This course explores issues related to “security,” broadly defined. The first section explores alternative world views which form the basis for how individuals prioritize threats to security and the means to address them. A second section of the course surveys, with these frameworks in mind, different categories of security threats around the globe. These span a variety of traditional and non-traditional subjects and include discussions of threats to military and regime security, humanitarian crises, global disease and environmental degradation. The final section of the course focuses on specific issues salient in global politics today, using them to illuminate broader dilemmas and dynamics associated with challenges to security. These issues include weapons of mass destruction, nuclear proliferation and especially the case of Iran; the nature and history of terrorism; 9/11, intelligence and intelligence failures; the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, including discussion of the recent history as well as inquiries into strategy and the recent evolution and nature of counterinsurgency doctrine; efforts to counter what has been termed the “Global War on Terror,” or the use of terrorism by transnational actors, as well as other contemporary (potential) challenges to domestic and international peace and stability.

Required Textbooks (available at Bookmarq):

   HEREAFTER: COLLINS


Details on reading:

1. Most readings appear in textbooks. However, sometimes I will only assign an excerpt from a chapter or article, so be sure to look for details on syllabus or in notes/emails about readings.

2. Also, if a reading does not appear in one of your textbooks, please look to the opening page (after you log in) of D2L for instructions on how to access readings.

When I am conveying information on readings in D2L, I will mark the subject line: “Reading Information for CLASS DATE.” If you see a message with this subject line, BE SURE TO READ IT.

Course Requirements:

Two in-class, hourly exams: each worth 25%; total 50%
One paper due at end of semester (details to be announced): 35%

Bibliography exercise and two surprise quizzes: 15%

Note on quizzes: completing assigned readings is essential to your performance and participation in the course. Twice during the semester I will ask you to answer a question based directly on the readings in class (you will be given 20-30 minutes). I will grade these with a plus, check, or minus (I expect most students will get a check).

To do well on these quizzes, complete the readings for that day and make sure you know what are the author’s main arguments and key supporting points. To be especially prepared, spend a few minutes before class thinking about questions or concerns that the reading raised for you, or things that you believe warrant further discussion.

Overall, I want every student to do well and learn the material. I will do everything I can to help and support students in this process and ask that they apply themselves as well.

COURSE SCHEDULE

January 18
Course Introduction

January 20    World Security: Whose Security?
Discussion of alternative “referent objects”—states, leaders, people, etc.
Reading:
1. Collins, pages 2-3 only
2. Begin Reading for World Views (under Jan. 25)

January 25    World Views or Perspectives on Security Issues
Discussion of world views and how they affect how one prioritizes and evaluates appropriate means for addressing security challenges. (by “world views” I mean Realism, Liberalism/Idealism, Constructivism + Neoconservativism)
Reading:
1. Collins, Excerpts TBA from Chapters 2, 3, 4
2. Skim (that is, please note general points) the first sections of entries by Steve Walt and Joshua Muravchik in debate in the National Interest (link below). It will give you a feel of the contrast between the “realist” and “neoconservative” world views.
January 27   Military Security

Discussion of the traditional concept of military security and the dilemmas states face as they pursue it.

Reading:

1. Collins, Chapter 11

February 1   Regime Security/the Egyptian “revolution” 2011

Discussion of problems that weak and contested states or authoritarian regimes face from societal actors.

Reading:

1. Collins, chapter 12
2. Articles on Egyptian protests and Mubarak ouster TBA

February 3   Global Disease, Human and State Stability

Reading:

1. Collins, excerpt from chapter 8
2. Collins, chapter 24

February 8   Environmental Degradation, Human and State Security

Reading:

1. Collins, chapter 14

OPTIONAL:


February 10  Humanitarian Intervention

Reading:

1. Collins, 21
February 15 Humanitarian Intervention (con’t)

Reading:

1. WSR: chapter 7
2. Additional background readings on Rwanda and Somalia may be assigned

February 17

Catch up and Discussion

February 22

HOURLY EXAM #1

February 24 WMD and Nuclear Proliferation (begin)

Reading:

1. Collins, chapter 19
2. WSR, chapter 4

March 1 Case Study: Iran, Sanctions and other options

Reading:

1. WSR: chapter 8

March 3 Iran (finish); Start Terrorism

Reading:

1. Article on sanctions
2. News articles

March 8 What is Terrorism and why it is so difficult to define?

Reading:
March 10  
Terrorism: History and Examples

(March 15 & 17 = spring break)

March 22

9/11

From the perpetrator’s side: Why did they do it?

Reading:

1. Peter Bergen, “What were the causes of 9/11” New America Foundation
   Available at http://www.prospectmagazine.co.uk/2006/09/whatwerethecausesof911/
2. Additional short articles to be assigned.

March 24

From the victim’s side: Was 9/11 an Intelligence Failure

1. News articles:
   b. Additional memos and news articles on intelligence to be disseminated by professor
2. Kevin Michael Dirksen, “Commentary: The Logistics of Actionable Intelligence Leading to
   9/11” Studies in Conflict and Terrorism 28, no. 3 (May-June 2005), 253-268.

March 29

9/11 continued; start Iraq 2003 War

Reading:

1. WSR: Chapter 2
2. Additional article TBA

March 31

The Iraq 2003 War and the Bush Doctrine

The significance of Intelligence

Reading:

1. Collins, chapter 18

April 5

Intelligence and Intelligence Failures Redux: The Case of WMD in Iraq

Reading:

**April 7**

The Iraq War: May 1, 2003 to the present

Begin Afghanistan

Reading:


OPTIONAL reading:


**April 12**

The Afghanistan War

Counterinsurgency 101: The debate and its application in Afghanistan (start)

Reading:

1. WSR Chapter 1

OPTIONAL reading:


**April 14**

Controversies over the use of Predator Drones and Unmanned Aerial Drones (UAVs)

Reading:

1. WSR: chapter 6

3. Press reports


April 19

What is threat posed by transnational Terrorism?

What is a viable counterterror strategy?

Reading:


April 21

Easter break (no class)

April 26

Catch-up and Discussion

April 28

Hourly Exam #2

May 3

Library/Bibliography Exercise (details to be discussed in class)

May 5

Paper Discussion and Presentations

May 13
Final Paper Due at beginning of scheduled exam time.