POSC 236 Global, National and Human Security --- Spring 2015

Class time: Thursday, Thursday 1:15- 3:00

Weitz Center 233

Prof Greg Marfleet

Office Willis 206

Office Hours: Wednesday and Friday 1-3

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

What does it mean to be secure?

During the Cold War the main focus of securities studies was interstate warfare. Academics and practitioners expended time and energy to explore the onset, conduct and consequence of war -- from both a theoretical and empirical angle. Moreover, given the nature of the international bi-polar standoff between the USA and the USSR and the pervasive existential threat of nuclear war, it seemed sensible to devote a great deal of this attention to issue of superpower dynamics. Security studies courses and textbooks included copious discussion of deterrence strategies (like MAD -- Mutual Assured Destruction), early warning and command and control systems, second-strike capabilities and brinksmanship etc. etc. Security meant preventing World War 3.

But even before the Cold War ended, the world was changing. The forces of globalization had begun to generate trans-national connections through communication, commerce and transportation technology that were unheard of decades earlier. As the Cold War ended and the threat of WwIII abated, new security challenges emerged in places like Rwanda, and Kosovo. New threats emerged as non-state transnational actors took aim at faltering hegemons and global order.

Intellectually too, security studies was on new ground. Always at the center of International Relations theory, approaches to security were likewise the main target of critical new schools of thought. Having grown out of the Post WWII triumph of realist approaches, security scholars had battled, then embraced statistical behavioralism and rational game-theoretic tools.. They later debated "idealists" and institutional theories. However, the real challenge came from the constructivist and post-modern camps. They asked the simple question:

Who (or what) can be secure?

Constructivists have suggested that "the state" -- and the reified concept of "National Security" ---was hardly the obvious and natural answer to that question. They also suggested that perhaps the military establishment's standard response to the first question (what security means) was also outdated and one-dimensional.

This course takes up these debates over what security means, who possesses it, and how we should examine it. We will explore a range of security issues that generally fall into the categories of Global, National (US centric), and Human security challenges. We will also explore the development of security studies as an intellectual project.
Textbooks

COMPONENT   Grade Weight
Participation  10 + (5 for Diplomacy) *
SS Chapter Summary and Questions 10
Take Home Mid-Term Exam  20
Group National Security Analysis  40 (35 + 5 peer review)
Guns of August Response Paper 15

29 March - 4 April
  Tuesday
  Introduction, Choices and Plan
  Readings:
  SS1 - Intro
  Thursday
  Lecture: Security Studies: Definitions & Key Questions for Inquiry
  Readings (no Student Prepared Summaries and Questions):
  SS2 Realism
  SS10 Uncertainty
  SS13 War
  GOA Chapter 1 The Funeral
  Video of Edward's Funeral Procession URL
  Chapter Summaries W1 Folder
  Please use these as a template for your own summary. Submit summaries by midnight of the evening before class. I'll print them out and post them to the moodle page as I have done with these.

5 April - 11 April
  Tuesday
  Lecture: Driving forces of Security Studies - The Early Cold War Example
  Readings (student prepared summary and questions for these and future readings)
SS4 Game Theory
SS14 Coercion
SS16 Intelligence

Thursday

Guns of August Discussion: The Plans: Chapters 2-5 (about 50 pages)
Readings:
SS11 Polarity
SS23 Alliances
SS31 Counter Insurgency

Chapter Summaries Week 2 Folder

12 April - 18 April

Tuesday

Lecture: Evolution of Security in the Late Cold War
Readings:
SS15 Terrorism
SS30 Counter Terrorism
SS28 Private Security

Thursday

Guns of August Discussion: Outbreak Ch 6-9 (this is about 70 pages)
Readings:
SS3 Liberalism
SS27 Nuclear Non-Proliferation
SS25 United Nations

The Assassination of Arch Duke Ferdinand - counterfactual history URL
Youtube upload of Isao Hashimoto's Nuclear Test Video URL
The Tsar bomb -- the largest test ever URL

Chapter Summaries Week 3 Folder

19 April - 25 April

Tuesday
Lecture: The Cold War Ends, Security Continues
Readings:
SS6 Peace Studies
SS24 Regional Organizations
SS26 Peace Operations

Thursday
Guns of August Discussion: Battle Chapter 10-13 (90 pages)
Readings:
SS5 Constructivism
SS12 Culture
SS17 Genocide
The World is not Falling Apart - Pinker and Mack URL
S. Huntington - The Clash of Civilizations File
Clash of Civilizations Map (wikipedia) File
Council on Foreign Relations Conflict Map URL
Chapter Summaries Week 4 Folder

26 April - 2 May
Tuesday
Lecture: Post Cold War Widening of Security Concepts
Readings:
SS9 International Political Sociology
SS20 Poverty
SS18 Ethnic Conflict

Thursday
Guns of August Discussion: The Battle (cont.) Chapter 14-17 (about 90 pages)
Readings:
SS19 Human Security
SS32 Responsibility to Protect
SS29 Arms Trade
Chapter Summaries Week 5 Folder

3 May - 9 May

Tuesday

Lecture: Post-9/11 Back to Basics?

Readings:
SS8 Feminism
SS34 Population Movements
SS22 Health

Thursday

Guns of August Discussion: The Battle (cont.) chapter 18-22 (about 110 pages)

Readings:
SS7 Critical Theory
SS21 Climate and Environment
SS35 Energy

Chapter Summaries Week 6 Folder

Take Home Mid Term Exam Quiz

Hidden from students

Answer 1 of the quiz questions related to the SS text readings in an essay not longer than 1800 words.

Use parenthetical references to cite SS chapter authors (Smith) or (Smith, 123) for pages

You have 3 hours to complete your response.

Read and follow the instructions in the quiz question.

10 May - 16 May

Diplomacy Rules File

Hidden from students

It would be great if you looked at these rules before Tuesday. If you're not into reading you can also watch this 9 minute video. It's not too terrible.

There are other videos on YouTube as well if you REALLY want to go nuts.

Tuesday

Mid-Term Recovery...
Guns of August Wrap: Afterword chapter 23

Play Diplomacy

Thursday

Diplomacy Continued

17 May - 23 May

Tuesday

Group Presentation #1 National Security Statements Analysis USA & Israel

Reading for US and Israel Security Presentation File

The presenting group would like you to read this think tank report from the Washington Institute for Near East Policy. It’s 80 pages, but you don't need to read the whole thing. The group suggest that half the class read the "Hard Security Issues" while the other half reads the "Soft Security Issues.

The following students should read the Hard section (if you're not on this list read the Soft Issues portions)

Ryan Schloessmann
Hiyanthi Peiris
Sara Singh
Robert Kaylor
Ben Pletta
Alex Kim
Shannon Holden
Alondra Noriega
Alex Tippett

Thursday

Group Presentation #2 National Security Statements Analysis UK & Egypt

Group Presentation #3 National Security Statements Analysis France & ???

Hidden from students

24 May - 30 May

Tuesday

Group Presentation #4 National Security Statements Analysis Russia & Ukraine

Thursday
Group Presentation #5 National Security Statements Analysis China & Japan

31 May - 6 June

Tuesday

Final Class

Concluding Lecture, discussion, evaluations etc.