Course Syllabus and Policy Requirement Statement

In order to access your course materials, you must agree to the following, by clicking the "Mark Reviewed" button below.

By checking the "Mark Reviewed" link below, you are indicating the following:

- You have read, understood, and will comply with the policies and procedures listed in the class syllabus, and that you have acquired the required textbook(s).
- You have read, understood, and will comply with class policies and procedures as specified in the online Student Handbook.
- You have read, understood, and will comply with computer and software requirements as specified with Browser Test.
- You have familiarized yourself with how to access course content in Blackboard using the Student Quick Reference Guide or CSS Student Orientation Course.

SEC 6318 Weak and Failing States and National Security

Course Description/Overview

For many years following the end of the Cold War, weak states, failing states and failed states failed to gain the attention of the United States. With the exception of the Somalia case study (a failed state), the United States tended to ignore states that were either weak or on the brink of being failed states. The events of 9/11 ended this, for the most part. Because Afghanistan was essentially a failing state and supported terrorism, this issue has now become one that is ripe for examination. What constitutes a weak state, a failing state or a failed state? Are failed states a threat to the U.S. security? If so, why? Who are these states, and what can be done to remedy their ominous and often distinctive situations? All of these issues will be examined in this course, which will provide current and recent case studies as a method for conducting analysis of an issue that has only recently come to the forefront of Washington's foreign policy.

The course is targeting the notion of the "weak" and "failed" states from two perspectives: intrinsic (the domestic causes and consequences of state failures) and extrinsic (influence of outside factors on state failures and the impacts these failures on regional and global security). The major aim is to create a complex understanding among the students of the whole array of complexities behind state failures from political, economic, religious and cultural viewpoints.

Course Objectives/Learning Outcomes

Objectives: As a result of completing this course, the student will be able to:

- Apply the theoretical and practical knowledge of the multiple issues underlying the concept of weak and failed states in their future research;
- Analyze the causes of state failures and their consequences to the regional, international and US national security;
- Conduct independent study on the topics vital of prevention of state-failure, containment of their threats and post-failure reconstruction.

Grading Policies

Assignment	Percent of Grade	Due
First Essay (Mid term)	20%	Friday at the end of week 5 before 2100 hrs. Central Standard Time. **Answers on the questions shall be between 4500 and 5000 words**
Powerpoint Presentation	20%	Friday at the end of week 7 before 2100 hrs. Central Standard Time. **10-15 slide PowerPoint presentation**
Discussion Thread participation	20%	Occurs in weeks with no written assignment
Final Essay	40%	Wednesday at the end of week 8 before 2100 hrs. Central Standard Time. **The answers on the questions should be between 7000 and 7500 words.**

Angelo State University employs a letter grade system. Grades in this course are determined on a percentage scale:

A = 90 – 100 %
B = 80 – 89 %
C = 70 – 79 %
D = 60 – 69 %
F = 59 % and below.

Discussion

Selected classes have the lists of 2-3 questions, which they are expected to cover using the Blackboard tool during their discussions. The students will be divided into groups within which they are expected to fully cover the aspects raised in the questions. The length of the responses shall not be less than 300 words. There are no discussion questions for the weeks with presentations, mid-term and final paper.

Mid-term

The mid-term exam is meant to evaluate understanding of the topics covered as well as specific terms and their applications in the field of national and international security. The students will be offered a list of six short essay questions out of which they shall chose two. The mid-term will be due by 09:00 CT of Friday of Lesson II. The length of the mid-term paper shall not exceed 2500 words.

Presentations

Each student is expected to come up with a 15-20-slide presentation on the topics of weekly readings covered so far with relevant annotations to each slide. Presentations should be based on readings as well as any other relevant materials the students find appropriate. The students are expected to consult with the course instructor on the relevance of the additional literature and/or other supporting materials they select for their presentations. The students are also encouraged to use any applicable audio and visual aids (such as imbedded video or audio) during their presentation. The topic for the presentations will be due by 09:00 CT of Friday of Lesson VII.

Final exam

The final exam is the key requirement for the course that reflects analytical efforts or the students to independently conduct social science research. The final exam paper serves as an important exercise in how to design an independent social science research project. The students will be offered a list of six essay questions out of which they shall chose two. The research paper should not be more than 7000 words and should include individual efforts of a student to cover the issues identified during the course. Students are particularly encouraged to consult with the course instructor on the matter of using additional literature relevant for their research papers' topics. The topics for the final exam will be available on BlackBoard on Monday of Lesson 6 and will be due by 09:00 AM CT of Friday of Lesson 8.

Course Organization:

Lesson 1: **What is a Weak/Failed State (WFS)?:** Introduces the notion of weak and failed states within the political science context and discusses historical causes and modern-day consequences of state failures.

Lesson 2: **Weak/Failed State as a Security Threat:** Focuses on the impact of states failures on regional, international and US national security environment and studies different types and categories of failed states.

Lesson 3: **Weak/Failed States in Africa:** Discusses the causes and consequences of state failures in Africa.

Lesson 4: **Weak/Failed State in Asia:** Discusses the causes and consequences of state failures in Asia.

Lesson 5: **Weak/Failed State in Latin America:** Discusses the causes and consequences of state failures in Latin America.

Lesson 6: **Weak/Failed State in Europe:** Discusses the causes and consequences of state failures in Europe.

Lesson 7: **Weak/Failed State in Middle East:** Discusses the causes and consequences of state failures in Middle East.

Lesson 8:   Remedies To Weak/Failed States: Outlines possible remedies to state failures available to domestic and international actors.

Course Bibliography and Required Readings:

There are two books for purchase in this course:
1. Nalbandov, R. 2009. Foreign Interventions in Ethnic Conflicts. Ashgate Publishing.
2. Bechtol, B. 2010. Defiant Failed State: The North Korean Threat to International Security. Potomac Books, Inc.
These books are all available in Kindle version for online download from Amazon.

Lesson I: What is a Weak/Failed State (WFS)?

Failed States: Why They Matter. Failed States Index 2011.

Rotberg, R.I. 2003. Failed States, Collapsed States, Weak States. World Peace Foundation. Chapter 1, "Failed States, Collapsed States, Weak States: Causes and Indicators", 1-25.

Brooks, R.E. 2005. Failed States, or the State as Failure? in The University of Chicago Law Review, 72(4), 1159-1196.

Newman, E. 2009. Failed States and International Order: Constructing a Post-Westphalian World, in Contemporary Security Policy, 30(3), 421–443.

Lesson II: Weak/Failed State as a Security Threat

The Troubled Ten: The Ten Worst Performers. Failed States Index 2011. The Fund for Peace.

State Failure Task Force Report 1995. "Key findings", vii-1; "Findings", 12-21.

Messner, J.J. Somalia Tops the Failed States Index for the Fourth Year Running. Failed States Index 2011. The Fund for Peace.

Messner, J.J. and Knight, M. Natural Disasters and Their Effect on State Capacity. Failed States Index 2011. The Fund for Peace.

Logan, J. and Preble, C. 2011. Fixing Failed States: A Dissenting View, in Coyne, C.J. and Mathers, R.L. (eds.) The Handbook on the Political Economy of War, 379-397.

Lesson III: Weak/Failed States in Africa

Knutsen, C.H. 2009. Africa's Growth Tragedy Revisited: Weak States, Strong Rulers. GARNET Working Paper No: 71/09.

Nalbandov, R. 2009. Foreign Interventions in Ethnic Conflicts. Ashgate Publishing. Chapter 3: Chad (1966-1987): Muscling in for Control, 53-80.

Wezeman, P.D. 2009. Arms Flows to the Conflict in Chad. SIPRI Background Paper, 1-12.

Nalbandov, R. 2009. Foreign Interventions in Ethnic Conflicts. Ashgate Publishing. Chapter 5: Somalia (1991-1994): When Force Fails, 105-128.

Nalbandov, R. 2009. [Foreign Interventions in Ethnic Conflicts](). Ashgate Publishing. Chapter 6: Rwanda (1990-1996): Success during Genocide, 129-152.

[Fund for Peace Country Profiles]()

Lesson IV: Weak/Failed State in Asia

Khalilzad, Z. and Byman, D. 1999. [Afghanistan: The Consolidation of a Rogue State](), in The Washington Quarterly, 23(1), 65-78.

Vira, V. and Cordesman, A.H. 2011. [Pakistan: Violence vs. Instability](). A National Net Assessment, CSIS.

Bechtol, B. 2010. [Defiant Failed State: The North Korean Threat to International Security](). Potomac Books, Inc. Chapter 2: Understanding the North Korean Military Threat to the Security of the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia, 11-48; Chapter 3: Creating Instability in Dangerous Global Regions, 49-70. KINDLE

[Timor Leste Conflict Assessment](). The Center for International Conflict Resolution (CICR), Columbia University. 2004.

[Kyrgyzstan's Forgotten Revolution](). Failed States Index 2011. The Fund for Peace.

VIDEO

[Kyrgyzstan's second "tulip revolution"]()

Lesson V: Weak/Failed State in Latin America

Messner, J.J. [Most-Worsened for 2011](): Haiti. Failed States Index 2011. The Fund for Peace.

Tate, W. 1999. [Colombia's Role in International Drug Industry](), in Foreign Policy In Focus.

de la Torre, C. 2009. [Ecuadorian Politics in the Context of Strategic Culture](). Paper prepared for the "Ecuador Strategic Culture Workshop"

Cook, C.W. 2007. [Mexico's Drug Cartels](). Congressional Research Service.

Lesson VI: Weak/Failed State in Europe

Messner, J.J. [Most-Improved for 2011: Georgia](). Failed States Index 2011. The Fund for Peace.

Nalbandov, R. 2009. [Battle of Two Logics: Appropriateness and Consequentiality in Russian Interventions in Georgia](), in Caucasian Review of International Affairs, 3(1), 2-19.

[Yugoslavia: The Union Breaks Apart]() (Go to: Europe and Nations from 1945 to the present > Launch Animated Maps)

[War in ex-Yugoslavia 1991-1995]() (Go to: Europe and Nations from 1945 to the present > Launch Animated Maps)

Doder, D. 1993. [Yugoslavia: New War, Old Hatreds](), in Foreign Policy, 91, 3-23

Lesson VII: Weak/Failed State in Middle East

Haken, N. [The Arab Spring: Where Did That Come From](#)? Failed States Index 2011

Baker, P.H. The Surge: [What Comes Next? Failed States Index](#). Report #8 (2003-2008)

Chase, A.T. 2003. [The State and Human Rights: Governance and Sustainable Human Development in Yemen](#), in International Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society, 17(2), 213-236.

Alam, A. 2011. [Sanctioning Iran: Limits of Coercive Diplomacy](#), in India Quarterly: A Journal of International Affairs, 67(1), 37-52.

Seaver, B.M. 2000. [The Regional Sources of Power-Sharing Failure: The Case of Lebanon](#), in Political Science Quarterly, 115(2), 247-271.

Lesson VIII: Remedies To Weak/Failed States

Nuruzzaman, M. 2009. [Revisiting the Category of Fragile and Failed States in International Relations](#), in International Studies, 46(3), 271-294.

Wyler, L.S. 2008. [Weak and Failing States: Evolving Security Threats and U.S. Policy](#). Congressional Research Service.

[Responsibility to Protect](#). Report of International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty, 2001.

Krasner, S. 2004. [Sharing Sovereignty: New Institutions for Collapsed and Failing State](#)s, in International Security, 29(2), 85-120.

Coyne, C.J. 2006. [Reconstructing Weak and Failed States: Foreign Intervention and the Nirvana Fallacy](#), in Foreign Policy Analysis, 2, 343–3 60.

Communication

Office Hours/Contacting the Instructor

See the Instructor Information section for contact information.

University Policies

Academic Integrity Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding and complying with the university [Academic Honor Code](#) and the [ASU Student Handbook](#).

Accommodations for Disability
The Student Life Office is the designated campus department charged with the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing requests for reasonable accommodations based on a disability, and it is the student's responsibility to initiate such a request by contacting the Student Life Office at (325) 942-2191 or (325) 942-2126 (TDD/FAX) or by e-mail at Student.Life@angelo.edu to begin the process. The Student Life Office will establish the particular documentation requirements necessary for the various

types of disabilities.

Student absence for religious holidays
A student who intends to observe a religious holy day should make that intention known in writing to the instructor prior to the absence. A student who is absent from classes for the observance of a religious holy day shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment scheduled for that day within a reasonable time after the absence.