; Visiting Professor, The American University of Paris; Visiting Lecturer, European Institute-University of Geneva; Research Fellow, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR); Research Fellow, Institute for Strategic Studies-Austrian Ministry of Defense (Austria); Research Fellow, Austrian Institute of European & Security Policy; and Research Fellow at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

He has authored and edited several books and has published numerous journal articles and book chapters.

Yannis Stivachtis' Personal Meeting Room

Join Zoom Meeting
https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/8826427416

Meeting ID: 882 642 7416
One tap mobile
+13017158592,,8826427416# US (Washington D.C)
+13126266799,,8826427416# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington D.C)
+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)
+1 929 436 2866 US (New York)
+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)
+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)
Meeting ID: 882 642 7416
Find your local number: https://virginiatech.zoom.us/u/kcJPbpafzg

Join by SIP
8826427416@zoomcrc.com

Join by H.323
162.255.37.11 (US West)
162.255.36.11 (US East)
115.114.131.7 (India Mumbai)
115.114.115.7 (India Hyderabad)
213.19.144.110 (Amsterdam Netherlands)
213.244.140.110 (Germany)
103.122.166.55 (Australia)
149.137.40.110 (Singapore)
64.211.144.160 (Brazil)
69.174.57.160 (Canada)
207.226.132.110 (Japan)
Meeting ID: 882 642 7416

Join by Skype for Business
https://virginiatech.zoom.us/skype/8826427416

Class Schedule

Adjustments to the assignment schedule are inevitable. The instructor will make every effort to keep students abreast of changes.

Week One

Tuesday	8/27	Introduction; Why grand strategy and great powers remain important
Thursday	8/29	Grand strategy: approaches and definitions (instructor's PPt)

Week Two

Tuesday	9/3	The idea of grand strategy (Layton, chapter 2)
Thursday	9/5	The theory of grand strategy (Layton, chapter 3)

Week Three

Tuesday	9/10	Types of grand strategy (denial, engagement and reform grand strategy) (Layton, chapter 4)
Thursday	9/12	Types of grand strategy (denial, engagement and reform grand strategy) (Layton, chapter 4)

PART II: The Elements of a Successful Grand Strategy

Week Four

Tuesday	9/17	Simple and competitive (Bishop, chapters 1 & 2)
Thursday	9/19	Rational and allied (Bishop, chapters 3 & 4)

Week Five

Tuesday	9/24	Comprehensive and creative (Bishop, chapters 5 & 6)
Thursday	9/26	Agile and courageous (Bishop, chapters 7 & 8)

Week Six

Tuesday	10/1	Dirty and proactive (Bishop, chapters 8 & 9)
Thursday	10/3	Discussion

PART III: US Grand Strategy

Student presentations based on the following book: Benjamin Miller, *Grand Strategy from Truman to Trump* (Chicago: Chicago university Press, 2020).

Week Seven

Tuesday	10/8	Presentation: chapter 1 Presentation: chapter 2
Thursday	10/10	Presentation: chapter 3

Presentation: chapter 4

Week Eight

Tuesday	10/15	Presentation: chapter 5 Presentation: chapter 6
Thursday	10/17	Presentation: chapter 7 Presentation: chapter 8

Week Nine

Tuesday	10/22	Presentation: chapter 9 Presentation: chapter 10

PART III: Russian Grand Strategy

Student presentations based on the following book: Andrew Monaghan (ed.), *Russian Grand Strategy in the Era of Global Power Competition* (Manchester, UK: Manchester University Press, 2022).

Week Ten

Tuesday	10/29	Presentation: Introduction Presentation: chapter 1
Thursday	10/31	Presentation: chapter 2 Presentation: chapter 3

Week Eleven

Tuesday	11/5	Presentation: chapter 4 Presentation: chapter 5
Thursday	11/7	Presentation: chapter 6 Presentation: Conclusion

PART IV: EU's Grand Strategy

Student presentations based on the following book: Sven Bishop, *European Strategy in the 21st Century* (London: Routledge, 2019).

Week Twelve

Tuesday	11/12	Presentation: chapter 1 Presentation: chapter 2
Thursday	11/14	Presentation: chapter 3 Presentation: chapter 4

Week Thirteen

Tuesday	11/19	Presentation: chapter 5 Presentation: chapter 6
Thursday	11/21	Presentation: chapter 7 Presentation: chapter 8

Week Fourteen **Thanksgiving Break – No classes**

PART V: Grand Strategies of other great powers

Week Fifteen

Tuesday	12/3	Presentation: French Grand Strategy (chapter 5)
Thursday	12/5	Presentation: British Grand Strategy (chapter 6)

Week Sixteenth

Tuesday	12/10	Presentation: Chinese Grand Strategy (chapter 4) Presentation: Indian Grand Strategy (chapter 8)
Thursday	**12/12**	**Reading Day – No Class**