

## Faculty of Economics and Political Science

### National Security Strategies

#### Information :

**Course Code :** PSC 412

**Level :** Undergraduate

**Course Hours :** 3.00- Hours

**Department :** Department of Political Science

#### Area Of Study :

Shaping the National Security Strategy of a state requires the integration of a number of inputs that include history, ideology, geography, resources, interests, military power, socio-political cohesion, political stability, economic power, perceived threats, nature of society and others. This course is designed to explain the relation between political decision-making with the national security strategy through examining the impact of the different inputs. By the end of the course, students simulate different Arab countries and their enemies/main allies to try to come up with a sound national security strategy for each Arab country and for the Arab world at large.

#### Course Goals:

- ✓ Comprehend the differences/similarities between national interests and national security.
- ✓ Understand the difference between a national security strategy and a national security policy.
- ✓ Assess the impact of the nature of the ruling regime on the making of the NSS.

#### Description :

Shaping the National Security Strategy of a state requires the integration of a number of inputs that include history, ideology, geography, resources, interests, military power, socio-political cohesion, political stability, economic power, perceived threats, nature of society and others. This course is designed to explain the relation between political decision-making with the national security strategy through examining the impact of the different inputs. By the end of the course, students simulate different Arab countries and their enemies/main allies to try to come up with a sound national security strategy for each Arab country and for the Arab world at large.

#### Course outcomes :

##### a. Knowledge and Understanding: :

- |     |   |
|-----|---|
| 1 - | Understand the making of a national security strategy.                        |
| 2 - | Recognize the differences between the NSS in developing and developed states. |

##### b. Intellectual Skills: :

- |     |  |
|-----|--|
| 1 - | Compare the strength/weakness of a country in the international system with its NSS.                               |
| 2 - | Relate the perceived power of a state with its decision on where to place the bar on what constitutes a NS threat. |

##### c. Professional and Practical Skills: :

- |     |  |
|-----|--|
| 1 - | Design a NSS for selected countries through role playing workshop.                                 |
| 2 - | Develop and implement a research paper that applies the class content in a proper academic manner. |

##### d. General and Transferable Skills: :

- |     |   |
|-----|---|
| 1 - | Develop self-learning skills.                   |
| 2 - | Select and use credible sources of information. |
| 3 - | Practice working in a group.                    |

4 - Practice role-playing and simulations.

**Course Topic And Contents :**

Topic	No. of hours	Lecture	Tutorial / Practical
Introduction and Syllabus	3	1	
Definition of Strategy vs. Policy	3	1	
National Security: Overview and Historical Development	3	1	
National Interests vs. National Security	3	1	
Institutions Involved in Shaping NSS	3	1	
Factors and Inputs Involved in Formulating NSS	3	1	
Developed vs. Developing States NSS Making	3	1	
Midterm Exam		1	
Perceived Power of a State and Enemy Identification	3	1	
Dictatorships and NSS Making	3	1	
US Vs. Al-Qaeda: Impact of Magnitude of Threat on NSS Failure/Success	3	1	
Questioning the Existence of NSS in the Arab World	3	1	
Formulating Successful NSS in the Arab World	3	1	
Role-Playing Workshop Session	3	1	
Final Exam		1	

**Teaching And Learning Methodologies :**

Demonstration videos  
Presentation  
Simulations  
Group discussion  
Research Paper

**Course Assessment :**

Methods of assessment	Relative weight %	Week No	Assess What
Course Work (Attendance, Participation, Assignments, Quizzes, Research Paper & D	30.00		To assess understanding, and to assess theoretical background of the intellectual and practical skills.
Final Exam	40.00	15	To assess knowledge and intellectual skills.
Midterm Exam(s)	30.00	8	To assess professional skills.

**Recommended books :**

Alan G Stolberg, How Nation-States Craft National Security Strategy Documents, US Army War College: Strategic Studies Institute, 2012. <http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pubs/display.cfm?pubid=1128>

Alix Julia Boucher, National Security Policies and Strategies: A Note on Current Practice, Stimson Center, 2009. [http://www.stimson.org/images/uploads/research-pdfs/Stimson\\_National\\_Security\\_Strategy\\_Note\\_FINAL\\_12dec09\\_1.pdf](http://www.stimson.org/images/uploads/research-pdfs/Stimson_National_Security_Strategy_Note_FINAL_12dec09_1.pdf)

Susanna Bearne (et. al.), National Security Decision-Making Structures and Security Sector Reform, RAND Europe, 2005. [http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/technical\\_reports/2005/RAND\\_TR289.pdf](http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/technical_reports/2005/RAND_TR289.pdf)

**Periodicals :**

David Chuter, From Threats to Tasks: Making and Implementing National Security Policy, Journal of Security Sector Management, 5, 2, 2007 (1-19). [http://www.davidchuter.com/Texts/jofssm\\_0502\\_chuter.pdf](http://www.davidchuter.com/Texts/jofssm_0502_chuter.pdf)