INR 6337 SECTION 096G – UF – FALL 2014
SURVEY OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed as a focused/limited introductory survey to a variety of approaches and topics in the study of international security. The rationale for the course's teaching strategy is rooted in a concern about the slow evolution and stagnation of traditional security studies. It has unfortunately become a “fact of life” in the study of international relations (IR) and international security (IS) that IR/IS courses would normally be expected to begin by spending a number of weeks “recycling” different brands or variations of realist, (neo-)liberal, and mainstream (thin) constructivist thinking, etc. This course simply does not follow that path. Therefore, as a way of alerting students to these lingering issues as well as equipping them with effective tools which they will definitely find useful as future scholars dealing with IR/IS issues, this course focuses on the value-added of many bodies of literature in IR and how they have been reflected specifically in thinking about security. Overall Security Studies as a discipline has evolved into a collection of approaches, most (if not all) of which are united by a profound dissatisfaction with so-called traditional security studies by constantly questioning the foundations upon which the dominant state-centrism and military-centrism of security is built and the lack of attention to a much broader definition of security. The course thus seeks to explicate key assumptions underpinning some of these approaches as well as exploring just how and in what ways they challenge traditional security studies, and in what ways they compare and contrast with each other. The course does this using an issues-based strategy so that we simultaneously consider these issues and how various theoretical approaches and schools of IR theory investigate them.

WORK REQUIREMENTS

• Students are required to “digest” thoroughly the week’s readings before coming to class and thus come prepared to fully discuss the readings in depth and share their insights with the rest of the class.

• Each student is required to write weekly 4-5 page reaction papers. The papers are to be emailed to the instructor on Wednesday 1:00-8:00pm. Each paper must focus on a particular question relevant to one or more of the readings. Try to develop a puzzling question rather than summarize the readings.

• Each student is required to make presentations and lead the subsequent discussion for the first hour of class on the topics addressed in one of his/her weekly reaction papers. The student making the presentation should email the reaction paper (which can go up to 8 pages) to the class on Wednesday 1:00-8:00pm. The remaining students are required to read it before class and come prepared to raise issues from it in the class discussion ensuing from the presentation.
• Students are required to take one final examination. The exam is intended as a “real” practice for the international security comprehensive exam. As such, the format will mimic the comprehensive exam as much as possible. It will be a take-home exam with one question. The answer should be between 2,000 and 2,500 words.

• Students are required to write a 15-20 page research paper on a topic of international security of their choice. Please see details down below.

**GRADING POLICY**

• Presenting report and leading the ensuing discussion: 10% of the final grade.

• Weekly papers: 30% of the final grade.

• Final examination: 30% of the final grade.

• Research paper: 30% of the final grade

Note: Late papers or exams will not be accepted.

**REQUIRED READINGS**

4. Articles posted in Sakai (organized by week).

**SPECIFICS ON THE RESEARCH PAPER**

In order for the instructor to provide guidance in the preparation of the paper, you will be required to turn in various brief intermediate papers throughout the semester.

**Each student must:**

1. Define a research question that interests him/her and that applies a security approach (broadly speaking) from the materials covered in this course. Submit the research question and an abstract. **Date: September 11**
2. Submit a 2-3 page summary of the proposed research and expected results. **Date: September 25**
3. Submit a 6-8 page paper discussing the relevant literature to the research question (empirical as well as theoretical). **Date: October 23**
4. The final paper should be 15-20 pages long, including the bibliography. **Date: December 4**
IMPORTANT NOTES:

• The instructor reserves the right to change any part or aspect of this document should a need for doing so emerge at any point in time during the semester.

• Students requesting classroom accommodation for disabilities must register with the Dean of Students Office and provide documentation from this office.

• All students are required to abide by UF standards of academic honesty laid out in the Student Honor Code, posted at http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/

HOLIDAYS

| University Holidays - no classes | September 1: Labor Day  
|                                | October 17-18: Homecoming  
|                                | November 11: Veterans Day  
|                                | November 26-29: Thanksgiving break |
WEEKLY READING ASSIGNMENTS AND OUTLINE OF THE COURSE


Week 2/ September 4: What is Security? Part II.


Week 3/ September 11: Logics of Rational Might and Stories


Week 4/ September 18: Terrorism


**Week 5/ September 25: Security Institutions**


**Week 6/ October 2: Identity, Culture, and Security**


**Week 7/ October 9: Securitization**


**Week 8/ October 16: Human Security – Part I**

**Week 9/ October 23: Human Security – Part II**


**Week 10/ October 30: Logic of Nuclear (In)Security**


**Week 11/ November 6: Peacekeeping, Peace Building and Intervention**


**Week 12/ November 13: Cyber Security, Oil Security**


**Week 13/ November 20: Great Powers and Security**


**Week 14/ December 4: Globalization and Security**