International Security

GOV 347– Summer 2021 (June 28 – July 16)

Days: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

Time: 7:10 AM to 10:30 AM (ONLINE)

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Course Description

Security matters because it is impossible to make sense of world politics without reference to it. Every year, the world has recorded how thousands of people have been killed, starved, tortured, displaced, or denied education and health care. Many countries worldwide have been exposed to evolving security threats to their critical infrastructure, varying from pandemics and cyber threats to the violent acts of terrorist and transnational criminal organizations. Human-caused threats to security have outweighed technological/accidental and natural hazards. This course provides students with a detailed, accessible overview of the major theoretical approaches, key themes, and most significant issues within security studies. The course is designed to teach the main theoretical approaches of international security, central concepts underpinning contemporary debates, an overview of institutional security architecture, and critical contemporary challenges to global security.

This course has four specific aims: (1) to examine major theoretical approaches that lie beneath contemporary security policies; (2) to analyze concepts that appear at the center of contemporary debates about security, such as uncertainty, polarity, war, and coercion; (3) to survey the current institutional architecture of world politics as it relates to security studies; and (4) to reflect upon key challenges related to genocide, ethnic conflict, the arms trade, terrorism, transnational crime, migration and refugees, energy access, health, and cybersecurity.

Grading Components

Exam I and II	: 50%
Final Project (Security Analysis)	: 25%
Presentation	: 10%
Attendance and Participation	: 15%

Grading Scale

A+ 97-100%	(4.0)	C+ 77-79%	(2.33)
A 94-96%	(4.0)	C 74-76%	(2.0)
A- 90-93%	(3.67)	C- 70-73%	(1.67)
B+ 87-89%	(3.33)	D 60-69%	(1.0)
B 84-86%	(3.0)	F 0-59%	(0)
B- 80-83%	(2.67)		

Required Textbooks:

Paul D. Williams and Matt McDonald, ed., Security Studies: An Introduction, 3rd edition New York: Routledge, 2018

Course Format

We will have live classes at Zoom on Mondays through Thursdays.

Course Requirements and Expectations

Exam I (25%) and Exam II (25%)

These exams will consist of short answer, and/or short essay questions that are based on assigned readings and class lectures. Failure to take an exam at its scheduled time will result in a grade of zero (0) being used in the computation of your final grade– exceptions will only made in the case of unforeseeable and acceptable circumstances.

International Security Policy Analysis Paper (25 %)

A security policy analysis paper requires students to research in depth a security issue of government or public concern. The security issue can be related to ongoing political debate or on a security concern, which has not yet gained the attention of policy makers. Some examples of security issues are genocide and crimes against humanity, ethnic conflict, terrorism, transnational organized crime, migration and refugees, environmental change, pandemics (COVID 19), cybersecurity, and the use of WMD materials. A security policy analysis defines the problem or issue at hand, describes its background and provides a balanced assessment of options that policy makers could pursue to resolve the problem. The paper should conclude with a recommended course of action for policy makers. Do not hesitate to contact me and discuss your topics.

The policy paper should be 7-8 pages including references page; typed, double-spaced, in 12 size, Times New Roman font; and be prepared in APA formatting and citations. The paper must include at least five (5) scholarly citations.

*** Research papers should be proofread and edited for spelling and grammar errors before submission.

The final project is due July 18.

In-class Presentation (10 %)

You are expected to present your final project topic. You should take advantage of this class and use it as an instrument to improve your speaking and presentation skills. These presentations will also help you acquire the confidence of speaking in front of the people.

During your presentation, you are free in method/technique, material, setting, style, etc. You will have only 15 minutes, not more, not less! So, timing is important. We will have a brief Q & A session where the listeners can ask questions and give constructive feedback to the presenter. I encourage you to use visuals and/or audio-visuals for better and more effective presentations. I expect you to be creative in your class performance!

In-class Activities and Class Participation (15 %)

In this class, we will have in-class activities such as think-pair-share-report (TPSR), brainstorming, group discussions, round-table discussions, and/or reading. If it is a group activity, (as being the group members) you are expected to participate in discussions actively, write a concise and precise report, and present at the end. You are expected to run these group projects collectively and collaboratively as a teamwork. Please remember that absence/tardiness directly (and negatively) affects in-class activities, because; if one student is not in the class, then s/he will physically not be able to join the group activities, either.

Since this is also a learner-centered and interactive course, class participation is encouraged. No doubt, classroom discussion is an essential part of the learning process for the benefit of the students. Participation consists of being on time for class, being present in class, and being an active member in discussion sessions.

Honor Code Policy

George Mason University has an *Honor Code*, which requires all members of this community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, lying, and stealing are all prohibited. Please consult the Student Handbook for a full definition of these terms. All violations of the *Honor Code* will be reported to the Honor Committee.

Violations include, but are not limited to the following:

Cheating includes any "willful giving or receiving of an unauthorized, unfair, dishonest, or unscrupulous advantage in academic work over other students," by any means whatsoever, or the attempt to do so. Examples: Copying off another student; using notes during a closed-book exam; obtaining an assignment ahead of time from a student who took the class a previous semester; turning in the same work in more than one class (without prior authorization from all professors concerned).

Plagiarism includes "presenting as one's own the works, the work, or the opinions of someone else without proper acknowledgement" or "borrowing the sequence of ideas, the arrangement of material, or the pattern of thought of someone else without proper acknowledgement." Examples: getting your paper off the Internet; cutting and pasting paragraphs from other authors into your paper; turning in a paper that was written by somebody else; buying a paper; taking a written piece from someone else but rewording it so that it looks different.

Lying includes "the willful and knowledgeable telling of an untruth, as well as any form of deceit, attempted deceit, or fraud in an oral or written statement relating to academic work." Examples: lying to faculty member by saying you were sick when you were not; falsely claiming a death in the family or a personal emergency; falsifying any official documentation.

Stealing encompasses "taking or appropriating without the permission to do so, and with the intent to keep or to make use of wrongfully, property belonging to any member of the George Mason University community or any property located on the University campus." Examples: stealing exams or paper assignments from the professor for the purposes of cheating; selling notes you take in class to an individual or a business.

Privacy Policy

Please respect the privacy of any students who may disclose personal information in the class. This means we do not gossip about others' opinions or personal status outside of class, whether or not we agree with their opinions. Please also respect everyone's right to freely choose whether to disclose or not disclose personal information.

Course Schedule

Week 1 (June 28 – July 1)	
Monday	*Introduction, Traditional Approaches* Realisms, Liberalisms, Constructivisms Reading: (Williams and McDonald, pp 15-48) Discussion Article: Is Donald Trump Realist? (Williams and McDonald, p. 20) Discussion Article: Constructivism and identity (Williams and McDonald, p. 52-53) Discussion Article: **Constructivism Analysis of China's Rise**
Tuesday	*Critical Approaches* Critical Theory, Feminisms, Poststructuralism, Securitization, Postcolonialism Reading: (Williams and McDonald, pp. 60-128) Discussion Article: Statism and state-centrism (Williams and McDonald, p. 65) Discussion Article: Politicizing security: the case of the Middle East (Williams and McDonald, p. 69) Discussion Article: Poststructuralist Pioneers in IR (Williams and McDonald, p. 92) Discussion Article: President Trump's Muslim Ban: a postcolonial perspective (Williams and McDonald, p. 120)
Wednesday	Key Concepts Uncertainty, Polarity, Culture, War, and Coercion Reading: (Williams and McDonald, pp. 131-206). Discussion article: security dilemma defined (Williams and McDonald, p. 133) Discussion Article: Is Clausewitz's thinking still relevant? (Williams and McDonald, p. 183). Discussion Article: Tarak Barkawi on globalization and war (Williams and Mc Donald, p. 187).
Thursday	Key Concepts (Williams, pp. 207-250) Peace and Violence, Human Security, The Responsibility to Protect, and Development Discussion: When is war better than peace? (Williams and McDonald, p. 213) Discussion: Human security in the arctic, (Williams and McDonald, p. 233)

Week 2 (June 5 – June 8)	
Monday	*Institutions* Alliances, Regional Organizations, The United Nations, Peace Operations, The Nuclear Disarmament, Private Security Companies Reading: (Williams and McDonald, pp. 265-350) Discussion: The questions will be provided. Exam 1
Tuesday	*Contemporary Challenges* Genocide and Crimes against Humanity, Ethnic Conflict, Counterinsurgency, Reading: (Williams and McDonald, pp. 363-394 and 422-437; Discussion: The questions will be provided.
Wednesday	*Contemporary Challenges* Terrorism, Counterterrorism, Reading: (Williams and McDonald, pp. 395-408; Cengiz "Why Terrorist Organizations pledge Allegiance to ISIS and al Qaeda; Cengiz "Nominal Analysis of Terrorist Organizations; Cengiz, "Beheadings as Signature Method of Jihadist Terrorism") Discussion: The questions will be provided.
Thursday	*Contemporary Challenges* Terrorism, Counterterrorism, Reading: (Williams and McDonald, pp. 395-408; Cengiz "Why Terrorist Organizations pledge Allegiance to ISIS and al Qaeda; Cengiz "Nominal Analysis of Terrorist Organizations; Cengiz, "Beheadings as Signature Method of Jihadist Terrorism"). Discussion: The questions will be provided.

Week 3 (July 12 – July 15)	
Monday	*Contemporary Challenges* Transnational Organized Crime, International Arms Trade, Migration and Refugees, Reading: (Williams and McDonald, pp. 437-496; Cengiz "Prevention of Arms and Explosives by Terrorist organizations", Cengiz "No End in Sight for the Conflict in Syria") Discussion: The questions will be provided. Presentations
Tuesday	*Contemporary Challenges* Energy Security, Environmental Change, Cybersecurity Reading: (Williams and McDonald, pp. 497-541 and 556-569) Discussion: The questions will be provided. Presentations
Wednesday	Health (The impacts of COVID 19) Reading: (Williams and McDonald, pp. 541-555) Discussion: The questions will be provided. Presentations
Thursday	Course Review Presentations Exam 2

Final project is due July 18.