

Political Science 347
International Security
Prof. Griffiths
Spring 2010

Office: 222 Graham
Hours: 11-12 MWF
Phone: 256-0518
email: rjgriffi@uncg

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: Peter Hough. *Understanding Global Security*, second edition. London: Routledge, 2008.
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 2/5/10. The paper will be due 3/29/10. 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: mid-term-25%, paper-30%, security briefing-20%, final exam-25%. Class participation is encouraged and may help your final grade. Class attendance is essential.

Policy on electronic devices: The use of all electronic devices is strictly prohibited in class. This includes laptop computers, unless you can provide documentation from the Office of Disability Services that you need a computer for note taking. All phones must be turned off and put away before class. Any use of your phone in class will cost you five points off your final grade for the first infraction, ten for the second, etc.

Assignments:**Dates are approximate.**

- 1/20-2/3- The nature of security; war and military threats. Hough chapters 1-2.
- 2/5-2/12- Economic challenges to security. Hough chap. 4.
- 2/15-2/22- Identity and human rights. Hough chapter 5.
- 2/24-3/1- Environment and health. Hough chapters 6,7.
- 3/3-3/5- Natural disaster and accident. Hough chapters 8,9.
- 3/5-3/15- Spring Break
- 3/15-3/17- Criminal threats. Hough chapter 10.
- 3/19- Mid-term exam(tentative date).
- 3/22-3/24- Non-state actors. Hough chapter 3, Hoffman, chapter 1.
- 3/26-3/31- The Origins and Internationalization of Terrorism. Hoffman, chap. 2-3.
- 4/2-4/9- Terrorist Tactics and Mentality; Religion and Terrorism. Hoffman, chap. 8,5,4.
- 4/12-4/19-Media and Terrorism. Hoffman, chap. 6,7.
- 4/21-4/23- The Future of Terrorism and. Hoffman, chap. 9.
- 4/26-30- Regional security briefings.
- 5/3-5/4- Wrap up. Hough chapter 11.