Overview:

This course introduces students to a range of concepts, debates, and issues in the field of international security studies. In doing so, this class covers some of the enduring issues of security studies such as war, peace, and nuclear weapons, as well as some ‘new’ emerging issues such as the privatization of security, state failure, and nation-building.

The fundamental objective of this course is to familiarize students with issues, theories, and debates that belong to the field of security studies while cultivating analytical, research, and communications skills. After completing this class, students will be better equipped to critically engage with political science literature and international relations literature, research and write about political science and international security issues, and debate and discuss these and other topics in international relations.

The instructor will present the course content primarily through lectures. These lectures will cover the assigned readings. There will also be substantial opportunity throughout each lecture for class discussion. Occasionally, lectures will only run for half the class. In the second part of these sessions, the class will precede in one of three ways. 1) The instructor will organize the class into smaller self-moderated seminar groups, in which the students will have an opportunity to discuss the topics in presented in the lecture amongst themselves. 2) The class will watch a video on a topic related to international security or strategic studies. 3) There will be a guest speaker.

Readings: All course readings are available through the electronic journal databases at the Carleton library, through the library’s reserve system, or accessible online.

Students must complete all of the required readings before coming to class.
The assignments draw only upon the required readings; the recommended readings are optional, and not necessary for the completion of any assignment.


**Evaluation**

The grading structure is as follows. Each item is described in detail below.

- **Critical Review Essays (3):** 60% (20% each)
- **Final Take Home Exam:** 25%
- **Participation:** 15%

**Critical Reviews:** Students must submit three critical review essays. These papers will evaluate and advance an argument about one of the readings for each of the relevant lecture topics. While the reviews will generally focus on one article, the essays should make an effort to incorporate insights and material from all of the required readings for the lecture. The papers should not exceed 4 pages in length. It is very important that the essays make an argument, and not simply summarize the required readings. There are a variety of ways to write a review. Your critical review can dispute an argument(s) advanced in the reading, assess or concur with arguments advanced in the reading, explain and evaluate policies or historical events described in the reading; relate a case or a current event to arguments or ideas from the readings in a critical manner. See the *how to write a critical review* guide on the course website for more specific instructions, guidelines, and tips.

The reviews will be evaluated in terms of quality of argument, use and understanding of course materials, style/writing, and format. See the document entitled *marking guidelines for critical reviews* on the course website for a more detailed breakdown.

**Due dates:** Each critical review is due *at the beginning of the class that covers the topic that the student has chosen to write about*. Therefore, the due dates for the critical review papers depend on the topic of the paper. For example, if a student chooses to write his/her paper on ‘The nature of Security’ (a topic covered in week 2), then the paper will be due at the beginning of that class. Similarly, students who write about ‘failed states’ (a topic covered in week 6), must submit their reviews at the beginning of that class.
The instructor will return the critical review essays to students one week after they were submitted.

**Final Take Home Exam:** On the last day of class, the instructor will distribute a final, take home exam. The exam will consist of long form essay questions. Students must answer the questions in a regular essay format, complete with citations. The exams will require students to draw on all of the required reading material and the lecture material. Therefore, students should do the readings every week, and take careful notes during class. Although not required, students may draw upon material from outside the course if they so choose, providing that they include full citations and a bibliography.

**Class Schedule**

**September 10 - Lecture 1 - Introduction**
An overview of the syllabus and course requirements; and a basic introduction to security studies.

- No required reading

**September 17 - Lecture 2 - The History and Nature of Security Studies**
We discuss the nature of ‘security’ and the origin of the discipline of ‘security studies.’

**Required Reading:**


**Recommended Reading:**


3
**September 24 - Lecture 3 – On the Causes of Peace and War**
What causes war? The readings for this week examine trends in interstate war in modern history, as well as several theories that purport to explain the causes of war and peace.

- Snyder, Jack L. *Myths of empire: Domestic politics and international ambition*. Cornell University Press, 1991. (Misperceptions stemming from domestic politics may lead to war).
- King, Charles. "Five-Day War-Managing Moscow after the Georgia Crisis, The." Foreign Aff. 87 (2008): 2. (We will apply these theories to the Russia-Georgia conflict).

**October 1- Week 4 – More will be Better? Nuclear Proliferation and International security.**
In this lecture, we examine a series of debates concerning the consequences of the spread of nuclear weapons for international security. Kenneth Waltz argues in favour of widespread proliferation; while Scott Sagan contends that the spread of nuclear weapons would be extremely dangerous. Mearsheimer takes a middle ground position in favour of limited proliferation. Which argument do you find most convincing?

**Required Reading**
- John Mearsheimer, “Back to the Future: Instability in Europe after the cold war,” in Sean M. Lynne Jones and Steven Miller (eds), *the Cold War and After: Prospects for Peace* (Cambridge: MIT press, 1994). (read section on nuclear proliferation Pages 31-37). This essay presents an argument for “limited proliferation”, which while rooted in the same logic as neo-realism, does not go as far.

**Discussion case: North Korea**
Recommended Readings:

- Stephen Walt and John Mearsheimer, “Iran in the Crosshairs”, in *The Israeli Lobby and U.S. Foreign Policy*

**IMPORTANT *** Final week to submit 1st critical review.

**October 8 - Week 5 - The Security Dilemma and Ethnic Civil War**
What causes ethnic conflicts and genocides? Kauffman argues that the security dilemma explains the logic and dynamics of these conflicts, while arguing that in many cases, partitions and population transfers may be the only possible way to prevent mass killing. Are you convinced? (55 pages total)

**Required Reading**
- Chaim Kauffman, “Possible and impossible solutions to ethnic conflict,” in *International Security* 20(4) (Spring, 1996), pp. 136-175. Examines the causes of ethnic conflict, and evaluates several possible solutions, while advancing a fairly radical argument in favor of population transfers and partition. Do you agree?
- Peter W. Galbraith, “The Case for Dividing Iraq” in *Time Magazine* (November 5, 2006). Would a divided Iraq be more stable? Is this solution still feasible?

**Recommended Reading:**
- Barry Posen, “The Security Dilemma and Ethnic Conflict”, in *Survival* vol. 35, no. 1, Spring 1993, pp. 27-47. This article first advanced the security dilemma theory of ethnic conflict, shows how it might apply to Bosnia and Russia.

**October 15 - Week 6 – Criminals or Rebels? On the economics of insurgency:** The readings for this class examine the role of natural resources and economic change in conflict and security. Gurr's theory of relative deprivation connects conflict with resource scarcity, while Collier suggests that resource abundance is more important. Where do you stand? (75 pages)
Required Reading


October 22 - Week 7 – When things fall apart: Failing and Fragile States

The term failed state describes situations in which political order within a country breaks down amid civil war. In this lecture, we examine the concept of the failed state and ask why states fail. We look at FP Magazine’s attempt to measure and categorize states according to an index of fragility. We also look at Bates’ explanation of state failure in sub-Saharan Africa. The discussion concludes with an application to the case of Afghanistan.

Required Reading

- The Fund for Peace and FP magazine, 2013. “The Failed States Index 2013,” in Foreign Policy Magazine

Discussion: Afghanistan


Recommended Reading

- Feisal Khan, Corruption and the Decline of the State in Pakistan,” Asian Journal of Political Science (August 2007), 219-247
November 5 - Week 8 – Voting and Violence: Democracy, Democratization, and (In)security. Democratic peace theory, the idea that democracies rarely go to war with each other, enjoys fairly substantial empirical support; however, it’s implications for international security are less clear.

- Jack Snyder, *From Voting to Violence: Democratization and Nationalist Conflict* (New York: W.W. Norton, 2000). Read Chapters 6 and 7. (Democratization and ethno-nationalism)

**IMPORTANT *** Final week to submit 2nd critical review

November 12 - Week 9 – The Dogs of War: Mercenaries and Private Military Companies
What explains the rise of private military companies on a global scale? What are the implications of this new trend for international politics and security? Defenders of privatized security suggest that PMCs can potentially play important roles in peace keeping and peace building operations. Do you agree? (43 pages)

**Required Reading**
- Peter Singer, “Why has Security been privatized?” in *Corporate Warriors: the Rise of the Privatized Military Industry* (Cornell, 2003), pp, 49-73. Singer’s work is perhaps the academic gold standard on the this topic.
- Video: Shadow Company

**Recommended Reading:**

November 19 - Week 10 - Africa’s World War: Conflict in Central Africa
Any class on international security studies would be both remiss and incomplete without discussion of the most extensive episode of bloodletting in the last 50 years. This lecture examines the conflict in central Africa’s great lakes region (the DRC, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, and Angola) its causes, dynamics, and implications. We will consider this event in light of some of the perspectives and theories discussed in previous lectures. (70 pages)

• Herbst, Jeffrey; Mills, Greg. “The Invisible State: it’s time to admit that the Democratic Republic of Congo does not exist” in Foreign Policy Magazine (Summer 2013).

Recommended:
• William Reno, Warlord Politics and African States,”
• Patrick Chabal and J.P Daloz, Africa Works: The Instrumentalization of Political Disorder in Africa
• Jeffrey Herbst, States and Power in Africa: Lessons in Authority and Control
• Turner, Thomas. The Congo: Conflict, Myth, and Reality. Page 1-24
Recommended Reading:

November 26 - Week 11 – Lessons in Racketeering: State Repression, Security, and the Micro-Dynamics of Violence
Bad governance is, itself, a source of human insecurity. Governments and non-state armed actors alike perpetuate violence against civilians. The readings for this week examine some of the dynamics of the relationship between armed groups and civilians in conflicts.

• Policzer, Pablo. 2011. The Rise and Fall of Political Violence in Chile. (Selections)
• Kalyvas, Statthias, 2006. The Logic Violence in Civil Wars (selections)
December 3 - Week 12: The Centre must hold – Pax Americana and the Future of international security

Post-cold war international security has been shaped by the relative political power of the United States in international affairs. Several international security scholars anticipate a change in the dynamics of international politics associated with decline of the unipolarity. The readings for this week examine the role of the U.S in shaping international security and the debate over the implications of its possible decline.

- Fareed Zakari, *The Post American World*. (Selections)

**Recommended:**

**IMPORTANT ****** Final week to submit 3rd critical review. Takehome exam distributed in class

**Academic Accommodations**

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

**For Religious Observance:** Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance (www.carleton.ca/equity).

**For Pregnancy:** Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a letter of accommodation. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is
anticipated the accommodation will be required.

**Plagiarism:** The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in “substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

**Oral Examination:** At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

**Submission and Return of Term Work:** Papers must be handed directly to the instructor and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at 4 p.m., stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

**Grading:** Assignments and exams will be graded with a percentage grade. To convert this to a letter grade or to the university 12-point system, please refer to the following table.

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**Grades:** Final grades are derived from the completion of course assignments. Failure to write the final exam will result in the grade ABS. Deferred final exams are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.
Approval of final grades: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Carleton E-mail Accounts: All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via official Carleton university e-mail accounts and/or cuLearn. As important course and University information is distributed this way, it is the student’s responsibility to monitor their Carleton and cuLearn accounts.

Carleton Political Science Society: The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, CPSS aims to involve all political science students at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, visit http://facebook.com/CarletonPoliticalScienceSociety or come to our office in Loeb D688.

Official Course Outline: The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.