

**Political Science 347
International Security
Prof. Griffiths
Spring 2009**

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The international security environment has changed dramatically since the end of the Cold War and the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. The purpose of this course is to a) examine the nature of international security, b) trace the changes in the security environment that have occurred, especially since the end of the Cold War, and c) investigate the emergence of new security challenges and perspectives. After completing the course, students will be able to:

- discuss recent international security changes
- describe the current complex international and regional security environment
- identify the range of new security challenges facing the international community
- analyze the various perspectives on meeting these challenges
- critically evaluate policies designed to address international and regional security threats

This course examines traditional security threats such as war, conflict, and instability, as well as more recent security challenges including weapons proliferation, terrorism, and human security concerns. It is designed for students who have a basic understanding of international politics and want to examine topics in international security in greater depth.

Texts: Dan Caldwell and Robert E. Williams. *Seeking Security in an Insecure World*. Lanham, Maryland: Rowan & Littlefield, 2006.

Bruce Hoffman. *Inside Terrorism*. Revised and expanded edition. New York: Columbia University Press, 2006.

Students are also required to keep up with developments in international security by reading *The Economist* or *The New York Times* on a regular basis.

Teaching Method and Evaluation: The class will be a combination of lecture and discussion. There will be both a mid-term and a final examination. Students are also required to submit 12-15 page research paper on a topic of their choice in international security. Your paper and your part of the regional security project may not be on the same topic. The topics must be cleared with me before starting the research. This should take place no later than 2/6/09. A one-page draft introduction with a preliminary bibliography will be due 2/11/09. The final paper will be due 3/30/09. Late assignments will be penalized two points per day. **Electronic submissions of assignments will not be accepted except by prior permission.** No assignments will be accepted after the last day of class. Students will also participate in a group project that involves the preparation of a regional security briefing paper. Guidelines for this assignment will be distributed in a separate hand-out. The final grade will be determined in roughly the following manner: Introduction-10%, mid-term-20%, paper-30%, security briefing-15%, final exam-25%. Class participation is encouraged and may help your final grade. Class attendance is essential. During class, please turn off all cell phones and other electronic devices and put them away. If you use your computer to take notes, you should be prepared to show me your notes at any time during class. If I think you are not using your computer to take notes I will prohibit you from using it in class.

Assignments:

Dates are approximate.

Week of:

- 1/19-1/26- The Nature of Security. Caldwell & Williams, Chap. 1.
- 2/2-2/9- Traditional Security Threats. Caldwell & Williams, chap. 2-5.
- 2/16- The Post-September 11th World. Caldwell & Williams, chap. 9.
- 2/23- Ethnic Conflict. Caldwell & Williams, chap. 10.
- 3/2- Economic Challenges. Caldwell & Williams, chap. 11.
- 3/16- Environment and Resources. Caldwell & Williams, chap. 12.
- 3/23- Unconventional Security Threats. Caldwell & Williams, chap. 6-8.
- 3/30-Terrorism. Caldwell & Williams, chap. 13; Hoffman, chap. 1.
- 4/6- The Origins and Internationalization of Terrorism. Hoffman, chap. 2-3.
- 4/13- Terrorist Tactics and Mentality; Religion and Terrorism. Hoffman, chap. 8,5,4.
- 4/20-Media and Terrorism. Hoffman, chap. 6,7.
- 4/27- Regional Security Briefings.
- 5/4- The Future of Terrorism and. Hoffman, chap. 9;