IRG 378: Capstone Research in International Relations and Global Studies

MEZ 1.210 W 4—7 pm Unique #39933

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Course Description:

This upper-level research seminar fulfills part of the requirement for the International Relations and Global Studies major. Through readings, weekly discussions and individual consultation, this seminar provides students the opportunity to produce a significant paper of original research on a topic dealing with a contemporary global issue.

The subject of international security serves as an overarching theme for the semester. In the decade since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, scholars and the public alike have become far more attuned to the broad challenges of global security and its management in the twenty-first century. Students will have the opportunity to explore topics concerning this broad theme, from the debates over nuclear weapons and terrorism to international institutions and the question of human and environmental security.

Required Text: Christopher Hughes and Lai Yew Meng, eds., *Security Studies: A Reader* (Routledge, 2011), 451 pp.

Course Objectives:

1) Assess the broad array of security issues facing global actors. This course will enable students to do so through reading and responding to a number of short scholarly articles that engage with the broad field of security studies, as well as by devoting significant time to class discussion.
2) Become familiar with using university resources in academic research. This course will encourage students to benefit from individual consultation with the instructor and fellow students in narrowing and sharpening topics and arguments, as well as offer guidance from library and writing center specialists.
3) Master a topic of contemporary global importance. Through the research and writing of a major paper, this course will require students to become conversant with the existing literature on a subject as well as make use of primary documents in order to craft a persuasive argument and provide evidentiary support.
4) Synthesize research and convey it in multiple formats. In addition to the research paper, students will present their findings to the rest of the class in a brief oral presentation toward the end of the semester.

Grading Breakdown:

- **Attendance (5 percent):** Because this class meets only once a week, it is essential that all students be present for each session. Each unexcused absence will result in a one-point deduction from a student's final grade. The instructor reserves the right to fail any student with three or more unexcused absences. If you have a university-related conflict or medical or family emergency that prevents you from attending a class, alert the instructor and you will not be penalized for a particular absence.

- **Reading responses (20 percent):** In the first five weeks of class, students are expected to read articles from the required text (see course schedule), and respond to a question posed by the instructor during class the previous week. Reading responses to this question should consist of two typewritten pages (700 words max.), to be handed in during class. Responses will be graded 1 = unsatisfactory, 2 = satisfactory, 3 = good, 4 = excellent.

- **Discussion (10 percent):** Students are expected to participate actively in discussion, whether concerning the weekly reading or fellow students' work.

- **Paper proposal (5 percent):** A few weeks into the semester, students will submit a one-page paper proposal that should detail the scope of the project, a tentative argument, and the potential resources available to complete the paper.

- **Rough draft (20 percent):** About a month before the end of the semester, students will be required to submit a rough draft of their paper. This draft should outline the main argument, provide the structure for the body of the paper, as well as indicate any sourcing and thesis questions that still need to be resolved. This draft should be at least 10-15 pages in length.

- **Oral presentation (10 percent):** In the weeks after handing in the rough draft, all students are required to present their findings to that point to classmates in a brief (10-minute) presentation. Use of media (PowerPoint) is encouraged.

- **Final draft (30 percent):** On the last day of class, students are expected to submit a copy of their final paper. The paper should be between 20-25 pages (6000—8000 words), fully edited and cited with appropriate footnotes. A bibliography/works cited page (exclusive of page/word count) should follow the paper.

- **Overall semester averages** will earn the following letter grades:

93-100: A	90-92: A-		
87-89: B+	83-86: B	80-82: B-	
77-79: C+	73-76: C	70-72: C-	
67-69: D+	63-66: D	60-62: D-	0-59: F

Undergraduate Writing Center: Because the bulk of the work in this course revolves around researching and writing a significant paper, the instructor strongly encourages all those enrolled to make use of the Undergraduate Writing Center, FAC 211, 471-6222: http://www.uwc.utexas.edu/). The Undergraduate Writing Center offers free, individualized, expert help with writing for any UT undergraduate, by appointment or on a drop-in basis. Any undergraduate enrolled in a course at UT can visit the UWC for assistance with any writing project. They work with students from every department on campus, for both academic and non-academic writing. Their services are not just for writing with "problems." Getting feedback from an informed audience is a normal part of a successful writing project. Consultants help students develop strategies to improve their writing. The assistance they provide is intended to foster independence. Each student determines how to use the consultant's advice. The consultants are trained to help you work on your writing in ways that preserve the integrity of your work.

University of Texas Honor Code: The core values of The University of Texas at Austin are learning, discovery, freedom, leadership, individual opportunity, and responsibility. Each member of the university is expected to uphold these values through integrity, honesty, trust, fairness, and respect toward peers and community. Any student found guilty of scholastic dishonesty may receive an "F" in the course and be remanded to the appropriate University of Texas authorities for disciplinary action. For more information, view Student Judicial Services at http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs.

Technology in Classroom: To facilitate a positive learning environment and minimize distractions in class, all cell phones and other electronic devices must be turned off and put away. In addition, students will not be allowed to use a laptop computer during class unless they provide documentation regarding its necessity as a learning aid and disable Internet access during class.

Religious Holidays: According to UT-Austin policy, students must notify the instructor of an impending absence at least 14 days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If a student must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, the student will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Student Privacy: The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) requires that student privacy be preserved. Thus the posting of grades, even by the last four digits of the social security number, is forbidden. All communication will remain between the instructor and the student, and the instructor will not be able to share details of the student's performance with parents, spouses, or any others.

Documented Disability Statement: The University of Texas at Austin provides upon request appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 232-2937 (video phone).

Emergency Evacuation Policy: In the event of a fire or other emergency, it may be necessary to evacuate a building rapidly. Upon the activation of a fire alarm or the announcement of an emergency in a university building, all occupants of the building are required to evacuate and assemble outside. Once evacuated, no one may re-enter the building without instruction to do so from the Austin Fire Department, University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office. Students should familiarize themselves with all the exit doors of each room and building they occupy at the university, and should remember that the nearest exit routes may not be the same as the way they typically enter buildings. Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructors in writing during the first week of class. Information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at http://www.utexas.edu/emergency.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Date	Topic	Reading
Aug. 24	Introduction	
Aug. 31	What is Security?	Reader, p. 1-96
Sept. 7	Security Paradigms	Reader, p. 105-190
Sept. 14	Dimensions and Issues	Reader, p. 195-292
Sept. 21	Frameworks and Actors	Reader, p. 297-361
Sept. 28	The Future of Security	Reader, p. 365-426
Oct. 5	**Paper Proposals Due**	
Oct. 12	Library Instruction (meet in PCL)	
Oct. 19	Instructor consultation (I)	
Oct. 26	Instructor consultation (II)	
Nov. 2	**Rough Drafts Due**	
Nov. 9	**Oral presentations (I)**	
Nov. 16	**Oral presentations (II)**	
Nov. 23	Thanksgiving – No Class	
Nov. 30	**Final Drafts Due**	