

**Department of Political Science  
Dalhousie University  
Fall 2012**

**POLI 3565  
CONTEMPORARY SECURITY STUDIES**

**Time and place:**

Tuesday 14:35-17:25

Life Science Building, Room 5260

**Instructor:**

Ruben Zaiotti, Room 353, Hicks Building

Ph: 494-6609

E-mail: r.zaiotti@dal.ca

**Office hours:**

Tuesday 1:30-2:30 or by appointment

**Course Description**

This course examines developments in the theory and practice of international security since the end of the Cold War. Some of the key questions explored are the following: What is security? What does it mean to be secure? Who or what is to be secured? What actors are capable of providing protection? What are the challenges of providing security globally?

In contrast to the traditional emphasis on armed conflict and military strategy that characterizes mainstream literature in the discipline of International Relations (IR), this course seeks to develop a broader understanding of international security and its implications. Particular emphasis will be put on the alternative theoretical approaches in Security Studies that have developed since the 1990s, and on how their insights can make sense of the complex ways in which security is articulated in world politics today.

The course is organized in two parts. The first part reviews the concept of security and the main theoretical approaches that inform the contemporary security debate. The second part employs the theoretical perspectives developed in the first part to examine some of the key contemporary issues in world politics and their relation with international security. The topics addressed include military security and intelligence, terrorism, economic security and globalization, societal and human security, migration, environmental and health security, crossborder security challenges.

By the end of the course, students should be able to: a) recognize the ways in which security is a “contested concept”; b) identify the key actors and processes involved in framing the contemporary security agenda; c) demonstrate familiarity with the main issues and debates in the contemporary literature on Security Studies; d) understand the normative implications of adopting differing theoretical perspectives on issues of international security.

### Course Format

The course will be based on a combination of lectures and seminar discussions. Lectures will follow the readings, but they will not overlap completely. Since the course will have *no tutorials*, lectures will presuppose familiarity with the readings. It is *essential* for students to complete the reading assignments before the lecture, in order to fully benefit from class discussions

### Course Text

Alan Collins, *Contemporary Security Studies*, Oxford University Press, 2010. The book is available at the University Bookstore.

### E-readings

In addition to the textbook indicated above, the weekly course readings include a number of *journal articles*. These readings can be accessed on line, *free of charge*, to Dalhousie University students through the Library. In order to access them, you need to go to <http://www.library.dal.ca/Find/?find=journals> and then search for the relevant article.

### Course on Blackboard

Lecture slides, syllabus, assignment instructions, bibliographic references and other relevant material for this course will be available on Blackboard. Blackboard will also function as main means of communication between the instructor and students. Students will also be able to view their grades, read announcements and contribute to the discussion board. The course on Blackboard can be accessed at <https://dalhousie.blackboard.com/>.

### Email Policy

Please feel free to contact me by email if you have any questions related to the course. I will reply to legitimate email inquiries within 2 days. If you do not receive a reply within this period, please resubmit your question(s).

### Course Evaluation

The final grade for this course will be based on four components:

Type of assignment	% of final grade	Due Date
1) Mid-term Test	20%	Session 6 (October 23)
2) Essay/alternative assignment	35%	Session 12 (November 27)
3) Final Exam	35%	Examination period
4) Participation	10%	

### Format of assignments

**1) Mid-term Test:** The mid-term test will cover material from the lectures and readings discussed in class up until the date of the test. The test will be written in-class on October 18. It is worth 20% of the final grade.

**2) Essay or alternative format assignment:** As second component of the assessment for this course you can choose either an essay or an alternative format assignment.

*2a) Essay* – The essay should be approximately 2,500 words or 8 pages in length and based on one of the topics examined in Part II of the course (“Issues in Contemporary Security Studies”). If you choose a topic that is not covered in these sections, you must first gain the approval of the course instructor. More information on this assignment will be given out in class. It is worth 35% of the final grade. The essay is due November 27 in class.

*2b) Alternative format assignment:* As for the essay option, for this assignment you must choose a topic from the issue areas covered in the course. To examine this topic you can use alternative formats to that of the essay. The final product can be a textual, audio, or visual artifact such a short story, a documentary, painting, cartoon, etc. The work must be original. You are required to provide a written commentary (at least 4 pages long) explaining why you have chose a particular theme and format, how your work is related to the course, and in particular how it addresses the concepts of security in world politics. If you decide to choose this option, please talk with the instructor during office hours (or contact him by email) to discuss how to proceed with the assignment. Topics and format for must be cleared by the instructor by Session 8. The assignment is due November 27 in class.

**3) Final Exam.** The final exam will be cumulative and draw from all of the course readings and lectures. The final exam will be scheduled during the examination period. It is worth 35% of the final grade.

#### **4) Class participation**

Class participation includes *active and informed* involvement in class discussions and contributions to the online discussion board on Blackboard (minimum: 2 contributions). In addition to the contributions to the blog, students can choose to give a short presentation in class. The presentation can be based on the same subject examined in the discussion/research paper, but must relate to the topic of the day and be accepted by the instructor. Presentations may be individual or group depending on the number of students in the class. Overall participation is worth 10% of the final grade.

#### **Late penalty**

Late papers will be penalized **2 per cent per day** (including weekends but excluding religious holidays). Extensions will be granted only for documented reasons of illness, or bereavement. The length of the extension will be based on the information in the documentation. In case of illness, students must ask the physician to indicate *explicitly* the length of time during which they were unable to attend to their coursework obligations.

#### **Use of sources and referencing style**

Both written assignments must be properly sourced, and should include both a bibliography and citation within the text. Research papers must be based on *academic*

*sources*, that is, articles published in peer-reviewed journals, as well as books. The recommended referencing style is APA (details about this style can be found at [http://www.library.dal.ca/Files/How do I/pdf/apa\\_style6.pdf](http://www.library.dal.ca/Files/How_do_I/pdf/apa_style6.pdf)).

### **Academic integrity**

All students in this class are to read and understand the policies on academic integrity and plagiarism referenced in the Policies and Student Resources sections of the [academicintegrity.dal.ca](http://academicintegrity.dal.ca) website. Ignorance of such policies is no excuse for violations. Any paper submitted by a student at Dalhousie University may be checked for originality to confirm that the student has not plagiarized from other sources. Plagiarism is considered a serious academic offence which may lead to loss of credit, suspension or expulsion from the University, or even to the revocation of a degree. It is essential that there be correct attribution of authorities from which facts and opinions have been derived. At Dalhousie there are University Regulations which deal with plagiarism and, prior to submitting any paper in a course, students should read the Policy on Intellectual Honesty contained in the Calendar or on the Online Dalhousie website. The Senate has affirmed the right of any instructor to require that student papers be submitted in both written and computer-readable format, and to submit any paper to be checked electronically for originality.

### **Accommodation policy**

Students may request accommodation as a result of barriers related to disability, religious obligation, or any characteristic under the Nova Scotia Human Rights Act. Students who require academic accommodation for either classroom participation or the writing of tests, quizzes and exams should make their request to the Office of Student Accessibility & Accommodation (OSAA) prior to or at the outset of each academic term (with the exception of X/Y courses). Please see [www.studentaccessibility.dal.ca](http://www.studentaccessibility.dal.ca) for more information and to obtain Form A, Request for Accommodation. A note taker may be required to assist a classmate. There is an honourarium of \$75/course/term. If you are interested, please contact OSAA at 494-2836 for more information. Please note that your classroom may contain specialized accessible furniture and equipment. It is important that these items remain in the classroom so that students who require their usage will be able to participate in the class.

**Course schedule and readings**

**PART I -THEORIZING SECURITY**

**SESSION 1 (September 11) - Security Studies and the concept of security**

Alan Collins, 'What is Security Studies?' In Collins, Chapter 1

Lucia Zedner, *Security*, New York: Routledge (2009), Chapters 1 and 2 ('The Semantics of security', and 'A brief history of security')

*Suggested reading*

David D. Baldwin, 'The concept of security', *Review of International Studies* (1997), 23:1, 5-26.

**SESSION 2 (September 18) – Traditional theories of security**

Charles L Glaser, 'Realism', in Collins, Chapter 2

Patrick Morgan, 'Liberalism', in Collins, Chapter 3

**SESSION 3 (September 25) – Alternative theories of security**

David Mutimer, 'Critical Security Studies: A Schismatic History', in Collins, Chapter 6

Caroline Kennedy-Pipe, 'Gender and Security', in Collins, Chapter 7

*Suggested readings:*

Christine Agius, 'Social Constructivism', in Collins, Chapter 4

Barkawi, Tarak and Mark Laffey (2006) “The postcolonial moment in security studies”, *Review of International Studies*, vol. 32, pp. 329-352

## **PART II - ISSUES IN CONTEMPORARY SECURITY STUDIES**

### **SESSION 4 (October 2) - MILITARY SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE**

Mike Sheehan, ‘Military Security’, in Collins, Chapter 11

Stan Taylor, ‘The Role of Intelligence in National Security’, in Collins, Chapter 18

#### *Suggested readings*

James Wirtz: ‘Weapons of Mass Destruction’, in Collins, Chapter 19

Anna Leander, ‘The Power to Construct International Security: On the Significance of Private Military Companies’, *Millennium - Journal of International Studies*, June 2005 Vol. 33 No. 3, 803-825.

### **SESSION 5 (October 9) – TERRORISM**

Alan Collins, ‘Terrorism’, in Collins, Chapter 20

Ulrich Beck, ‘The Silence of Words: On Terror and War,’ *Security Dialogue* 34:3 (2003) 255-267.

### **SESSION 6 (October 16) - ECONOMIC SECURITY**

Christopher Dent, ‘Economic Security’, in Collins, Chapter 15

Nana Poku, 'Globalization, Development, and Security', in Collins, Chapter 16

*Suggested readings:*

Victor D. Cha, 'Globalization and the Study of International Security', *Journal of Peace Research*, vol.37, no.3, 2000

**SESSION 7 (October 23) - MIDTERM EXAM**

**SESSION 8 (October 30) - HUMAN SECURITY**

Pauline Kerr, 'Human Security', in Collins, Chapter 8

Paul Roe, 'Societal Security', in Collins, Chapter 13

Roland Paris, "Human Security: Paradigm Shift or Hot Air?", *International Security* 26/2 (2001): 87-102

**SESSION 9 (November 6) - ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY**

Jon Barnett, 'Environment'; in Collins, Chapter 13

Deudney, Daniel (1990) "The Case Against Linking Environmental Degradation and National Security," *Millennium*, Vol. 19, No.3: 461-476

**November 13: no class (Study Day)**

**SESSION 10 (November 20) - HEALTH AND SECURITY**

Stefan Elbe, 'Health and Security', in Collins, Chapter 24

**SESSION 12 (November 27) - MIGRATION AND SECURITY**

Fiona B. Adamson, "Crossing Borders: International Migration and National Security," *International Security* 31, no.1 (Summer 2006): 165-99

Bigo, Didier 2002, "Security and Immigration: Toward a Critique of the Governmentality of Unease", *Alternatives*, vol. 27, Feb. 2002, pp. 63-92

**\*\*Research paper due\*\***

**SESSION 13 (December 5) - THE FUTURE OF SECURITY AND SECURITY STUDIES**

Ole Wæver and Barry Buzan, 'After the Return to Theory: The Past, Present, and Future of Security Studies', in Collins, Chapter 27

*Suggested readings*

Johan Eriksson, 'Observers or Advocates? On the Political Role of Security Analysts', *Cooperation and Conflict*, Vol.34, No.3, 1999

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