Course Description: This course examines the evolution of American grand strategy since 1900, when the United States first emerged on the world stage as a great power. The focus will be on assessing how its leaders have thought over time about: 1) which areas of the world are worth fighting and dying for, 2) when it is necessary to fight in those strategically important areas, and 3) what kinds of military forces are needed for deterrence and war-fighting in those regions. Attention will be paid to issues such as America’s entry into World War I, World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War; the influence of America’s location in the Western Hemisphere on its grand strategy; the superpower competition in the Cold War; the strategies of containment, massive retaliation and flexible response; the impact of domestic politics on US grand strategy; the relationship between America’s economic and military position in the world system; the impact of the collapse of the Soviet Union and the emergence of al Qaeda on US grand strategy; the future of America’s Cold War alliances; the Bush Administration’s national security strategy; and whether China is likely to rise peacefully.

Course Requirements: This course is oriented around the readings and the lectures. It is expected that every student will do all the reading and attend every lecture. Moreover, each student will be expected to attend a discussion section once a week. The grade will be based on a comprehensive final examination (75%) and classroom participation in the discussion section (25%).

Readings and Books: These books – all of which are in paperback – have been ordered through the Seminary Co-op Bookstore:

- Robert J. Art, A Grand Strategy for America (Cornell)
- John Lewis Gaddis, Strategies of Containment (Oxford)
- George F. Kennan, American Diplomacy, expanded ed. (Chicago)
- Russell Frank Weigley, The American Way of War (Indiana)

All other readings besides the above four books are available on Chalk.

Course Outline:

PART I: INTRODUCTION

1. January 4, 2011 (Tuesday): Organizational Meeting and Overview

2. January 6 (Thursday): Defining Grand Strategy

   -- Art, Grand Strategy for America, pp. 1–81.

PART II: AMERICAN GRAND STRATEGY, 1900–1945


   -- Kennan, American Diplomacy, chaps. 1-4.


   -- Weigley, American Way of War, part 3.
5. January 18 (Tuesday): Isolationism, 1900–1941

6. January 20 (Thursday): World War II
   -- Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, “Plan Dog” memorandum (Nov. 12, 1940)
   -- Weigley, *American Way of War*, part 4

**PART III: AMERICAN GRAND STRATEGY, 1945–1989**

7. January 25 (Tuesday): Containment
   -- Kennan, “The Sources of Soviet Conduct,” in *American Diplomacy*.

8. January 27 (Thursday): The Nuclear Revolution

9. February 1 (Tuesday): The Early Cold War

10. February 3 (Thursday): The Third World

11. February 8 (Tuesday): The Vietnam War–I
    -- Fredrik Logevall, *Choosing War* (Univ. of California, 1999), chap. 12

12. February 10 (Thursday): The Vietnam War–II

13. February 15 (Tuesday): The Persian Gulf

**PART IV: AMERICAN GRAND STRATEGY, 1990–2001**

14. February 17 (Thursday): Unipolarity and “The End of History”


15. February 22 (Tuesday): Clinton Administration Grand Strategy


**PART V: AMERICAN GRAND STRATEGY SINCE SEPT.11, 2001**

16. February 24 (Thursday): The Bush Doctrine

-- Charles Krauthammer, “Democratic Realism: An American Foreign Policy for a Unipolar World,” 2004 Irving Kristol Lecture at AEL.

17. March 1 (Tuesday): The RMA and the Promise of Easy Victories


18. March 3 (Thursday): The Terrorist Threat


19. March 8 (Tuesday): Can China Rise Peacefully?