BU Study Abroad: Geneva

Small States and International Security

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International Program Geneva
Boston University

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1. Course Overview

This course will describe the value of small states in the international system, emphasising predominantly Switzerland's approach to European integration and globalisation and its role in the international community. The course will then widen its scope to describe our international strategic environment, including the most important challenges that are defining the post-Cold War world. It will examine the challenges posed by the forces of globalisation and fragmentation. Globalisation is making the world increasingly interconnected, which has both positive and negative consequences. Interconnectivity has been a positive force for, *inter alia,* good governance, development, the environment and human rights. Simultaneously, globalisation has also amplified security threats by supporting and increasing transnational criminal activities: terror, crime, proliferation of small arms and Weapons of Mass Destruction. The post-Cold War world is becoming more integrated but also more disintegrated. The forces of disintegration have led people to seek refuge in smaller groups, characterized by isolationism, separatism, political extremism, and fanaticism which have created nationalist, religious and ethnic tensions leading to both intra-state and inter-state conflicts. These forces of disintegration are further magnified by global problems including poverty, social exclusion, poor governance, poor development, state capture and state failure.

These global challenges are interlinked making it difficult to find the appropriate policy responses for each of them. In the first half of the course, lectures will first focus primarily on contemporary global security issues highlighting the main actors (states and institutions) and their multilateral and unilateral approaches to security. The course will then broaden to describe the increasing importance of new security issues that defy individual government control, climate change, pandemics, migration, terrorism and organised crime which have called for new approaches to international security. States can no longer solve these issues in isolation; they must collaborate multilaterally and with the aid of intergovernmental agencies -- both International Organisations and Non-Governmental Organisations -- to develop new forms of global governance. Simultaneously, theorists and policymakers have acknowledged that the very concept of security has changed. The traditional approach of security which referred to traditional military threats to the security of states and their national boundaries has been eclipsed by new more complex security threats. In the 1980s, the Copenhagen School and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) introduced a more broadened definition of security to include five dimensions: military, political, economic, environmental and societal security. This new approach will be discussed and will be broadened to highlight the importance of 'human security' and 'societal security.'

Teaching and learning will take place in an interactive environment where students will be expected to engage fully with their peers as well as working independently. Students will have opportunities throughout the module to engage with scholars who have worked in the field of global security as practitioners as well as with academic experts. This will provide an enriched learning environment and also potential insights into careers in global security.

3. Course objectives:
  (a) to provide an assessment of the new and emerging security challenges in the post-Cold War world;
  (b) to understand how governments and international organizations meet these security challenges;
  (c) to understand the most appropriate responses in dealing with our current security challenges;
  (d) to determine how global risks are interconnected and how they will affect peace and security in the future.

4. Syllabus plan

This module will be delivered over forty hours of seminar classes. Although they will be facilitated by the tutor, students will be expected to prepare for each seminar by reading up on the relevant topic. At the beginning of each seminar, a brief outline of objectives for debate will be provided by the tutor. Student presentations will also serve as springboards for group discussions. Depending upon the circumstances of each seminar, there may be options for smaller group exercises. For most weeks, the tutor will attempt to summarise important aspects of the debate.

5. Teaching and Learning Methods

Indicative contact hours: 40 hours

Teaching and learning will take place at a formal level within seminars, outside of which students will be expected to use and develop their independent study and research skills, involving appropriate ICT for the retrieval and presentation of information.

The seminars will provide key framework knowledge and interpretations, and provide a common foundation of learning for all students. It is vital that students prepare from the readings prior to the seminar. Seminars will allow for a more student-centred approach to learning, where discussions will be partly student led, allowing students to organise, evaluate, and deploy material from a variety of sources, and to present reasoned arguments and critical judgements.

6. Assessment Rationale

Two modes of assessment are used in this module – an essay and an examination. There are designed to assess:

  ▪ substantive and evaluated recalled knowledge and understanding of the concept of security and of a range of theoretical perspectives associated with it;

- a capacity to compare and engage with the issues raised by these contrasting perspectives;
- exercise and independent thought and the development and application of analytical, interpretive , and analytical skills;
- written communication skills through the well-ordered organisation and presentation of material within given constraints.

7. Incoming Competency of the Student Expected by Instructor:
The course is aimed at undergraduates in their third or fourth year, with an interest in history, politics, international relations and security issues. There are no prerequisites but background reading is required.

8. Terms and conditions:

Class participation: since this course is taught by seminar, it is expected that each student does the reading and comes to class prepared to discuss the readings. Attendance at every session is compulsory unless an acceptable excuse is provided (e.g. written medical certificate).
Term paper: every student will also write a term paper. The paper should be 10 pages (double-spaced), plus bibliography.
Term paper presentation: each student will present their term paper conclusions.
Final test: the final test will assess the knowledge gained throughout the course.

9. Course requirements:

The course will be evaluated as follows:
Class Participation (10%)
Class Presentation (10%)
Quiz (10%)
Term Paper (20%)
Term Paper presentation (20%)
Final Exam (30%)

10. Plagiarism:

All students are responsible for having read the Boston University statement on plagiarism, which is available in the Academic Conduct Code. Students are advised that the penalty against students on a Boston University program for cheating on examinations or for plagiarism may be "expulsion from the program or the University or such other penalty as may be recommended by the Committee on Student Academic Conduct, subject to approval by the dean."

Moreover, students are invited to consult the *Nuts and Bolts of College Writing* website http://nutsandbolts.washcoll.edu/ in order to learn how to write down their ideas and also to avoid accidental plagiarism.

Week 1:
September 4th , 2-5pm

Introduction to Security and Security Policy The aim of this first part is to introduce students to the concept of security and provide an overview of the different perspectives, concepts, institutions and challenges that are part of security studies. This session will also provide students with an overview of the course and its requirements.

Required Reading:

Please have a look at the latest World Economic Forum (WEF) report on *Global Risks 2012 – 7th Edition* – World Economic Forum
http://bit.ly/17hyONA
http://reports.weforum.org/global-risks-2012/#/

Please have a look at *Envisioning 2030: US Strategy for a Post-Western World*
http://bit.ly/13Z0JnO
http://www.acus.org/publication/global-trends-2030-alternative-worlds

Please also skim *Global Trends 2030: Alternative Worlds*. Focus on the megatrends, game-changers and potential worlds
http://bit.ly/13Z0JnO
http://www.acus.org/publication/global-trends-2030-alternative-worlds

Select Security theme for class presentation

Week 2:
September 12th, 2-5pm

Introduction to Swiss Government and Swiss Foreign and Defense Policy This session will introduce Switzerland exploring its geography, customs, and culture. This session will describe the Swiss political system, political instruments, and political customs. It will also introduce Switzerland's role in international security.

Speech by the President of the Swiss Confederation, Micheline Calmy-Rey, Conference of Ambassadors, organized by the MFA, Turkey, Ankara
http://www.eda.admin.ch/etc/medialib/downloads/edazen/dfa/head/spee11.Par.0072.File.tmp/111226_Discours%20MCR%20Conference%20des%20Ambassadeurs%20Ankara_EN.pdf

Switzerland's policy on the European Union from the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
http://bit.ly/14C8ewX
http://www.europa.admin.ch/themen/00499/index.html?lang=en&print_style=yes

Protective Power Mandates Link: See Switzerland's role in safeguarding foreign interests, part of the good offices that are special feature of its foreign policy.
http://bit.ly/12ERhri

http://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/topics/peasec/sec/goch/protpw.html

September 13th, 2-5pm
Quiz (10%)

Switzerland as depositary state and state party of the Geneva Conventions:

This session will explore the role and responsibilities of Switzerland as depository state for the ratification of International Humanitarian Law before, during and after situations of war and crisis.

http://bit.ly/1ebgYzK

http://bit.ly/14D5eQL

Week 3
September 19th, 9-12
The Transformation of Peacekeeping: The Responsibility to Protect
This session will introduce the concept of the responsibility to protect by discussing how it has developed over the years and presenting the definitional debate that has surrounded its evolution.

Wiharta Sharon, Melvia Neil, and Averov Xenia, 'The New Geopolitics of Peace Operations', Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, (September 2012).
http://bit.ly/12lSPqd

'Humanitarian Emergencies and Humanitarian Action, (2010).
http://bit.ly/171Ppos

Week 4
September 24th, 2-5.30
Post-Cold War Insecurity: Risk and the Crisis of Meaning and Purpose This session will describe the importance of International Organisations and NGO's in improving global security. It will describe the importance of improving global security within the context of 'just' war and the politics of human rights.

Required Readings

A More Secure World: Our Shared Responsibility, Report of the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change, (United Nations, 2004), pp. 1- 80.
http://www.un.org/secureworld/

Vladimir Petrovsky: "The Role of Geneva in the Years to Come", *United Nations Chronicle* online edition (Geneva: UN Department of Public Information, 2000), Vol. XXXVII, No. 4.
http://bit.ly/14hZNxM

The United Nations System: Principal Organs of the United Nations (Geneva: UN Department of Public Information, DPI/229, February 2003).
http://bit.ly/13Z22TF
http://www.un.org/aboutun/chart_en.pdf

September 26th, 2-5
From Rogue States to Failed States
This session will describe the social identity of a nation as a threat to national security and the rise of non-military security threats, including the responsibility to protect.

Brooks Rosa Ehrenreich, 'Failed States, or the State as Failure?', The University of Chicago Law Review, Vol. 72, (Fall, 2005), No.4.
http://bit.ly/1dXcLj5

September 27th, 2-5
Individual class presentations

Week 5:
October 1st, 10-12

Tackling Organized Crime This session will consist of two parts. The first part will describe the globalisation of crime, emphasising the problems that governments face in preventing transnational and decentralized criminal networks which are becoming increasingly difficult to eradicate. This session will also focus on the growing nexus of terrorism and organised crime.

Required Readings:

Moises Naim, "The Five Wars of Globalization*"*, *Foreign Policy*, January/February 2003, 8p.
http://bit.ly/18MrD3i
http://www.fsa.ulaval.ca/personnel/vernag/EH/F/noir/lectures/Five_wars_of_globalization.htm

Cockayne, James: "Transnational Organized Crime: Multilateral Responses to a Rising Threat", *Coping with Crisis – Working Paper Series*, (International Peace Academy, April 2007), pp. 1-19, (19p.)
http://bit.ly/13uIzXF
http://www.ipacademy.org/asset/file/159/CWC_Working_Paper_ORGANIZED_CRIME_JC.pdf

Schori Liang, Christina, Shadow Networks: The Growing Nexus of Terrorism and Organised Crime, GCSP Policy Paper, September, 2011
http://bit.ly/19wSsLN
http://gcsp.ch/Resources-Publications/Publications/GCSP-Publications/Policy-Papers/Shadow-Networks-The-Growing-Nexus-of-Terrorism-and-Organised-Crime

October 2nd, 2-5.30
Reconceptualising War and Intervention
This session will describe the transformation and alternatives to traditional security at the end of the Cold War. For more than 40 years, security was conceived in terms of national integrity and protection from external attacks: security was about the states, which sought to protect their national interests. We will identify alternative strategies that recognises that the ultimate referent object should be the individual, whose well-being is not necessarily conterminous with the security of the state.

http://www.sipri.org/research/conflict/pko/other_publ/NGP%20policy%20report.pdf

October 3rd, 2-5

Societal and Human Security This session consists of three parts. Drawing on the Copenhagen School's framework for analysis of security issues, Part 1 will discuss the concept of societal security.

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/A-View-from-the-United-Nations-/human-security---a-new-r_b_3195120.html

Part 2 will move beyond the Copenhagen School's framework of analysis by exploring the concept of human security. Some controversies surrounding the concept, as well as its possible strengths and limitations will be discussed. Particular attention will be paid to the impacts of climate change and resource scarcity on human security.

Part three will look at the implementation of 'Human Security' by UN Peacekeeping operations.

Human Security Centre (2005) "What is human security", *Human Security Report 2005: War and Peace in the 21st Century*. New York: Oxford University Press. War and Peace in the 21st Century, viii. Available at:
http://bit.ly/16CZSrE
http://www.humansecurityreport.info/HSR2005/HTML/What_is_HS/index.htm

Floyd R. (2007) Human Security and the Copenhagen School's Securitization Approach: Conceptualizing human security as a securitizing move. Journal of Human Security, Vol. 5, Winter 2007, pp. 38-49. Available at:

http://bit.ly/13yGzN4
http://www.peacecenter.sciences-po.fr/journal/issue5pdf/6.Floyd.pdf

Alkire S. (2003) A conceptual framework for human security. Centre for Research on Inequality, Human Security and Ethnicity (CRISE), University of Oxford. Available at: http://bit.ly/18Rj62z
http://economics.ouls.ox.ac.uk/13003/1/workingpaper2.pdf

October 4th, 2-5
The Transformation of Peace-operations: Human Security
This session will introduce the concept of the human security as used in peace building. We will be discussing how it has developed over the years by the United Nations, and we will be presenting the definitional debate that has surrounded its evolution and application. We will apply our discussion on a selection of countries in Africa.

Bajpai Kanti, 'Human Security: Concept and Measurement', Kroc Institute
Occassional Paper, No. 19: OP.1, (August 2000).
http://bit.ly/11g1lEy

Shinodo Hideaki, 'Chapter 1 – The Concept of Human Security: Historical and Theoretical Implications', IPSU English Research Report Series No. 19. 'Conflict and Human Security: A Search for New Approaches of Peace-building, (2004).
http://bit.ly/15Ml1iR

Pettman Ralph, 'Human Security as Global Security: Reconceptualising Strategic Studies', Cambridge Review of International Affairs, Vol. 18, No. 1, (April 2005)
http://bit.ly/145fWX9

Week 6:
October 8th, 2-5.30
Tackling terrorism This session will describe the globalisation of terrorism emphasising the problems that governments face in preventing transnational and decentralized terrorist networks which are becoming increasingly difficult to eradicate.

Required Readings:

Rollins, John, Al Qaeda and Affiliates: Historical Perspective, Global Presence, and Implications for U.S. Policy, Congressional Research Service, 2011.
http://bit.ly/166cUOy
http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/terror/R41070.pdf

Stohl, Michael, 'Old myths, new fantasies and the enduring realities of terrorism', Critical Studies on Terrorism, 2008, 1: 1, 5 — 16

http://bit.ly/15aAuN6
http://pdfserve.informaworld.com/246998__791258012.pdf

Brachman, Jarret,– Abu Yahya's Six Easy Steps for Defeating al-Qaeda, *Perspectives on Terrorism,* pp. 1-7.
http://bit.ly/132psnT
http://www.terrorismanalysts.com/pt/index.php?option=com_rokzine&view=article&id=18

October 9th, 9-12 (Final Exam)