Global Security
Spring 2010
Preliminary draft syllabus

This graduate seminar introduces students to the basic concepts of the subfield of security studies and considers the contemporary security issues and challenges, particularly those posed by the potential use of weapons of mass destruction by non-state actors in a globalizing world. We begin by reviewing the history of warfare as a basis for theoretical and policy development in the 20th Century. The evolution of national security politics of the United States after WWII and the development of nuclear deterrence within the context of the Cold War with the Soviet Union became the basis for the development of deterrence theory as the dominant conceptual framework of international security of the latter half of the 20th Century. The course will then consider alternative concepts such as societal security, environmental security and human security that broadened security studies as the changing circumstances of the post-cold war world called into question certain postulates of international relations theories associated with the nuclear superpower conflict. The course then analyses emerging transnational threats such as international terrorism, the challenges of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, the tensions between economic globalization and the imperatives of homeland security.

Required textbooks:

ISBN-10: 0691130310

Stephen E. Flynn, America the Vulnerable: How our Government is Failing to Protect us from Terrorism (HarperCollins, 2004).
ISBN-10: 0060571292

ISBN-10: 0226561585

ISBN-10: 041542562X

Additional required readings: The bulk of the readings will be journal articles. Unless noted, all required journal articles can be accessed on-line and at the UAAlbany Library via “e-journals.” This includes articles in Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, International Security, Security Studies etc.

Readings marked with an asterisk (*) will be made available on Blackboard.
Description of requirements:

1. Reviews of readings: Students will submit four brief reviews (2 pages each -- approx. 500 words) of required weekly readings at the beginning of the session selected. Reviews are intended to generate informed class discussion, so they must be written and submitted before class. It is best for students to hand in a hard copy but they may also email a review (must arrive in the instructor’s mailbox before class). These reviews should state the main arguments of individual pieces assigned, critically evaluate arguments made and relate the articles to one another (when possible). Each review is worth 5% of the course grade. Excellent reviews will receive 5 points, good reviews 4 points, passing reviews 3 points, failing reviews 2 points. A total of four reviews must be submitted for full credit. Students may choose which week’s readings to review, however, reviews of readings chosen must be distributed in the following manner:
   - One review of the readings from a session of Part I
   - Two reviews of the readings from sessions of Part II
   - One review of the readings from a session of Part III

   If students do not hand in the required reviews by the end of each part of the course, the overdue review will be considered a failing review. They will not receive credit for the missing reviews.

2. Term paper:

   PhD students are expected to write a paper of about 8,000 words (approx. 30 pp. double-paced, 12 pt, one inch margins). PhD student papers should demonstrate a command of the theoretical literature relevant to the topic selected and develop an analytical argument related to debates in that literature. PhD students should model their paper on articles published in International Security or Security Studies. Masters students are expected to write a paper of about 5,500 words (approx. 20 pp). Masters students may opt to model their papers on policy-oriented articles that are found in Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, Washington Quarterly, etc. All students are expected to draw on material from the syllabus but students should also incorporate significant additional research on the topic chosen. All students may select a topic of their own choosing as long as it is within the confines of the course and approved by the instructor. For those students having difficulty selecting a topic, a good approach would be to consider a paper topic that delves into the details of one aspect of one of the session topics. At the very beginning of the course, students should carefully review the entire syllabus and scan readings for possible topics.

   All students are expected to submit a one sentence paper topic by 2/9. Students are expected to submit a full paper proposal comprised of a 100-150 word abstract, outline and bibliography by 3/2. The proposal should be emailed to rkoslowski@uamail.albany.edu. If students miss this deadline, a half letter grade will be subtracted from the final grade for the paper. Students will give a presentation (8-10 minutes) of their preliminary findings during the second half of the course at times to be determined. Final seminar papers are due on 5/4. All sources must be in a bibliography at the end of the paper and properly referenced in the text (author, date, page number). Papers without proper references are unacceptable and will not be read. Papers should be emailed to rkoslowski@uamail.albany.edu (An additional hard copy may also be handed in.)

3. Class participation: Students are expected to attend all classes, complete all assigned readings in advance of class and be prepared to discuss them. The base line grade for class participation is a D. Routine attendance with minimal participation will earn a C. Regular contributions to class discussion that are appropriate and draw on readings will earn a B.
Students who are consistently well-prepared to discuss the assigned readings nearly every class and actively participate in discussions will receive As for class participation.

**Grading:**
- Reviews: about 20%
- Term paper: about 60%
- Class participation: about 20%

Late assignments will be penalized.

**Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated.**
Students must properly reference **all** sources, including assigned readings, in **all** written assignments.
References to all sources must be clearly indicated. Direct quotations must be marked with double quotation marks (e.g. "...") and the source cited. Indirect quotations must have source cited. Sources require citation each time they are referred to.

**Class Schedule:**

1/26 Introduction

**Required:**

Williams, *Security Studies*, Ch 1

**Required background reading for those who have not taken an International Relations survey class:**

Williams, *Security Studies*, Chs. 2-3


**Part I: International Security: History and Theory**

2/2 History and Nature of Warfare

**Required reading:**


*Carl von Clausewitz, “War as an Instrument of Policy” from On War, Book 5, Ch. 6. (4 pp)

Williams, *Security Studies*, Ch 11 (pp.151-170).

**Watch:** *The Fog of War*
2/9 The Use of Force and Nuclear Deterrence
(paper topic due)

Required reading:


Williams, Security Studies, Ch. 4, 10, 15


Watch: Dr. Strangelove

2/23 Alternative Theoretical Approaches:

Required reading:

Williams, Security Studies, Chs. 5-9 (pp. 59-130).


Recommended:


Part II: Contemporary Issues and Debates
3/2 Intra-state Conflicts, Asymmetric Warfare and Terrorism

(Paper proposal due)

Required reading:

Williams, *Security Studies*, Chs. 12-14, 25-26


Watch:

*The Battle of Algiers* (1965, Director: Gillo Ponteverco, 120 minutes)

Recommended:


Review: U.S. State Department “Patterns of Global Terrorism” at: http://www.state.gov/s/ct/

3/9 Nuclear Proliferation

Required reading:


Graham Allison,” Nuclear Disorder: Surveying Atomic Threats,” *Foreign Affairs*, Jan/Feb 2010

Charles D. Ferguson, “The Long Road to Zero: Overcoming the Obstacles to a Nuclear-Free World,” *Foreign Affairs*, Jan/Feb 2010


Miller, Steven E. and Scott D. Sagan. 2009. “Nuclear Power without Nuclear Proliferation?” *Daedalus* 138(4): 7-18. [This is the introduction to a special issue of *Daedalus* devoted to the spread of nuclear energy].


Watch:
*Last Best Chance*
http://www.lastbestchance.org/

Recommended:

http://www.twq.com/05spring/docs/05spring_albright.pdf


The April 2009 special issue of the *Journal of Conflict Resolution* which focused on strategic approaches to nuclear proliferation.

**3/16 Environment and Population**

Required reading:


Recommended:


3/23 Regional and Global Security Institutions

Williams, Security Studies, Chs. 20-22, 27-28


4/6 Unipolarity, Soft Balancing and the Rise of the Rest


John J Mearsheimer, “China’s Unpeaceful Rise,” Current History; Apr 2006


Recommended:

4/13 Military Privatization, Arms Trade and Defense Industry Globalization

Williams, *Security Studies*, Chs. 23, 29


Part III: Globalization vs. Homeland Security

4/20 International Travel and Migration vs. Tighter Border Controls

Required reading:


In class screening: “Border Security” (Australian TV program)

Recommended reading:

9-11 Commission Staff Monograph on 9/11 and Terrorist Travel at: [http://www.9-11commission.gov/staff_statements/index.htm](http://www.9-11commission.gov/staff_statements/index.htm)


4/27 International Trade vs. Increased Transportation and Port Security

Required reading:

Flynn, America the Vulnerable, Introduction, chs. 1-5 (pp. 1-110).

Williams, Security Studies, Ch 30.


5/4 On-line Economies and Capital Mobility vs. Protection of Critical Infrastructure and Finance

(Seminar paper due)

Required reading:

Flynn, America the Vulnerable, ch. 6-8 (pp. 111-170).


Recommended reading:

9-11 Commission Staff Monograph on Terrorist Financing at: http://www.9-11commission.gov/staff_statements/index.htm