



# Security and Strategy Seminar

## U.S.-Russia Strategic Competition

*September 2020 to May 2021*

Once thought to have been on the path to becoming a democratic capitalist state, Russia remains a preeminent global challenge to the United States. Every American president has entered office committed to resetting relations with Russia only for the relationship to become more acrimonious. Today, relations may be at their lowest point in nearly four decades. Thirty years after the end of the Cold War and two decades into Vladimir Putin's reign, Washington seems to have finally realized that the Russian challenge is enduring. What is the nature of the Russian challenge to the United States? What are Russia's objectives, strengths, and weaknesses? In a competition that spans Europe, the Middle East, and even America's homeland, what do we need to understand about Russia in order to achieve our own objectives? Fellows will learn about the history of U.S.-Russian relations, the nature of the Russian political regime, the role of oil, Russian military and nuclear doctrine and developments, and the current status of relations.

The Security and Strategy Seminar (SSS) is a graduate-level seminar in Washington, D.C. focused on distinct challenges to the American position in the world with an emphasis on policy and cohort-building. Taught by leading scholars in the field, each SSS will consist of 15 evening sessions that meet on Wednesday evenings from September-May and will afford participating fellows an opportunity to gain a breadth of knowledge on critical subjects, forge relationships with senior scholars and practitioners, sharpen analytical frameworks through written and oral arguments, and build a cohort with their peers.

### ***Ideal Candidates:***

SSS seeks a professionally diverse and first-rate class of highly committed junior to mid-level professionals (25 to 35 years old) already working in policy-relevant institutions. Fellows will be responsible for around 50 pages of reading for each session and will be required to write two short essays over the course of the program. If the ongoing public health crisis prevents in-person gatherings, SSS will operate via virtual platforms.

### ***How to Apply:***

[Submit](#) your resume, a letter of interest, a 5-page writing sample, and two references by **June 15, 2020**. Candidates are eligible to be considered for more than one seminar.

### ***Draft Seminar Agenda as of May 13, 2020***

Welcome to the Competition

Understanding the Cold War:  
1945-1989

A World Transformed?  
Consolidating Gains: 1989-2000

Putin's Russia: 2000-Present

Dissidents, Rivals, and Political  
Oppression

The Russian Economy: Energy  
and...?

Russia's Grand Strategy

The Conventional Military  
Balance

Nuclear Doctrine, Strategy, and  
Balance

Grey Zone Warfare

Political Warfare: Disinformation,  
Kompromat, and Bots

The New Fulda Gap?: NATO, the  
Baltics, Ukraine, and the Caucasus

A New/Old Great Game: Russian-  
Chinese Relations

Russian Reentry: Russia in the  
Middle East

Competing to Win

THE  
**Alexander Hamilton**  
SOCIETY



**HERTOG**  
FOUNDATION