

**POSC 4631**  
**World Conflict and Security**  
**Spring 2011**

Risa Brooks

Office Hours: Monday, 10:20 -12:20;

Tuesday & Thursday, 3:20- 5:00; and by appointment.

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This course explores issues related to “security,” broadly defined. The first section explores alternative world views which form the basis for how individuals prioritize threats to security and the means to address them. A second section of the course surveys, with these frameworks in mind, different categories of security threats around the globe. These span a variety of traditional and non-traditional subjects and include discussions of threats to military and regime security, humanitarian crises, global disease and environmental degradation. The final section of the course focuses on specific issues salient in global politics today, using them to illuminate broader dilemmas and dynamics associated with challenges to security. These issues include weapons of mass destruction, nuclear proliferation and especially the case of Iran; the nature and history of terrorism; 9/11, intelligence and intelligence failures; the Iraq and Afghanistan wars, including discussion of the recent history as well as inquiries into strategy and the recent evolution and nature of counterinsurgency doctrine; efforts to counter what has been termed the “Global War on Terror,” or the use of terrorism by transnational actors, as well as other contemporary (potential) challenges to domestic and international peace and stability.

**Required Textbooks (available at Bookmarq):**

1. Alan Collins, Contemporary Security Studies, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Oxford University Press 2010  
**HEREAFTER: COLLINS**
2. World Security Reader, CQ Press, 2011 **HEREAFTER: WSR**

**Details on reading:**

1. Most readings appear in textbooks. However, sometimes I will only assign an excerpt from a chapter or article, so be sure to look for details on syllabus or in notes/emails about readings.
2. Also, **if a reading does not appear in one of your textbooks**, please look to the opening page (after you log in) of D2L for instructions on how to access readings.

When I am conveying information on readings in D2L, I will mark the subject line: “Reading Information for CLASS DATE.” If you see a message with this subject line, BE SURE TO READ IT.

**Course Requirements:**

Two in-class, hourly exams: each worth 25%; total 50%

One paper due at end of semester (details to be announced): 35%

Bibliography exercise and two surprise quizzes: 15%

Note on quizzes: completing assigned readings is essential to your performance and participation in the course. Twice during the semester I will ask you to answer a question based directly on the readings in class (you will be given 20-30 minutes). I will grade these with a plus, check, or minus (I expect most students will get a check).

To do well on these quizzes, complete the readings for that day and make sure you know what are the author's main arguments and key supporting points. To be especially prepared, spend a few minutes before class thinking about questions or concerns that the reading raised for you, or things that you believe warrant further discussion.

Overall, I want every student to do well and learn the material. I will do everything I can to help and support students in this process and ask that they apply themselves as well.

## COURSE SCHEDULE

### January 18

Course Introduction

### January 20      World Security: Whose Security?

Discussion of alternative "referent objects"—states, leaders, people, etc.

Reading:

1. Collins, pages 2-3 only
2. Begin Reading for World Views (under Jan. 25)

### January 25      World Views or Perspectives on Security Issues

Discussion of world views and how they affect how one prioritizes and evaluates appropriate means for addressing security challenges. (by "world views" I mean Realism, Liberalism/Idealism, Constructivism + Neoconservatism)

Reading:

1. Collins, **Excerpts** TBA from Chapters 2, 3, 4
2. Skim (that is, please note general points) the first sections of entries by Steve Walt and Joshua Muravchik in debate in the National Interest (link below). It will give you a feel of the contrast between the "realist" and "neoconservative" world views.

**January 27** Military Security

Discussion of the traditional concept of military security and the dilemmas states face as they pursue it.

Reading:

1. Collins, Chapter 11

**February 1** Regime Security/the Egyptian “revolution” 2011

Discussion of problems that weak and contested states or authoritarian regimes face from societal actors.

Reading:

1. Collins, chapter 12
2. Articles on Egyptian protests and Mubarak ouster TBA

**February 3** Global Disease, Human and State Stability

Reading:

1. Collins, excerpt from chapter 8
2. Collins, chapter 24
3. Laurie Garrett, “HIV and National Security: What are the Links?” Council on Foreign Relations Report, pages 9-16

**February 8** Environmental Degradation, Human and State Security

Reading:

1. Collins, chapter 14
2. Scott Borgerson, “The Arctic Meltdown: The Economic and Security Implications of Global Warming,” *Foreign Affairs* 81, no. 2, March/April 2008.
3. Pamela Hess, “Report: Climate Change Linked to National Security,” *Associated Press*, June 25, 2008

OPTIONAL:

1. Joshua Busby, “Climate Change and National Security: An Agenda for Action,” CSR No. 32, November 2007, Council on Foreign Relations

**February 10** Humanitarian Intervention

Reading:

1. Collins, 21

**February 15** Humanitarian Intervention (con't)

Reading:

1. WSR: chapter 7
2. Additional background readings on Rwanda and Somalia may be assigned

**February 17**

Catch up and Discussion

**February 22**

**HOURLY EXAM #1**

**February 24** WMD and Nuclear Proliferation (begin)

Reading:

1. Collins, chapter 19
2. WSR, chapter 4

**March 1** Case Study: Iran, Sanctions and other options

Reading:

1. WSR: chapter 8

**March 3** Iran (finish); Start Terrorism

Reading:

1. Article on sanctions
2. News articles
  - a. David Sanger, "US rejected aid for Israeli raid on Iranian nuclear site," *The New York Times*, January 11, 2009
  - b. William Broad, John Markoff and David Sanger, "Israel tests on worm called crucial in Iran nuclear delay," *The New York Times*, January 15, 2011.
  - c. Jo Becker, "U.S. Approved Business with Blacklisted Nations," *The New York Times*, December 23, 2010.
  - d. Charlie Savage and Mark Landler, "Black market Shows Iran can adapt to sanctions," *The New York Times*, October 5, 2009.

**March 8** What is Terrorism and why it is so difficult to define?

Reading:

1. Collins, chapter 20

**March 10** Terrorism: History and Examples

**(March 15 & 17 = spring break)**

**March 22**

9/11

From the perpetrator's side: Why did they do it?

Reading:

1. Peter Bergen, "What were the causes of 9/11" New America Foundation  
Available at <http://www.prospectmagazine.co.uk/2006/09/whatwerethecausesof911/>
2. Additional short articles to be assigned.

**March 24**

From the victim's side: Was 9/11 an Intelligence Failure

1. News articles:
  - a. Neil A. Lewis, "Superior Says he didn't See agent's report on Moussaoui" *The New York Times*, March 22, 2006.
  - b. Additional memos and news articles on intelligence to be disseminated by professor
2. Kevin Michael Dirksen, "Commentary: The Logistics of Actionable Intelligence Leading to 9/11" *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism* 28, no. 3 (May-June 2005), 253-268.

**March 29** 9/11 continued; start Iraq 2003 War

Reading:

1. WSR: Chapter 2
2. Additional article TBA

**March 31** The Iraq 2003 War and the Bush Doctrine

The significance of Intelligence

Reading:

1. Collins, chapter 18

**April 5**

Intelligence and Intelligence Failures Redux: The Case of WMD in Iraq

Reading:

1. Robert Jervis, "Reports, Politics, and Intelligence Failures: The Case of Iraq," *Journal of Strategic Studies*, vol. 29, no. 1, 3-52, February 2006

## **April 7**

The Iraq War: May 1, 2003 to the present

Begin Afghanistan

Reading:

1. Daniel Byman, "An autopsy of the Iraq Debacle: Policy failure or a Bridge Too Far?" *Security Studies*, 17, no. 4 (2008), 599-643
2. Hamza Hendawi, "Leaving Iraq ends US Mission veiled in Ambivalence," *The Associated Press*, October 18, 2009.

OPTIONAL reading:

1. U.S. internal Official History of Iraq War at National Security Archive:  
<http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/index.html> (scroll down page to find links to "The Iraq War, Parts I, II, III).
2. Nora Bensahel, "Mission Not Accomplished" in *War in Iraq: Planning and Execution*, Thomas Mahnken and Thomas Keane, eds., Routledge.

## **April 12**

The Afghanistan War

Counterinsurgency 101: The debate and its application in Afghanistan (start)

Reading:

1. WSR Chapter 1

OPTIONAL reading:

1. Kenneth Katzman, "Afghanistan: Post-Taliban Governance, Security and US policy," Congressional Research Service, CRS Report for Congress, July 21, 2010.

## **April 14**

Controversies over the use of Predator Drones and Unmanned Aerial Drones (UAVs)

Reading:

1. WSR: chapter 6

2. "The Great Debate" *The National Interest*, March/April 2010 Available at <http://nationalinterest.org/greatdebate/debating-afghanistan-3795> (please make sure to click on all four sections; 2 from pillar and 2 from Nagl)
3. Press reports
  - a. See overview of drones in NYT times topics, available at [http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/subjects/u/unmanned\\_aerial\\_vehicles/index.html?scp=1&sq=drones%20times%20topics&st=cse](http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/subjects/u/unmanned_aerial_vehicles/index.html?scp=1&sq=drones%20times%20topics&st=cse)
  - b. "Lethal Force Under Law," *The New York Times*, October 9, 2010
  - c. C. Christine Fair, "Drone Wars," *Foreign Policy Magazine*, 5/28/2010.
  - d. Mark Mazzetti and Eric Schmidt, "C.I.A. Steps up drone attacks on Taliban in Pakistan," *The New York Times*, September 27, 2010.

### **April 19**

What is threat posed by transnational Terrorism?

What is a viable counterterror strategy?

Reading:

1. John Mueller, "Is there still a terrorist threat," *Foreign Affairs* 85, no. 5 (Spet.-Oct. 2006)
2. Jeevan Vasagar, "Life After Terror," *The Guardian (London)*, September 10, 2004.
3. Bruce Hoffman, "A Counterterrorism Strategy for the Obama Administration," *Terrorism and Political Violence* 21, no. 3 (2009), 359-377

### **April 21**

Easter break (no class)

### **April 26**

Catch-up and Discussion

### **April 28**

### **Hourly Exam #2**

### **May 3**

Library/Bibliography Exercise (details to be discussed in class)

### **May 5**

Paper Discussion and Presentations

### **May 13**

**Final Paper Due at beginning of scheduled exam time.**