University of Toronto
Department of Political Science

POL380Y1Y Special Topics: International Security
2017-2018 Fall & Winter sessions OISE 2122, Thurs. 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Course Instructors:
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Office hours 3:00-3:45, place TBD

Course description:

War touches international politics in many ways, forcing caution on some, aggression on others, and serving to (re)shape the conditions of how communities of people interact with one another. The study of international security and conflict is thus an essential part of the field of International Relations. Ranging from grand strategy and balances of power to terrorism or the ethics of war, scholarship on international security tackles topics central to the way organised intercommunal violence is threatened, conducted, and, crucially, avoided.

This course provides an introduction to key perspectives and problems related to topics of security and conflict in international politics. It offers a survey of key philosophical, conceptual, and methodological approaches, along with a series of sessions devoted to specific issue-areas. Students will read academic literature and participate in facilitated class discussions to evaluate and apply what they’ve read. The emphasis will be on understanding and using real scholarship, and on honing analytical writing skills to develop informed perspectives.

There are no textbooks in this course, and thus students should consider reviewing their notes on basic international relations theory prior to starting.
Course Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First paper</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>1500 words, due 2 November</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research paper</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>4000 words, due 15 March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-term test</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>First term-only, 2 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final test</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Cumulative, 2 hours</td>
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<tr>
<td>Response notes (5 total)</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>400 words, due before classes</td>
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First paper:
This class requires that you submit one short paper, worth 15%, due at the beginning of class on 2 November. The full prompt will be provided in late September. The paper should be double-spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font, 1-inch margins. Note that 1500 words is around 6 pages, not including bibliography.

Research paper:
A 4000-word research paper (approximately 15 pages) will be due on March 15. A full prompt will be provided, but the general purpose of the paper is to provide an explanation for the occurrence and termination/continuation (as applicable) of a security crisis or conflict. A list of crises and conflicts will be provided, but students may also choose their own.

Written tests:
There will be two tests in this course, one covering the first half of the course and the second covering all course material cumulatively, but with emphasis on the second half. We will provide more information on the tests during the course, but expect a mix of short term definitions for the mid-term; and a mix of short term definitions and a choice of essay question on the final test.

Response notes:
Students are required to write a total of five (5) short response notes concisely summarising a selected reading and analysing the value of that reading to the session’s topics and themes. This is how participation will be assessed – seminar attendance is not mandatory, nor is speaking during class discussions, but responses to readings will receive only partial marks if they do not demonstrate significant engagement with the material.

Grading policy:
All matters of grading, exemptions, and discipline procedures will be handled in accordance with the Faculty of Arts and Science Academic Handbook. Late assignments will be penalized 5% per day for the first ten days of lateness. After ten calendar days of lateness, the assignment will be
given a zero. Extensions may only be granted prior to the day of the deadline or exam. Students whose health renders them unable to complete the assignment should contact the professor before deadlines under non-exceptional circumstances.

Any student who believes that any work has been unfairly graded may ask the instructor to re-evaluate his or her work. Grading appeals should be submitted with a cover letter explaining the basis of the appeal to the instructor or the teaching assistant. No oral or emailed appeals will be considered. Such re-marking may involve the entire piece of work, and may raise or lower the mark. All other appeals and complaints will be handled in a manner consistent with the regulations described in the handbook. See http://www.artsandscience.utoronto.ca/studentaffairs/handbook.shtml for the complete handbook.

Accessibility:
The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course, the classroom or the course materials, please contact Accessibility Services as soon as possible. Once you do this, we can be accommodating. Before you do this, there’s not much we can do.

Academic honesty:
Using the words, content, or ideas of others in written work for which you will receive credit in this course requires citing that work. This includes ideas or articles found on the internet. Failure to properly cite other people’s words or ideas constitutes plagiarism and is a very serious academic offence, as are other forms of academic dishonesty. If you are uncertain whether citation is needed, or how to cite properly, please consult the instructors. Ignorance of citation requirements does not constitute an excuse.

Turnitin:
Normally, students will be required to submit their course essays to Turnitin.com for a review of textual similarity and detection of possible plagiarism. In doing so, students will allow their essays to be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database, where they will be used solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism. The terms that apply to the University's use of the Turnitin.com service are described on the Turnitin.com web site.
Session Structure and Readings

Students will be expected to complete the required readings for each week by the beginning of lecture. These readings are listed directly underneath each week’s topic in the course plan, which follows. The required readings will be made available through Blackboard.

Fall Term

Week I – Introduction: What is International Security?  
September 7

No readings.

Week II – Approaches I: Rationalist theories of security  
September 21


Week III – Approaches II: Constructivist theories of security  
September 28


Week IV – Approaches III: Critical theories of security  

October 5


Week V – Balances of Power  

October 12


Week VI — Grand Strategy  

October 19


**Week VII – Nuclear Security**


**Week VIII – The Liberal Peace**


**FALL READING WEEK**

**Week IX – Individuals’ Perception and Psychology**


**Week X – Normative Approaches I: the Just War Tradition**


**Week XI – Normative Approaches II: the Laws of Armed Conflict**


Jo, Hyeran and Beth A. Simmons. “Can the International Criminal Court Deter Atrocity?” *International Organization* 70, no. 3 (Summer 2016): 443-475.


**MID-TERM TEST**

December 7
WINTER TERM

Week I – The Evolution of War

January 4


Week II – Civil Wars and Insurgencies

January 11


Week III – Terrorism

January 18


**Week IV – Ethnic Violence**

January 25


**Week V – Humanitarian Intervention**

February 1


**Week VI – Environmental Security, Resources, and Development**

February 8


**Week VII – Borders and Territory**


**READING WEEK**

**Week VIII – Ending Wars and Securing Peace**


Week IX – Hegemonic Stability and Hegemonic War


Week X – A New Peace?


Week XI: Simulation (details to come)

FINAL TEST