

Note:

Course content may be changed, term to term, without notice. The information below is provided as a guide for course selection and is not binding in any form, and should not be used to purchase course materials.

COURSE SYLLABUS

PLCY 880

INTRODUCTION TO NATIONAL SECURITY POLICY

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course requires students to research the basic contours of their chosen policy cognate. Students will work with their faculty member to understand the scope, history, controversial issues, and key policy outcomes associated with this cognate. This research will serve as a stepping stone to conducting a comprehensive literature review for their dissertation, and provide the needed context to ensure that students' chosen dissertation topics are focused and appropriate.

RATIONALE

In the fast changing, highly fluid, multidimensional discipline of national security policy and planning today, serious need exists for more trained analysts, policy planners, and experienced practitioners who better understand how to integrate the moving parts of this increasingly critical area of expertise. If past theory and practice understood national security more in terms of conventional military deterrence, current focus requires skilled professionals be able to integrate and coordinate US security policy to meet additional challenges posed by the global economy, cyberwar, terror networks, the proliferation of WMDs, and natural disasters.

I. PREREQUISITE

For information regarding prerequisites for this course, please refer to the [Academic Course Catalog](#).

II. REQUIRED RESOURCE PURCHASE

Click on the following link to view the required resource(s) for the term in which you are registered: <http://bookstore.mbsdirect.net/liberty.htm>

III. RECOMMENDED RESOURCE

Turabian, Kate L. *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*.
Current ed. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

IV. ADDITIONAL MATERIALS FOR LEARNING

- A. Computer with basic audio/video output equipment
- B. Internet access (broadband recommended)
- C. Blackboard [recommended browsers](#)
- D. Microsoft Office Word

V. MEASURABLE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- A. Describe key agencies involved in US national security analysis, planning, policymaking, and implementation.
- B. Discuss the historically complex nature of interagency competition in deciding what national security policy should be and why.
- C. Estimate the importance of budgetary and financial processes to national security policy-making.
- D. Evaluate the challenges of intelligence gathering, cooperation, and coordination between competing agencies.
- E. Explain how non-government influences may impact the policy making process.
- F. Synthesize national security concepts and themes with a biblical worldview.

VI. COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS

- A. Textbook readings and lecture presentations
- B. Course Requirements Checklist

After reading the Course Syllabus and [Student Expectations](#), the student will complete the related checklist found in Module/Week 1.

- C. Discussion Board Forums (3)

Discussion boards are collaborative learning experiences. Therefore, the student is required to provide a thread in response to the provided prompt for each forum. Each thread must be 400–500 words and demonstrate course-related knowledge. In addition to the thread, the student is required to reply to 2 other classmates’ threads. Each reply must be 200–250 words. Any references and citations must be in current Turabian format.

- D. Essays (3)

The student will write a 1,250–1,500-word research-based paper in current Turabian format that focuses on the topic relevant to the course readings for the Module in which it is located and all previous learning. The paper must include at least 5-7 references in addition to the course textbooks, presentations, and the Bible.

- E. Comparative Think Tank Analysis Paper (in 3 Parts)

Topic Approval

Select a current national security issue you want to compare across at three policy think tanks. But your research should reflect recent accounts. The instructor must approve the issue or problem identified. If not approved, the Instructor will recommend modifications, changes, or refinement of the issue or problem.

Website Selection

Select three websites to compare the same issue/problem and explain the basic orientation of each site. The language of the subject matter may not ‘headline’ the same in all sites but may be expressed using different language. Each site may also offer multiple formats, whether downloadable reports, documents, news stories, and conference links. Be sure to see everything they have. All ThinkTank sources must be scholarly.

Paper

Final Think Tank Comparative Analysis Paper Submission. The student will write a 1,250–1,500-word research analysis in current Turabian format that compares how policy think tanks deal with the same national security issue, whether the issue is foreign or domestic policy oriented. The paper must include at least 5-6 outside scholarly references in addition to the course textbook, at least 1 relevant presentation citation from the assigned module/week, and the Bible.

F. Midterm Research Essay

The Mid-Term Essay Question will cover the Reading & Study material for Module/Week 4, chs. 6-7. The student will write a 1,250–1,500-word essay in current Turabian format that focuses on the topic selected from the course readings, presentations, and other sources for the Module in which it is located. The paper must include at least 5-6 outside scholarly references in addition to the course textbook, 1 relevant presentations citation from the assigned module/week, and the Bible.

VII. COURSE GRADING AND POLICIES

A. Points

Course Requirements Checklist	10
Discussion Board Forums (3 at 50 pts ea)	150
Essays (3 at 150 pts ea)	450
Comparative Think Tank Analysis Paper	
Topic Approval	5
Website Selection	25
Paper	170
Midterm Research Essay	200
	Total 1010

B. Scale

A = 940–1010 A- = 920–939 B+ = 900–919 B = 860–899 B- = 840–859
 C+ = 820–839 C = 780–819 C- = 760–779 D+ = 740–759 D = 700–739
 D- = 680–699 F = 0–679

C. Disability Assistance

Students with a documented disability may contact Liberty University Online's Office of Disability Academic Support (ODAS) at LUOODAS@liberty.edu to make arrangements for academic accommodations. Further information can be found at www.liberty.edu/disabilitysupport.

COURSE SCHEDULE

PLCY 880

MODULE/ WEEK	READING & STUDY	ASSIGNMENTS	POINTS
1	George & Rishikof: Introduction, chs. 1–2 5 presentations	Course Requirements Checklist Class Introductions DB Forum 1	10 0 50
2	George & Rishikof: chs. 3, 8 2 presentations 2 websites	Essay 1	150
3	George & Rishikof: chs. 4-5 6 presentations 1 article 4 websites	DB Forum 2 Topic Approval: Comparative Think Tank Analysis Paper	50 5
4	George & Rishikof: chs. 6-7 7 presentations 2 articles 7 websites	Midterm Research Essay	200
5	George & Rishikof: chs. 9-10 2 presentations 1 article 2 websites	Essay 2	150
6	George & Rishikof: chs. 11-12 6 presentations 4 websites	DB Forum 3 Website Selection: Comparative Think Tank Analysis Paper	50 25
7	George & Rishikof: chs. 13-14 4 presentations 2 articles 2 websites	Essay 3	150
8	George & Rishikof: chs. 15-17 5 presentations 1 PDF 3 websites	Comparative Think Tank Analysis Paper	170
TOTAL			1010

DB = Discussion Board

NOTE: Each course module/week begins on Monday morning at 12:00 a.m. (ET) and ends on Sunday night at 11:59 p.m. (ET). The final module/week ends at 11:59 p.m. (ET) on **Friday**.