

INTL 4295: War and Human Security

University of Georgia, Department of International Affairs

Course Instructor Information:

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Office hours by appointment in-person (304 Candler Hall) or Zoom (link available on eLC)

Course Meeting Information:

Spring 2024

Caldwell Hall 102

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the core of our study of international affairs lies the individual. Each human being is a component of community relations, state politics and leadership, regional and global institutions, and international peace and conflict. This means that actions at global and state levels also influence the security individuals experience. In this class, we will explore this dynamic more thoroughly, particularly as it connects to wartime effects on human security.

We will begin with some conceptualization and measurement of human security. We will then explore a series of relevant international and domestic conflict processes to provide a setting for how human security becomes threatened. We can divide human security into two broad categories: freedom from want and freedom from fear. So following some overview of conflict processes, we will discuss specific types of human security as it relates to each of these categories and how a war setting affects these freedoms. Finally, we will explore paths to economic and political development that can help reform and preserve human security.

EXAMS AND ASSIGNMENTS

Broadly speaking, your assignments and activities will mirror the two halves of the course. The first half, Modules I and II, concern primarily the basic scope of human security and foundational material in conflict processes. The second half, Modules III, IV, and V, dive more deeply into the various forms of human security that develop out of domestic and international conflict, as well as potential solutions moving forward. Beginning with Module II, I will assign you a country in small groups that you will represent throughout the semester for the simulation, policy critiques, and human security summit. All assignments are due at 11:59pm on the day marked in your course schedule below.

ASSIGNMENTS FOR MODULES I & II

Reading Quizzes (*due Mondays by 11:59pm*)

You will have 5 quizzes through Module 2. These will review the readings for that week and are worth 10% of your final grade (2% per quiz). All quizzes can be found on eLC.

There will be no exams in this course. Instead, we will have a simulation during the first half of the semester and a summit in the last week of the semester. An overview of each can be found below, but more specific details will be provided prior to each activity.

Simulation

During Module 2, each Friday will be a simulation day. Each simulation day will ask you to progressively respond internationally to a particular conflict event or set of events in small groups as your assigned countries, and you will have a goal for each day made available at the start of class. Available actions, context for the event, and final goals for the simulation as a whole will be provided in a dossier prior to the event. Groups may opt to communicate internal, domestic-level actions for their country either privately or publicly through a discussion board on eLC throughout the week between simulation day sessions. All actions must be taken with the “shadow of the future” in mind, as each action will affect the environment and goals of the next simulation day.

ASSIGNMENTS FOR MODULES III, IV, & V

Cucina povera Recipe (*due on 3/11 by 11:59pm*)

Following our discussion of food security, you will be asked to come up with your own recipe that you think meets the principles of *cucina povera*, meaning a recipe that meets a set of nutritional requirements within a designated budget. Your recipe should include a short review of the dish. I will put all of your recipes together in a free digital cookbook for our class, with your permission. No materials will be published for profit, nor will any materials be provided publicly or attributed to you without your permission.

Current Events Reports (*due Mondays by 11:59pm*)

Beginning in Module III, rather than reading quizzes, you will be asked to submit a short 1-2 paragraph current events report every other week. This is an individual assignment, not an assignment for your small groups. Find a current event related to the human security issues of the *module* (i.e., Current event #1 should concern a freedom from want issue, while Current events #2 and #3 should concern freedom from fear issues). Describe in what way the conflict processes we discussed in Module II help explain the issue’s onset, persistence, and/or severity.

You may use current events related to your assigned country, which can be useful for the human security summit, but this is not required. As your source for the current event will most likely be a news report, I will require the current event to be corroborated in at least two different news sources, to be cited along with your report. A template and guidelines will be made available on eLC.

Policy Critiques

Beginning with Module III, every other (non-current event) week, you will be asked in small groups during class to critique an existing human security-related policy for a particular country, acting in the voice and interests of the state your group has been assigned for the semester. Policy critique #1 should concern freedom from want, while Policy critiques #2 and #3 should concern freedom from fear. You must submit one critique per group. Expectations and critique guidelines will be made available on eLC.

Human Security Summit

In the final week of classes, you will act with your semester-assigned country's group to address a global threat to human security through an international summit. The nature of this threat and all expectations for this summit will be made available closer to the event week.

By the end of the summit, you will be asked as a class to complete an international convention documenting the nature of the threat, the issues you see resulting from the threat, and how you, as a community, plan to resolve them. A template and guidelines for this convention document will be made available on eLC.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance will be taken randomly throughout the semester and on all activity days where you act as your assigned country. Absences will only be excused for the following, discussed with me in advance: observance of a religious practice, documented (by a doctor or health clinic/hospital) sickness, or death of a relative or close friend. More than three cumulative absences without an above listed excuse will affect students' attendance and participation grades. Three unexcused absences are permitted without penalty. However, the fast-paced nature of this course and the use of supplemental materials in class, which will also appear on exams, will make it more difficult for students to do well in this course without being present.

GRADING POLICY

The breakdown of your grades and the scoring rubric for this course are below (P/F indicates a Pass/Fail grade):

- 15% - Quizzes (3% each)
- 15% - *Cucina povera* recipe (P/F)
- 15% - Current Events Reports (5% each)
- 15% - Policy Critiques (5% each)
- 20% - Simulation (P/F)
- 20% - Human Security Summit (P/F)

94 to 100 – A

80 to 83 – B-

67 to 69 – D+

90 to 93 – A-

77 to 79 – C+

64 to 67 – D

87 to 89 – B+

74 to 77 – C

60 to 63 – D-

84 to 87 – B

70 to 73 – C-

59 and below – F

OUTLINE OF TOPICS

MODULE I: INTRODUCING HUMAN SECURITY	
Jan. 8, 10, 12	Week 1 – Conceptualizing Human Security
Topics	What is human security? Basic scope of human security issues and its relationship with traditional security
	UNDP 2022 Special Report on Human Security (pgs. 1-7)
Jan. 15, 17, 19	Week 2 – Global Human Security, the State, and the Individual <i>1/15 - NO CLASS; MLK, JR. DAY</i>
Topics	Contextualizing human security within a global structure How human insecurity effects all levels, from the international system to the individual
Readings	UNDP 2022 Special Report on Human Security (pgs. 8-39)
<i>Due by 1/22</i>	<i>Week 2 quiz</i>
Jan. 22, 24, 26	Week 3 – Measuring Human Security
Topics	Basic qualitative and quantitative approaches Mindfulness in studying victims of conflict and insecurity
Readings	Smith and McConnell (2018), Chs. 1-2; <i>(Optional)</i> Acharya (2001)
<i>Due by 1/29</i>	<i>Week 3 quiz</i>

MODULE II: CONFLICT PROCESSES & THE FOG OF WAR**Jan. 29, 31, Feb. 2****Week 4 – Information and Bargaining Theory**

Topics

Bargaining theory as a framework to understand information problems and conflict
Simulation Day #1

Readings

Muthoo (2000); Debs and Monteiro (2014)

*Due by 2/5**Week 4 quiz***Feb. 5, 7, 9****Week 5 – Patterns of Interstate Conflict**

Topics

Rivalry, alliances, and escalation behavior
Simulation Day #2

Readings

Lee, Mitchell, Schmidt, and Yang (2022)

*Due by 2/12**Week 5 quiz***Feb. 12, 14, 16****Week 6 – Grievance and Civil Conflict**

Topics

Relationship between leaders and their populations
Simulation Day #3

Readings

Cederman and Vogt (2017); Villamil (2021)

*Due by 2/19**Week 6 quiz*

MODULE III: FREEDOM FROM WANT	
Feb. 19, 21, 23	Week 7 – Environment and Food Security
Topics	Access to and management of natural resources Climate change and inequality
Readings	Ani et. al (2020)
<i>Due by 2/26</i>	<i>Current Event #1</i>
Feb. 26, 28, Mar. 1	Week 8 – Economic Security
Topics	Patterns of income inequality and prosperity Approaches to economic development
Readings	Treisman (2020)
<i>Due by 3/11 (after Spring Break)</i>	<i>Policy Critique #1 Recipe assignment</i>

Mar. 4, 6, 8	SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS
	No lectures or assignments – Have a good Spring Break!

MODULE IV: FREEDOM FROM FEAR	
Mar. 11, 13, 15	Week 9 – Political Security
Topics	Political dissidents and extrajudicial state action Democratic institutions and civic rights

Readings	Agbor (2021) <i>(Optional)</i> Freedom House 2023 Freedom in the World Report
<i>Due by 3/18</i>	<i>Current Event #2</i>
Mar. 18, 20, 22	Week 10 – Personal Security (Part 1)
Topics	Drugs, arms, and human trafficking Refugees and displaced persons
Readings	Tsegay and Gezahegne (2023)
<i>Due by 3/25</i>	<i>Policy Critique #2</i>
Mar. 25, 27, 29	Week 11 – Personal Security (Part 2)
Topics	Mass killing, genocide, and ethnic cleansing Sexual violence during war
Readings	UNDP 2022 Special Report on Human Security (pgs. 92-112)
<i>Due by 4/1</i>	<i>Current Event #3</i>
Apr. 1, 3, 5	Week 12 – Health and Community Security
Topics	Ethnic, religious, and national heterogeneity Access to community health protection
Readings	UNDP 2022 Special Report on Human Security (pgs. 92-112) <i>(Optional)</i> Shibuya et. al (2022)
<i>Due by 4/8</i>	<i>Policy Critique #3</i>

MODULE V: STABILIZING HUMAN SECURITY

Apr. 8, 10, 12	Week 13 – Legitimizing Secure Regimes
Topics	The challenges of political development Transitional regimes and democratic decline
Readings	TBD
	<i>No quizzes or assignments due this week (Roundtable discussion in class on 4/12)</i>
Apr. 15, 17, 19	Week 14 – Restructuring Economies
Topics	Paths to economic development Global institutions, NGOs, and labor
Readings	TBD
	<i>No quizzes or assignments due this week (Roundtable discussion in class on 4/19)</i>
Apr. 22, 24, 26	Week 15 – Human Security Convention Week
	You will receive a dossier with details for the convention in the week prior
Apr. 29	Convention De-brief <i>4/30 – NO CLASS; Reading Day</i>
Topics	Discussing the outcome of the convention Explore options for prevailing human security issues in the modern world

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

UGA Student Honor Code: “I will be academically honest in all of my academic work and will not tolerate academic dishonesty of others.” A Culture of Honesty, the University’s policy and procedures for handling cases of suspected dishonesty, can be found the website of Office of Instruction. We expect that the Student Honor Code will guide your efforts in this course. A lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy does not explain a violation. Please direct any questions to the instructor.

COURSE POLICIES

The following is taken verbatim from the University Council: “The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.”

The following is taken verbatim from LINK: “In the absence of written authorization from the UGA Disability Resource Center, students may not make a visual or audio recording of any aspect of this course. Students who have a recording accommodation agree in writing that they:

- Will use the records only for personal academic use during the specific course.
- Understand that faculty members have copyright interest in their class lectures and that they agree not to infringe on this right in any way.
- Understand that the faculty member and students in the class have privacy rights and agree not to violate those rights by using recordings for any reason other than their own personal study.
- Will not release, digitally upload, broadcast, transcribe, or otherwise share all or any part of the recordings. They also agree that they not profit financially and will not allow others to benefit personally or financially from lecture recordings or other course materials.
- Will erase/delete all recordings at the end of the semester.
- Understand that violation of these terms may subject them to discipline under the Student Code of Conduct or subject them to liability under copyright laws.”

FERPA STATEMENT

The following is taken verbatim from the Syllabus Checklist:

“The Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) grants students certain information privacy rights. See the registrar’s explanation. FERPA allows disclosure of directory information (name, address, telephone, email, date of birth, place of birth, major, activities, degrees, awards, prior schools), unless requested in a written letter to the registrar.”

DISABILITY SERVICES

The following is taken verbatim from the Disability Resource Center:

“If you plan to request accommodations for a disability, please register with the Disability Resource Center. They can be reached by visiting Clark Howell Hall, calling 706-542-8719 (voice) or 706-542-8778 (TTY), or by visiting the Disability Resource Center”

The following is taken verbatim from the document of Syllabus Creation:

“Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations in order to participate in course activities or meet course requirements should contact the instructor or designate during regular office hours or by appointment.”

MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS RESOURCES

The following is taken verbatim from the University Council:

“If you or someone you know needs assistance, you are encouraged to contact Student Care and Outreach in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-7774 or visit the website of Student Care and Outreach. They will help you navigate any difficult circumstances you may be facing by connecting you with the appropriate resources or services.

UGA has several resources for a student seeking mental health services or crisis support. If you need help managing stress anxiety, relationships, etc., please visit BeWellUGA for a list of FREE workshops, classes, mentoring, and health coaching led by licensed clinicians and health educators in the University Health Center. Additional resources can be accessed through the UGA App.”