This course is designed as a focused/limited introductory survey to a variety of approaches and topics in the study of international security. The rationale for the course's teaching strategy is rooted in a concern about the slow evolution and stagnation of traditional security studies. It has unfortunately become a “fact of life” in the study of international relations (IR) and international security (IS) that IR/IS courses would normally be expected to begin by spending a number of weeks “recycling” different brands or variations of realist, (neo-)liberal, and mainstream (thin) constructivist thinking, etc. This course does not follow such a path. Therefore, as a way of alerting students to these lingering issues as well as equipping them with effective tools which they will definitely find useful as future scholars dealing with IR/IS issues, this course focuses on the value-added of many bodies of literature in IR/IS and how they have transpired specifically in the scholarship about international security. Overall Security Studies as a discipline has evolved into a collection of approaches, most (if not all) of which are united by a profound dissatisfaction with so-called traditional security studies by constantly questioning the foundations upon which the dominant state-centrism and military-centrism of security is built and the lack of attention to a much broader definition of security. The course thus seeks to explicate key assumptions underpinning some of these approaches as well as explore just how and in what ways they challenge traditional security studies, and in what ways they compare and contrast with each other. The course does this using an issue-areas based strategy so that we simultaneously consider these issue-areas and how various theoretical approaches and schools of IR/IS theory investigate them.

**REQUIREMENTS**

- Students are required to “digest” thoroughly the weekly readings before coming to class and thus come prepared to fully discuss the readings in depth and share their insights with the rest of the class.

- Each student is required to write weekly 4-5 page reaction papers. The papers are to be posted on canvas by Tuesday 1:00-11:59pm. Each paper must focus on a particular question/theme relevant to one or more of the readings.
  - Each weekly paper must consist in developing a puzzling question/theme rather than summarizing the readings.

- Each student is required to make at least one presentation and lead the class discussion on the topics addressed in one of his/her weekly papers.
  - The student making the presentation should post the reaction paper (which can exceptionally go up to 8 pages) on canvas-discussion for the class to download it on Tuesday 1:00-8:00pm as well as post it as usual on canvas for the instructor.
The other students are required to read the received paper before class and come prepared to raise issues from/with it in the class discussion ensuing from the presentation.

- Students are required to write a 15-20 page research paper on a topic of international security of their choice using one (or more) of the approaches examined in the course. Please see details down below.

- All students will be presenting their respective research papers to the class at a date/time to be specified later.

**GRADING POLICY**

- Presenting one weekly paper and leading the ensuing discussion: 10% of the final grade.
- Weekly papers: 40% of the final grade.
- Research paper: 40% of the final grade
- Presenting the research paper: 10% of the final grade

**Note:** Late papers will not be accepted except for document-justified reasons.

**REQUIRED READINGS**

2. Articles posted on canvas (organized by week and posted in a ‘Required’ folder per each week).
3. Note that there is a set of additional recommended readings for each week (posted in ‘Recommended’ folders). Students are highly encouraged to read some of these if only in a brief manner.

**SPECIFICS ON THE RESEARCH PAPER**

In order for the instructor to provide timely and useful guidance on the research paper, students will be required to turn in through canvas various brief intermediate papers throughout the semester.

Each student must:

1. Define a research question that interests him/her and that applies a security approach (broadly speaking) from the materials covered in this course. Submit the research question and an abstract. **Date: Feb 2nd**
2. Submit a 2-3 page summary of the proposed research and expected results. **Date: Feb 16th**
3. Submit a 6-8 page paper discussing the relevant literature to the research question (empirical as well as theoretical). **Date: March 16th**
4. The final paper should be 15-20 pages long, including the bibliography. **Date: April 25th**

**IMPORTANT NOTES:**
• The instructor reserves the right to change any part or aspect of this document should a need for doing so emerge at any point in time during the semester.

• All students are required to abide by UF standards of academic honesty laid out in the Student Honor Code, posted at [http://www.dso.ufl.edu/scrr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/scrr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/)

### Important Dates:

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<th>Classes Begin</th>
<th>January 8</th>
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| Official University Holidays - no classes | January 15: Martin Luther King Jr. Day  
     March 3 – 10: Spring Break |
| ISA 59th Annual Convention – San Francisco | April 4 – 7 |
| Reading Days - no classes | April 26-27 |
| Final Exams | April 28, May 4 |

### WEEKLY READING ASSIGNMENTS AND OUTLINE OF THE COURSE


#### Week 2/ January 17: What is Security? Part II.


**Week 3/ January 24: Logics of Rationalist Might/Power, and Stories Thereof**


**Week 4/ January 31: Terrorism – Phenomena, Discourses, Strategies, Policies, ...**


**Week 5/ February 7: Security Institutions**


**Week 6/ February 14: Ontological Security**


**Week 7/ February 21: Securitization**


**Week 8/ February 28: Human Security – Part I**


Spring Break March 3-10

**Week 9/ March 14: Human Security – Part II**


**Week 10/ March 21: Logic of Nuclear (In)Security**


Week 11/ March 28: Peacekeeping, Peace Building and Intervention


ISA 59th Convention, San Francisco, April 4 - 7

Week 12/ April 11: Cyber Security, Oil Security


**Week 13/ April 18: Great Powers and Security**


**Week 14/ April 25: Globalization and Security**