DRAFT SYLLABUS
Transatlantic Perspectives on
Security in Northern Europe
Summer 2017
Professor Christopher Kojm
Teaching Assistant (to be determined)
Washington DC, May 22-26;
Stockholm, Sweden, May 29-June 2;
Helsinki, Finland, June 5-7; and
Tallinn, Estonia, June 8-9.

Course Description:
The course is a seminar designed to explore transatlantic perspectives on security issues in Northern Europe in the aftermath of Russia’s seizure of Crimea and its sponsorship of separatist rebels in Eastern Ukraine. Governments and societies in both Sweden and Finland are reassessing whether non-aligned status serves their national interests. The Baltic States, NATO members, worry about Russian pressure on their sovereignty, and how to improve their security. Decisions by states bordering the Baltic will be of keen interest to US policymakers and have a direct impact on US security interests.

The goals of the course are:

• To learn in detail the nature of current security challenges and the debate about them in northern Europe;
• To analyze the pros and cons of complex choices before governments and societies.
• To understand the nature of US interests and policy in northern Europe.
• To maximize the value of speaker engagement through careful preparation.
• To develop clear and concise writing and presentation skills.

The course will begin with 5 days of course sessions in Washington, D.C. from May 22-26. Class sessions will focus on (a) modern history in Sweden & Finland, especially relations with Russia; (b) security challenges in the Cold War and post-Cold War world; (c) The Baltic States accession to NATO; (d) Sweden and Finland’s current relationship with NATO and current Nordic defense issues; (e) and U.S. and Russian security perspectives in the aftermath of recent Russian actions. Class sessions will include guest speakers from the Departments of State and Defense and think-tanks.

The course will pick up again on Sunday night May 22nd in Stockholm, with an opening dinner. Days May 29—June 2nd in Sweden will include visits with representatives from the Swedish Foreign Ministry, the Swedish Defense Ministry, the Parliament (Riksdag) and media and political figures. Class meetings will include both preparation for, and discussions after, speaker presentations, as well as guidance from the instructor on writing assignments.

The June 3-4 weekend is free time plus travel time, and class will resume in Helsinki,
with a group dinner on Sunday night, June 4th. Meetings in Helsinki on June 5-7 will include the Finnish Foreign Ministry, the Finnish Defense Ministry, Finnish Institute of International Affairs, and meetings with media and political figures. Travel to Estonia by ferry on the morning of the 8th will be followed by meetings in the capital of Tallinn on June 8-9. The program will conclude with a farewell reception or dinner on Friday, June 9th. Students may depart the next day.

Course Requirements:

Students will be provided course reading lists a month in advance of the course. I urge you to make significant progress on readings before May 22, because I will expect you to have completed all readings for each class before class. Group discussion of readings will be a key part of the classroom experience, and participation in discussion will be a significant part of your grade.

You will be asked to complete one 5-7page paper before the beginning of the Stockholm program (May 29th).

- Assignment #1: Analyze the Northern European security environment from the standpoint of the United States, Sweden, Finland, the Baltic States, or Russia.

There will be a second 1-2 page paper due on the final day of the course on June 9th.

- Assignment #2: A short critique of the arguments put forward by one of the Swedish or Finnish government speakers.

The third and final assignment will be due two weeks after the conclusion of the course (June 23rd):

- Assignment #3: Prepare a 10-page policy paper for US, Swedish, Finnish, Baltic or Russian policymakers, outlining plausible policy options, their pros and cons, your recommendation, and an implementation strategy. A rubric will be provided later.

Recommended Books to Purchase (Order sent to GW Bookstore):


**Course Grading:**

Class participation & exercise – 35% (including preparation for and questioning of speakers)

Two short papers -- 20% and 10%

Final paper – 35%

**Total Contact Hours:**

20 in Washington (4 hours per day)
15-18 in Stockholm (3+ hours per day)
9 in Helsinki (ca. 3 hours per day)
4-6 in Tallinn (ca. 2-3 hours per day)

**Class Schedule – Washington DC**

**Monday, May 22nd**

**Morning Class** (10 AM to 12 Noon):
Sweden & Russia: Seeking domination in Northern Europe through 1917
Guest Speaker Dr. Olof Kronvall, Elliott School Faculty (to be confirmed)

Readings:


**Afternoon Class** (1:30 to 3:30 PM):
Sweden, Russia & Finland: The Interwar Years and World War II 1918-1945

Readings:

Tuesday May 23rd

**Morning Class** (10 to Noon) Scandinavia: Security challenges from 1945 through the end of the Cold War

**Readings:**


Lipponen, pp.16-27.

**Suggested Readings:**


Moores, Simon, “Neutral on our side”: US Policy Towards Sweden during the Eisenhower Administration, “ *Cold War History* 2/3 (2002), pp. 29-62. [http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/713999963#aHR0cDovL3d3dy50YW5kZm9ubGlucS5jbi9tZS5jb20vZG9pL3BkZi8xMC4xMDgwLzcxMzk5OTk2M0BAQDA=](http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/713999963#aHR0cDovL3d3dy50YW5kZm9ubGlucS5jbi9tZS5jb20vZG9pL3BkZi8xMC4xMDgwLzcxMzk5OTk2M0BAQDA=)


**Readings:**

Wednesday, May 24th

Morning Class (10 AM to Noon):

Recent Nordic Defense Issues

Readings:


Suggested Readings:


Afternoon Class (1:30 to 3:30 PM): Post-conflict in Ukraine: Northern European
Security Futures:

Guest Speaker: **Mr. Aaron Jay** (to be confirmed)
Country Director, Finland, Iceland, & Sweden
European and NATO Policy
Office of the Secretary of Defense

Readings:

http://www.css.ethz.ch/content/dam/ethz/special-interest/gess/cis/center-for-security-studies/pdfs/CSSAnalyse-189-EN.pdf


Bertelman, Tomas, “Sweden and Finland: Common Destiny or Common Diversity?” The Atlantic Council, February 12, 2016 (11pp.).
http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/natosource/sweden-and-finland-common-destiny-or-common-diversity


Read Chapter 13, pp. 157-74. Chapter available here: http://www.isn.ethz.ch/Digital-Library/Publications/Detail/?ots783=0c54e3b3-1e9e-be1e-2c24-a6a8c7060233&lng=en&id=184897

Source Documents:


Suggested Readings:


Thursday, May 25th

Morning Class (10 AM to Noon)

Current American Perspectives on Northern European Security

Guest Speaker: Ambassador Kurt Volker, Executive Director of the McCain Institute for International Leadership and former US Ambassador to NATO. (to be confirmed)

Readings:

Chapter available here: http://www.isn.ethz.ch/Digital-Library/Publications/Detail/?ots783=0c54e3b3-1e9c-be1e-2c24-a6a8c7060233&lng=en&id=184897


Source Documents:


**Afternoon Class (1:30 to 3:30)**

**Future Role of NATO**

Readings:


Friday, May 26th

Morning Class (10 AM to Noon)

Guest Speaker, Mr. Nathaniel P. Dean, Director of the Office of Nordic and Baltic Affairs, US Department of State (to be confirmed)

Afternoon Class (1:30 to 3:30 PM)

Current Baltic State and Russian Perspectives on Northern Europe
Guest Speaker, Mr. Robert Nurick, The Atlantic Council (to be confirmed)


Remainder of Class: Preparation for Stockholm and Helsinki

Saturday May 27th/Sunday May 28th – Flight to Stockholm

Suggested readings: Fact Sheet, background material on Sweden: http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/2880.htm
Sunday Night May 28th

Welcome dinner in Stockholm. Site TBA.

Monday, May 29th

Morning:

9:15 to 11 AM Meeting with Swedish scholars and security experts (to be confirmed):
Robert Dalsjö, Senior analyst, Swedish Defense Research Agency;
Gudrun Persson, Swedish Defence Research Agency, Defence analysis, Faculty Member; and
Magnus Petersson, Professor, Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies;

Afternoon:

2 PM Visit with Ewa Stenberg, security correspondent, Swedish newspaper Dagens Nyheter;

3 PM Visit with Swedish newspaper SvD/Aftonbladet

Tuesday, May 30th

Visit to Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs (details to follow)

3 PM Visit with RADM Haggren, Swedish Armed Forces

Wednesday, May 31st

Visit to Swedish Ministry of Defense (details to follow)

Thursday, June 1st

11 AM Meeting with the Committee on Foreign Affairs in the Parliament (Riksdag)

2:30 PM Visit with Ambassador Diana Janse (Riksdag)

6 PM – Mingle with young professionals from the Free World Forum

Friday, June 2nd
9:15 – 11 AM Seminar at FHS (Swedish Defence University) with Jan Angström and Kersti Larsdotter on Nordic-Baltic security issues (to be confirmed)

Transit to Uppsala (40 minutes by train)

1:15 – 3 PM Visit to the Uppsala University – Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies

3 PM onward – visit in Uppsala, return at leisure

Saturday June 3rd -- No meetings scheduled

Sunday morning, June 4th – Transit to Helsinki

Suggested Readings: Fact sheet, background material on Finland: http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/3238.htm

Sunday evening, June 4th

Group Dinner; discussion of upcoming week in Helsinki

Monday June 5th

(request pending) Visit with staffers from the Foreign Affairs Committees of the Finnish Parliament

Meeting with Matti Kalliokoski, Editorial Page Editor and colleagues at Helsingin Sanomat (to be confirmed)

Meeting with Hiski Haukkala, National Security Adviser to the President of Finland (to be confirmed)

Tuesday June 6th

Visit with Janne Kuusela, Chief of the Defence Policy Unit, Finnish Defense Ministry

Meetings at the Finnish Institute of International Affairs

Wednesday, June 7th

Meetings at the Foreign Ministry

Meeting in the Office of the Prime Minister
Thursday, June 8th

Morning departure for Tallinn

Meetings at the Estonian Foreign Ministry

Friday June 9th – Second Paper Due

Meetings at the Estonian Defense ministry
Meeting with Estonian TV and Radio
Meeting with Russian minority representatives in Estonia
Meeting in the Office of the Prime Minister
Farewell Dinner

Friday, June 23rd -- Final Paper due