Political Science 4KK3
Advanced Concepts in Global Security
Fall 2017

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Office Hours: Monday, 11:30am – 12:30pm
or by Skype appointment

Lectures: Monday from 8:30am to 11:20pm in KTH 105

Course Description

This course examines a variety of issue areas concerning global security. Rather than defining 'security' to mean an external military threat to the state, this course defines security as a broad concept that impacts both global and domestic affairs. Students can expect to finish this course with a greater understanding of topics that include, but are not limited to, the security-development nexus, technological innovation, environmental security, populist movements, counterinsurgency and terrorism. By the end of this course students should be able to identify key debates within the field and assess the strength of policy options that address security issues.

Course Modification Statement

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check their McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

Faculty of Social Sciences E-mail Communication Policy

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student’s own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

Additional Notes

E-mails will be answered within 48 hours. If the student does not hear from the Professor at the end of this time, then please re-send the e-mail. I will not respond to e-mails that are sent the evening before a paper or exam is due. Please plan accordingly.

In a seminar course, students are expected to participate and contribute to weekly discussions. The success of this course depends on you and your peers. For a good, short summary on effective debating techniques, please see “How to Criticize with Kindness: Philosopher Daniel Dennett on the Four Steps
to Arguing Intelligently,” which can be found at https://www.brainpickings.org/2014/03/28/daniel-dennett-rapoport-rules-criticism/.

Discrimination based on any category identified by the Ontario Human Rights Code will not be tolerated and can result in dismissal from the class.

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**Course Evaluation**

- **Participation 10%**
- **Presentation 15% From September 18th to November 27th**
- **Essay Proposal 15% Due by October 9th**
- **Term Essay 30% Due November 27th**
- **Final Exam 30% TBA**

**Participation:** Students are expected to participate in weekly discussions. Students will be assessed on the quality (and not only quantity) of their comments and their engagement with other students. Active listening is an important skill. Students should be prepared to hear the comments made by their peers and to respond to them thoughtfully.

**Presentations:** There will be class presentations every week from September 18 to November 27. Students will present on one topic covered in the course syllabus. Please note that the presentation should not only be a summary of the articles scheduled for that week. Presenters should engage with the text by identifying themes and points of agreement and/or disagreement. Presentations should include at least one contemporary case study that is not mentioned in the course readings. Finally, presenters should come prepared to ask discussion questions to the class. Presentations may be classified as 'group work' since more than one student will present per week. Groups should decide among themselves how they will divide the presentation time so that everyone contributes equally.

**Research Proposal (Oct 9th)** Students must write an essay proposal of no more than 750 words and e-mail it to the professor. The proposal is worth fifteen percent of the course grade. Proposals should outline your thesis, 2-3 main arguments, and the literature you intend on consulting. The proposal is meant to ensure that the content of your essay is concise and that the necessary academic literature exists to do the topic justice. The feedback given on the topic statement can help guide students with their research questions. **Proposals should be submitted by e-mail at any time by October 9th.**

**Research Essay (Due November 27th)** Students are expected to write a 3000 word essay on a topic relating to course themes. Essays should be double-spaced in size 12 Times New Roman font. Late essays will be penalized by one letter grade per day, including weekends. Please do not slip essays under my office as there is no guarantee that I will find it. **Please submit a hard copy of your essay. E-mail copies will not be accepted except under serious circumstances.**

**Final Exam (TBA):** Students will write a take-home exam that will be comprised of two essays. More details will be announced in class.

**Written Work:** All written work will be marked on grammar, clarity of writing, and organization, as well as content and analysis. More details about the marking scheme are posted on the course website. All essays must be properly referenced using the author-date style. Use the Turabian (Chicago) style for
referencing; examples can be found at McMaster University Library-Guides. Students are encouraged to visit the Centre for Student Development to improve their essay skills (MUSC B107; x24711). For information about the Writing Clinic and the Centre’s other services, visit the Centre’s website: http://csd.mcmaster.ca.

**Late Assignments:** Assignments must be submitted in class on the day that they are due, unless otherwise specified (the proposal statement is the exception for this course.) Late assignments will be penalized by one letter grade per day, including weekends.

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**Reading Schedule**

**September 11 Defining Security**


**September 18 Defining Security II**


**September 25 Terrorism and Extremism I**


**October 2 Terrorism and Extremism II**


**October 9 Midterm Break**

**October 16 Populism and Nationalism**


**October 23 Irregular and Asymmetric Wars II**


**October 30 Irregular and Asymmetric Wars II**


November 6 Technology and Security


Weinberger, Sharon. 2017. “The Graveyard of Empires and Big Data: The Pentagon's secret plan to crowsource intelligence from civilians turned out to be brilliant—too brilliant.” Foreign Policy, March 15. [URL]

November 13 Technology and Security II


November 20 The Security-Development Nexus


November 27 (Essays Due) Environmental and Food Security I


**December 4 (last day of class) Environmental and Food Security II**


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**STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

You are expected to exhibit honesty and use ethical behaviour in all aspects of the learning process. Academic credentials you earn are rooted in principles of honesty and academic integrity. Academic dishonesty is to knowingly act or fail to act in a way that results or could result in unearned academic credit or advantage. This behaviour can result in serious consequences, e.g. the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university. It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty.

For information on the various types of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, located at www.mcmaster.ca/academicintegrity. The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty: 1. Plagiarism, e.g. the submission of work that is not one's own or for which other credit has been obtained. 2. Improper collaboration in group work. 3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

**ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

Students who require academic accommodation must contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) to make arrangements with a Program Coordinator. Academic accommodations must be arranged for each term of study. Student Accessibility Services can be contacted by phone 905-525-9140 ext. 28652 or e-mail sas@mcmaster.ca. For further information, consult McMaster University’s Policy for Academic Accommodation of Students with Disabilities.