UNIVERSITY OF NORTH GEORGIA  
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
POLS 4202 – Comparative Security Issues (3 hours credit)  
Spring 2015

Course Meetings: 112 Young Hall  
TR 12:30-1:45 PM  
Instructor: Dr. Xiangfeng Yang  
Office: 313 Hansford Hall  
Office Hours: TR 3:30-5 PM, W 1-4 PM  
Phone: 706-864-1870  
E-mail: xiyang@ung.edu

Course Description:  
This course is designed as an examination of both traditional and non-traditional security concerns. As a practical matter we will focus on some real and present threats to international peace and regional stability, including many of those security challenges facing the United States in the 21st century. The course will highlight the importance of context and the development of analytical skills that are crucial for a professional career in international affairs.

Course Objectives:  
o Familiarize students with the main approaches to the study of international and national security.  
o Encourage the critical application of theories as well as examination of various aspects of security.  
o Introduce some important historical and contemporary international security issues.  
o Facilitate the interpretation and evaluation of security concerns and events.  
o Sharpen student’s writing and analytical skills through the completion of various assignments.

Course Requirements and Grading Criteria:  
Students’ performance in this course will be assessed in the following manner:  
Reading Memos (10)  
Discussion Leadership (1)  
Foreign Policy Memos (2)  
Research Paper (1)  
Class Participation  
30%  
2%  
30%  
30%  
10%

Grading System:  
The grading scale for this course is as follows:  
100 – 90 = A  
89 – 80 = B  
79 – 70 = C  
69 – 60 = D  
59 and below = F

Weekly Reading Memos (30% of the final grade):  
You are required to submit 10 weekly memos based on the required readings of the week. Two things to keep in mind: First, you should synthesize the key analytical points and supporting evidence in a succinct manner with a reasonable degree of specificity. Secondly and more importantly, the memo should be a critical assessment of the readings. Engage with the readings and the authors. Was the reading compelling? Helpful? Important? Lacking in something? Does it offer lessons for
policymakers today? These are only suggestions. You can also focus on some aspect of the reading that caught your interests.

A memo should be between 2-3 pages, double-spaced, page-numbered, and typed in Times New Roman with 12-point font. For this exercise no need for bibliographical information except sources other than the required readings, but you must provide page numbers for all direct quotations. You should have proofread it—as with all other written assignments—before turning it in. A print copy of the memo is due at the beginning of Tuesday class. (Memos for Week 1 and Week 2 are both due on Jan 12th (T), if you choose to do them.) Each memo will be graded for its quality and is worth 3% of the final grade.

In addition to the memo, you must raise 1-2 questions for class debate and discussion. Remember to post them on the D2L discussion board by 9am Monday. Make sure you yourself have something to say about them to start the conversation.

Discussion Leadership (2% of the final grade): Beginning in Week 3 each week two or three students will team up to lead class discussion on Thursday. Discussion leaders will collect and synthesize a list of questions and issues from all students to be addressed in class, and encourage the participation of everyone else—especially those whose research paper topics fall under the broad theme of the week—in the discussion and debate. Incorporating some of the optional readings and presenting on some related current issues is desired. Powerpoint slides and handouts will be helpful.

Foreign Policy Memos (30% of the final grade): You are to write two memos addressed to the president of the United States, each tackling a foreign policy challenge the country now is confronted with. These memos are problem-oriented, analysis-driven, evidence-based, and offer viable recommendations to the decision makers. They should also be coherent, concise and to the point. Each memo should be between 800 and 1,200 words, including an executive summary. Refer to the link below for a brief description of policy memos. More resources are on D2L.


You have the option of choosing to focus on two of the following seven problems (Print copies of the memos are due in class on Tuesday of the respective week):

- Policy Memo #1, US policy toward Russia regarding Ukraine, due 1/20.
- Policy Memo #2, US policy toward Iran regarding its nuclear program, due 1/27.
- Policy Memo #3, US position at the climate change summit in 2015, due 2/3.
- Policy Memo #4, US policy regarding Afghanistan, due 2/10.
- Policy Memo #5, US policy regarding the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, due 2/17.
- Policy Memo #6, US policy regarding the Syrian civil war, due 2/24.
- Policy Memo #7, US anti-terror strategies regarding the Islamic State, due 3/10.

Research Paper (30% of the final grade): You are to write a research paper on a topic of your own choosing. It can be thematic, U.N. peacekeeping or humanitarian intervention in general, for instance. It can also be a security problem between the United States and another country. Tensions between the United States and China over cyber-security can be the subject of a paper.
The paper should be between 3,500 and 4,000 words in length (including bibliography), double-spaced, page-numbered, and typed in Times New Roman with 12-point font. It should utilize at least 15 sources outside those provided in class. These sources should be unique and original to each paper. Use APSA style for citation (see instructions on D2L), and footnote instead of endnote. The identical paper must also be submitted through Turnitin.com before class. Log-in information for Turnitin.com is below.

Class ID: 9228284
Password: spring2015

The paper will be graded on the thoroughness of research, quality of analysis as well as quality of writing and organization. In addition, you are expected to talk about your research findings (thus far) when the broader theme of your research paper is being discussed. After receiving the initial draft of your paper I will grade it and give you feedback on how to improve. You have the option of revising it and submit it again for a better grade. If no such action is taken, the initial grade will remain as the grade for the paper. Below are the due dates for each stage of writing and researching the paper.

- Tuesday (1/27): Paper topic due by email.
- Tuesday (2/17): Bibliography due in class (print copy only).
- Tuesday (3/24): Paper due in class (print copy only).
- Tuesday (4/14): Revised paper due in class along with the first draft (print copy only). This is entirely optional.

Class Participation (10% of your grade):
Be ready to discuss the readings, recent events, and carefully prepare your arguments before class meetings. You earn a “C” for basic description or summary of material, a “B” for showing an understanding of arguments and their implications, and an “A” for critically analyzing material on a regular basis. Quality of your presentation of the term papers and book reviews will also be factored in. Be proactive. Ask questions, come to office hours, take initiatives in discussions, and be an active member of the class.

Late Work Policy:
As a general rule, unless proved by the instructor, all late work will have its grade reduced by ¼ for every day it is late.

Attendance Policy:
Attendance in class is required. At your fifth absence, I have the right to drop you from the class (before February 27th, a “W” in your records; after February 27th, it becomes a “WF”). Arriving late to class or leaving early without prior permission from the instructor will count as an absence.

Syllabus Changes:
Minor changes to the syllabus may be necessitated by circumstances. If changes are made during the term of the course, I will immediately notify you of such changes both by announcing it in class, emailing you, and posting both notification and nature of change(s) on the course bulletin board in D2L.

Policy Regarding Make-up Exams and Incomplete Grades:
Make up opportunities and incomplete grades will be given at my discretion and in accordance with UNG policy. You should make every effort to contact me before the time of the scheduled assignment (mid-term or final exam) to arrange a make-up. I will require proof of suitable and valid
documentation (medical, legal, or administrative) to make up the missed assignment. My phone number and e-mail address are printed on this syllabus.

**Disruptive Behavior Policy:**
Students who exhibit behaviors that are considered to obstruct or disrupt the class or its learning activities are subject to sanctions under the Board of Regents Policy on Disruptive Behavior. Behaviors which may be considered inappropriate in the classroom include, but are not limited to, sleeping, coming in late, talking out of turn, inappropriate use of laptops or mobile devices, verbal behavior that is disrespectful of other students or the faculty member, or other behaviors that may be disruptive.

**Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:**
University of North Georgia is committed to equal access to its programs, services, and activities, and welcomes otherwise qualified students with disabilities. Students who require accommodations and services must register with Disability Services and submit supporting documentation. Disability Services provides accommodation memos for eligible students to give to their instructors. Students are responsible for making arrangements with instructors, and must give reasonable prior notice of the need for accommodation.

**Contact Information for Disability Services:**
§ Gainesville Campus: Carolyn Swindle, Assistant Director, carolyn.swindle@ung.edu, Dunlap-Mathis Building, Room 107, 678-717-3855
§ Dahlonega Campus: Thomas McCoy, Assistant Director, thomas.mccoy@ung.edu, Stewart Student Success Center, Room 313, 706-867-2782
§ Oconee Campus: Erin Williams, Assistant Director, erin.williams@ung.edu, Administration Building, Room 112, 706-310-6202
§ Cumming Instructional Site: Nicola Dovely, Director, nicola.dovely@ung.edu or Beth Bellamy, Test Facilitator, beth.bellamy@ung.edu 678-717-3855. (For on-site assistance, contact Rebecca Rose, Head Librarian, rebecca.rose@ung.edu, Library University Center 400, 470-239-3119.

**Academic Integrity Policy:**
Student Code of Conduct: Please review the Student Code of Conduct located on the Dean of Students website.

**Plagiarism and Turnitin.com:** Students agree that by taking this course all required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of the Turnitin.com service is subject to the Terms and Conditions of Use posted on the Turnitin.com site. Any instance of plagiarism or cheating will result in a zero grade for the assignment and/or a failing grade for the course (“F”) depending on the severity of the offense and to be determined by the instructor.

**Copyright:** Both Federal and State laws forbid the unlawful duplication of copyrighted computer software or other reproductions of copyrighted material. In accordance with these policies, University of North Georgia expressly forbids the copying of such materials supplied by or used in the University. Unlawful duplication of copyrighted materials by a user may result in disciplinary action by the University under the Student Code of Conduct (Non-Academic Infractions—Prohibitions, Theft), and/or possible criminal action by the owner of the copyright.
Please review the Supplemental Syllabus for the following information:

1. Academic Exchange
2. Academic Success Plan Program
3. Class Evaluations
4. Course Grades and Withdrawal Process
5. Inclement Weather
6. Smoking Policy

Required Textbook:

Course Schedule

**Week 1 (Jan 6/8): Introduction, Research Instructions & Theoretical Review**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>• Thursday (8th): meet in the Library Classroom 163.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Collins, Ch. 2, 3 (pp.13-41).</td>
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*Suggested*
1. Collins, Ch.1 (pp.1-9).

**Week 2 (Jan 13/15): Research Instructions & Theoretical Review**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>• Tuesday (13th): meet in the Library Classroom 163.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Tuesday (13th): reading memo for Week 1 due (optional).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1. Collins, Ch. 7, 10 (pp. 87-103; 131-144).</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Suggested*
1. Collins, Ch.5 (pp.54-66).
Week 3 (Jan 20/22): Military Security

• Policy Memo #1: How should the US respond to Russia’s interference in Ukraine?

1. Collins, Ch. 11, 17, 22 (pp.147-160; 239-255; 320-333).
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I6xDiAcAu-s (April 12)

Suggested

Week 4 (Jan 27/29): Economic Security

• Policy Memo #2: How should the United States mix economic statecraft with coercive force in dealing with Iran?
• Tuesday (27th): Research paper topic due by email.

1. Collins, Ch. 15 (208-221).

Suggested

Week 5 (Feb 3/5): Environmental Security

• Policy Memo #3: How should the United States government position itself at the 2015 climate change summit in Paris?

1. Collins, Ch. 14 (pp.190-207).
Suggested

Week 6 (Feb 10/12): Regime Security & State Failure

**Policy Memo #4:** What should the United States do about Afghanistan/Iraq?

1. Collins, Ch. 12 (pp.161-175).

Suggested
**Week 7 (Feb 17/19): Nationalism, Religion & Ethnic Conflict**

- **Policy Memo #5:** What should the United States do about the Palestinian-Israeli conflict?
- Tuesday (17th): Research paper bibliography due

1. Collins, Ch. 20 (pp.289-305).

**Suggested**

1. Collins, Ch. 13 (176-189).

**Week 8 (Feb 24/26): Peacekeeping & Humanitarian Intervention**

- **Policy Memo #6:** Should the United States intervene in the civil war in Syria?

Suggested

Week 9 (Mar 3/5): Human Security
1. Collins, Ch. 8, 23, 26 (pp.104-116; 334-345; 379-392).

Suggested
1. Collins, Ch. 10 (pp.131-144).

Week 10 (Mar 10/12): Terrorism
- Policy Memo # 7: What should the United States do to defeat the Islamic State?
  1. Collins, Ch. 19 (pp.273-288).
     http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/the-islamic-state-is-failing-at-being-a-stat
Suggested


**Week 11: Spring Break**

**Week 12 (Mar 24/26): Weapons of Mass Destruction & Nuclear Proliferation**

- Tuesday (24th): print copy of the research paper due in class.

1. Collins, Ch. 18 (pp.256-272).


**Suggested**

**Week 13 (Mar 31/Apr 2): Cyber-security**
1. Collins, Ch. 25 (362-378).

**Suggested**
Week 14 (Apr 7/9): Energy Security
1. Collins, Ch. 21 (306-319).

Suggested
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=93KrZG_AwlA
   https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d0u2f6nwwA8

Week 15 (Apr 14/16): Transnational Crime
- Tuesday (14th): Revised research paper due (optional).
1. Collins, Ch. 24 (346-361).
   http://www.newrepublic.com/article/world/magazine/85337/mexico-calderon-clinton-obama-drug-cartels

Suggested

Week 16 (Apr 21/23): Globalization & US National Security
1. Collins, Ch. 16 (pp. 222-236).
Suggested

1. Collins, Ch. 27 (pp. 393-410).