GLOBAL STUDIES 371: RETHINKING GLOBAL SECURITY

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Course Description:

This course will introduce basic concepts for international security as they are analyzed in the study of military conflict, economic expansion, public health, the global environment, and international information. It will challenge you to rethink the concept of security in an age defined by porous borders, heterogeneous allegiances, and interconnected economies--an age of globalization faced with international terrorism, global markets and corporations, computer viruses and hackers, epidemics such as SARS and AIDS, as well as global warming and toxic levels of pollution. We will cover a broad range of texts in exploring the traditional understandings and changing definitions of global security; and for the purposes of a simple structure to our analysis, we will emphasize three primary agents of order in the world today—states, international organizations, and corporations—and the international law that has been used to coordinate this plurality of interests.

As the core course in the global security track, GS 371 has the following three objectives: (1) to prompt critical reflection on basic concepts of security and an awareness of the changes it has undergone in the world today; (2) to develop frameworks for analyzing content from diverse forms of media with regard to the issues of security; and (3) to develop a comparative, historical, and global perspective on security issues, with particular emphasis on how issues of power and social justice are embedded in problems of global security. To those ends, our work here includes the reading and analysis of texts and the interpreting of texts as an exercise in both writing and oral presentation. All of our course work requires careful reading and thinking, and necessitates the adequate use of evidence to support our interpretations.

Required Readings:


These books are available for purchase at the UWM Bookstore in the Union, and are on reserve at the Golda Meir Library. You may find used copies more cheaply on line.

NOTE: Additional readings for this course have been electronically scanned and are on the D2L website for the course; print out your own copies of these in order to bring them to class.
Course Requirements:

1. Participation. (a) This course will largely pursue a discussion format, although the instructor will occasionally lecture. You must do the readings prior to class in order to come prepared to participate in class. By “read,” I mean critically read: this means more than a cursory examination of words on the page. Much of this material requires rereading two or three times. You should be reading for the author’s argument, for a sense of context for the pages read, for an awareness of how one reading relates to our other readings, and for the ability to share your reactions with your colleagues. (b) In addition to this general participation, students will be asked to bring to class individually a current event to share with the class—be prepared to consider how the current event you have selected relates to our course discussions and reading materials. (c) Lastly, be advised that this is not a correspondence course; sitting passively through fourteen weeks of class will earn you a “D”; absences will reduce your grade to an “F.” I will conduct impromptu quizzes if class participation is inadequate to our purposes. If you would like to know the state of your participation grade, speak to the instructor. And please—no food, tape recorders, cell phones, or paging devices. (10% of your final grade)

2. D2L. Because university policy has eliminated e-reserves from the library, many of our course readings are available through the D2L course website. You must have access to a reliable computer and a high-speed internet connection in order to retrieve these readings. If you do not have this at home, you can use computers on campus or in public libraries. You can access D2L by going to the UWM homepage (http://www4.uwm.edu) and in the quick links at the top of the page select D2L and then click “go.” This takes you to the login screen where you will be asked to provide your Panther ID and password (these are the same as your UWM email username and password). If you need assistance, contact the Information Management and Technology (IMT) Help Desk (open 24 hours per day, 7 days per week). You can visit the Help Desk in person at EMS E173A, call 414-229-4040 (toll free at 1-877-381-3459), or send an email to help@uwm.edu.

3. Weekly Writing. There will be short (1- to 3-page) weekly writing assignments during the course, which you will write either at home or in class. I will ask you to analyze some aspect of the readings--in effect, your written position on the reading. I may ask you to “condense” an argument—to tell me the thesis (the main point) of an author’s work; or I may ask you to evaluate an author’s interpretation of some event. Because these will largely inform your class participation, late work will not be accepted. (30% of your final grade)

Keep in mind that in grading writing, I consider four factors: the quality of your thesis (major point); the quality of your argument (a structure of paragraphs, each of which makes a point); the accuracy and quality of your evidence; and the quality of your writing (grammar, punctuation, and diction). That is to say, an excellent (grade-of-A) essay will include the following: (1) a clearly stated theme or issue at the beginning, in an introductory sentence or paragraph (often this introduction will contain your thesis); (2) a clearly developed argument in one or more paragraphs, each of which specifies the issue of the paragraph and the point of the paragraph, and expresses the relation of the paragraph to the other paragraphs in the essay; (3) evidence gathered from the readings, either quoted or paraphrased (and footnoted), which supports the points of your paragraphs and the thesis of your essay; (4) a concluding statement
that “wraps up,” so to speak, your essay, in a final sentence or paragraph (sometimes this conclusion will contain your thesis); (5) perfect footnotes and punctuation, and no grammatical or typing errors, or minimal grammatical or typing errors; and (6) adherence to my specifications for the submission of writing as described elsewhere in this syllabus. A good (grade-of-B) essay will be missing one or two of these six qualities; an average (grade-of-C) essay will be missing a few of these qualities; but average essays generally err with qualities (2) and (3). A poor (grade-of-D) essay will be missing several of these qualities; and an unacceptable (grade-of-F) essay will be missing many of these qualities.

4. Research Project. There will be a research project in place of a final exam. More specific directions will follow, but generally, each student is expected to select from the list below a topic of interest to him or her, which builds on your course work in one of the five central security topics in the course (military, economy, information, public health, and environment). One major purpose of the research project is to integrate your analyses of central arguments in the course readings with your research into the most recent literature on your topic. The essay itself will be due in class on Thursday, December 12, 2013. (30% of your final grade)

List of topics for research projects:
Military Security:
--a recent case of a governmental use of a PMF (see P.W. Singer)
--international legal efforts to control private arms sales/trade
--use of drones and international law

Economic Security:
--actions of an international corporation in a specific foreign locality
--the role of the IMF or WTO in the past decade
--2008 banking crisis as global security problem

Environmental Security:
--the passage of the Kyoto Accord and its ratification
--a recent international legal development in international environmental security
--a specific international water dispute
--the possibility of a “right to a safeguarded environment” (see M. Frédérick)

Health Security:
--a recent international legal development in global health security
--the global H1N1 influenza “epidemic” of 2009
--the state of international law on quarantine today
--“quality of life” as a health security issue

Information Security:
--a recent international legal development in global information security
--the problem of “propaganda” in light of the concentration of media providers

5. Midterm Exam. There will be one examination, which will examine your grasp of the content of the course and test your ability to synthesize and integrate your analyses of the course materials. More specific guidelines will be given in due course. (30% of your final grade)
A Note on Form and Policy:
• The "Chicago style" is our guide to all matters of format (e.g., footnotes/endnotes and bibliography); purchase or refer to The Chicago Manual of Style (13th edition) or Kate L. Turabian, A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations (6th edition).

• All writing that is submitted in this course must be printed in standard 12-point (elite) font. Anything in smaller fonts will be considered late work. (N.B. You are looking at elite type: nothing smaller than this.) I do not accept written assignments by fax or by e-mail.

• Let it be known that in the event of plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty in this course, my policy is to fail the offending student(s). If you are unsure as to the nature of plagiarism, consult your current student handbook. Allowing someone to copy your work is as reprehensible as copying yourself: both parties will fail the course.

University Policies:
Students with disabilities. Verification of disability, class standards, the policy on the use of alternate materials and test accommodations can be found at the following:
http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/DSAD/SAC/SACltr.pdf

Religious observances. Policies regarding accommodations for absences due to religious observance are found at the following:
http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S1.5.htm

Students called to active military duty. Accommodations for absences due to call-up of reserves to active military duty should be noted.
http://www3.uwm.edu/des/web/registration/militarycallup.cfm

Incompletes. The conditions for awarding an incomplete to graduate and undergraduate students can be found at the following:
http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S31.pdf

Discriminatory conduct (such as sexual harassment). Definitions of discrimination. Harassment, abuse of power, and the reporting requirements of discriminatory conduct are found at the following:
http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S47.pdf

Academic misconduct. Policies for addressing students cheating on exams or plagiarism can be found at the following:
http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/OSL/DOS/conduct.html

Complaint procedures. Students may direct complaints to the head of the academic unit or department in which the complaint occurs. If the complaint allegedly violates a specific university policy, it may be directed to the head of the department or academic unit in which the complaint occurred or to the appropriate university office responsible for enforcing the policy.

Grade appeal procedures. Procedures for student grade appeal appear at the following:
http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S28.htm

Final examination policy. Policies regarding final examinations can be found at the following:
http://www.uwm.edu/Dept/SecU/acad%2Badmin_policies/S22.html
Schedule of Topics and Readings

Week 1 (September 5)
Introductions
Points of Departure: The International System and the Cold War.

*N.B. Readings marked with a double asterisk are available on the D2L website for the course.*

Week 2 (September 12)
A. The Nation-State and International Law


Week 3 (September 19)


Week 4 (September 26)
  **The Multinational Corporation.**  Readings: Joel Bakan, *The Corporation*, 1-84.
  Library Research 1:  Preparation of Research Project Bibliography

Week 5 (October 3)
B. Military Security
  **Jamal Nassar, *Globalization and Terrorism*, 1-40; and**

Week 6 (October 10)

*Week 7 (October 17)*
  Library Research 2:  Assembling Materials for Research Project

Week 8 (October 24)
  Readings: **Amy Chua, *World on Fire*, 19-48, 127-145; and**
  Lowe, *International Law*, 188-233
Week 9 (October 31)
Midterm Examination
Library Research 3: Assembling Materials for Research Project

Week 10 (November 7)
D. Public Health Security
**American Journal of Public Health** 88.5 (May 1998): 735-744 (Articles by Yach and Bettcher, plus comments by Navarro and Roemer); and
**Fidler, SARS, Governance, and Globalization of Disease**, 42-68, 156-191.

Week 11 (November 14)
E. Environmental Security
Readings: **David Model, Corporate Rule**, vii-xii, 90-108;
**Deudney and Matthew, eds. Contested Grounds**: 187-219 (Deudney); and 91-108 (Frédérick) or 127-154 (Stern).

Week 12 (November 21)
E. Environmental Security, cont.

F. Information Security
Readings: **Rosenau and Singh, eds., Information Technologies and Global Politics**, 1-38 (Singh)

Week 13 (November 28) **Thanksgiving Recess**

Week 14 (December 5)
F. Information Security, cont.
Readings: **Ammori & Poellet, “Security versus Freedom on the Internet” (SAIS Review);**
**Rosenau and Singh, eds., Information Technologies and Global Politics**, 115-142 (Deibert);
**Hathaway, “Toward a Closer Digital Alliance” (SAIS Review)**

Student Presentations

Week 15 (December 12)
Student Presentations, Syntheses, and Conclusions

Your final essay is due in class on Thursday, December 12.
Course Bibliography


