POL 387, COMPARATIVE SECURITY ISSUES  
Fall Semester 2008

Tuesday, Thursday 4-5:15 pm  
210 Harrison Hall

Dr. Neack, 529-6736, neacklj@muohio.edu, 314 Harrison Hall  
Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday 2-3, or by appointment

POL 271 IS A PREREQUISITE FOR THIS CLASS.  
You CANNOT take POL 271 at the same time as this course.

Course Description

In this course, students engage in the comparative analysis of security issues confronting developed and developing countries. During this semester, we will explore the following questions:

- Is there such a thing as "security" in the present international system?
- What is national security? International security? Human security?
- What is the relationship between national, international and human security?
- Can individuals be secure in insecure states?
- Can states be secure in an insecure world?
- How adequate are international institutions for safeguarding human security when states can’t or won’t protect their people?
- How do shrinking resources and growing demand put tensions on all levels of security?

Our goals in this course are:

- To understand how security is defined in different contexts.
- To explore the dilemmas and conflicts embedded in security discussions.
- To deepen and develop some of the theoretical and substantive topics studied in POL 271, World Politics.

Required Books and Readings

The following book has been ordered for this course:


Other required readings will be made available on the course blackboard site.

**Student Responsibilities and Grading**

Students should complete the assigned readings before the class session when they are scheduled. **Pop quizzes will be used throughout the semester to ensure that the readings are being completed. The scores of the quizzes will be calculated into the exam score for that section of the course.**

Course grades will be calculated as follows:

- First Exam 30%
- Second Exam 30%
- Major paper 40%

The exams will involve identification items and essay questions.

The major paper assignment is explained at the end of this syllabus.

The best 6-8 papers will be presented in short form to the class on December 4 and 9. Presenters will be awarded 15 extra points on the second exam for their presentation.

Plus and minus grades will be used in this course by the following scale:

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<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>97-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
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<tr>
<td>93-96</td>
<td>A</td>
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<td>90-92</td>
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<td>87-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<td>83-86</td>
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<td>80-82</td>
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<td>60-62</td>
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<td>59 and below</td>
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**Attendance Policy**

The university requires that students attend all regularly scheduled class sessions, making allowances for absences for religious observances. The MU policy states: “Students must give written notification to their instructor within the first two weeks of class of the religious event which prohibits class attendance, and the date that will be missed, if officially known. Instructors will, without prejudice, provide such students with reasonable accommodations for completing the missed work. However, the students are ultimately responsible for material covered in class, regardless of whether the student is absent or present.”

Beyond this, the following attendance policy will be in effect for this course:

- Students who are 5 minutes or more late for class will be marked absent.
- Students who leave before the end of the class without prior permission of the instructor will be marked absent.
- Any assignments due on the day of an unexcused absence will not count for a grade.
- **Upon the THIRD unexcused absence, the student’s final course grade will be reduced one full letter grade.**
- **Upon the FOURTH unexcused absence, the student will be dropped from the course with an “F.”**
The instructor reserves the sole right to determine what is or is not an excused absence.

Leaving early for a school break or returning late from a school break are not excuseable absences.

Consult the Miami Student Handbook for more information on student conduct policies, as well as other student and teacher rights and responsibilities.

**Disability Resources**

Students with disabilities for which accommodation should be made must register with the Office of Disability Resources (ODR) in the Campus Avenue Building. If you do not know how to begin the process of registering with ODR, please see the instructor.

**Course Topics and Reading Outline**

**Tues., Aug. 26 and Thurs., Aug. 28**
Introduction to course
Reading: *Elusive Security*, Ch. 1

**Tues., Sept. 2 and Thurs., Sept. 4**
National Security
Reading: *Elusive Security*, Ch. 2

**Tues., Sept. 9 and Thurs., Sept. 11**
Terrorism
Reading: *Elusive Security*, Ch. 3

**Tues., Sept. 16 and Thurs., Sept. 18**
*FIRST PART OF MAJOR PAPER ASSIGNMENT DUE AT START OF CLASS ON SEPT. 18*
Identifying External Security Threats
Reading: *Elusive Security*, Ch. 4

**Tues., Sept. 23 and Thurs., Sept. 25**
Defending against External Security Threats
Reading: *Elusive Security*, Ch. 5

**Tues., Sept. 30 and Thurs., Oct. 2**
Going on the Offensive
Reading: *Elusive Security*, Ch. 6

**Tues., Oct. 7**
National Security Strategies of the Major Party US Presidential Candidates
Readings: BOTH ARE AVAILABLE AS WORD DOCUMENTS ON THE COURSE BLACKBOARD SITE

**Thurs., Oct. 9**
Canada’s National Security Strategy
Reading: AVAILABLE ON COURSE BLACKBOARD SITE:

**Tues., Oct. 14**
SECOND PART OF MAJOR PAPER ASSIGNMENT DUE AT START OF CLASS
Catching up and first exam prep

**Thurs., Oct. 16**
FIRST EXAM

**Tues., Oct. 21 and Thurs., Oct. 23**
International Security
Reading: *Elusive Security*, Ch. 7


**Tues., Oct. 28 and Thurs., Oct. 30**
The United Nations and International Security
Reading: *Elusive Security*, Ch. 8

**Tues., Nov. 4 and Thurs., Nov. 6**
Keeping the Peace
Reading: *Elusive Security*, Ch. 9

**Tues., Nov. 11 and Thurs., Nov. 13**
MAJOR PAPER DUE AT START OF CLASS ON NOV. 13
Human Security
Reading: *Elusive Security*, Ch. 10

**Tues., Nov. 18**
The Changing Geopolitical Landscape
Reading: Klare, *Rising Powers, Shrinking Planet*, Prologue, Ch. 1 “Altered States,” and Ch. 2 “Seeking More, Finding Less”

**Thurs., Nov. 20**
The Changing Geopolitical Landscape
Reading: Klare, *Rising Powers, Shrinking Planet*, Ch. 3 “The ‘Chindia’ Challenge,” and Ch. 4 “An Energy Juggernaut”

**Tues., Nov. 25**
The Changing Geopolitical Landscape
Reading: Klare, *Rising Powers, Shrinking Planet*, Ch. 5 “Draining the Caspian,” Ch. 6 “The Global Assault on Africa’s Vital Resources,” and Ch. 7 “Encroaching on an ‘American Lake,’”
Thurs., Nov. 27 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY – NO CLASS

Tues., Dec. 2
The Changing Geopolitical Landscape
Reading: Klare, *Rising Powers, Shrinking Planet*, Ch. 8 “Crossing a Threshold,” and Ch. 9 “Averting Catastrophe”

Thurs., Dec. 4
*BEST STUDENT PAPER SHORT PRESENTATIONS*

Tues., Dec. 9
*BEST STUDENT PAPER SHORT PRESENTATIONS*

Thurs., Dec. 11
Are We Really Stuck in the Security Dilemma?
Reading: *Elusive Security*, “Conclusion: Reimagining Our Choices”

Thurs., Dec. 15, 5:30-7:30 pm
*SECOND EXAM*

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**Major Paper Assignment**

The Major Paper Assignment requires students to write a conversation between opposing points of views on the following statement:

WAR AND VIOLENCE HAVE LONG BEEN THE FINAL ARBITER OF HUMAN AFFAIRS. AS UNFORTUNATE AS THIS MAY BE, THIS WILL ALWAYS BE THE CASE NO MATTER THE ISSUE AT HAND. HUMANS CAN ONLY HOPE TO BE SECURE IN THIS SYSTEM OF WARLORD STATES.

The source material for this conversation is contained entirely in the William Evan reader, *War & Peace in an Age of Terrorism*.

Each student must select 20 essays from the Evan reader and construct a conversation in which 10 authors (essays) argue in favor of the statement above and 10 authors (essays) argue against the statement above.

The conversation must balance views, use quotes as necessary, and accurately paraphrase the arguments made and evidence presented.

Each paper must:

1. Be between 12-15 pages in length, typed and double spaced, with 1 inch margins all around.
2. Be paginated and stapled.
3. Use internal citations to immediately acknowledge source material. The citations should be to the author of the essay, not to the editor of the book. Thus an example of a citation: (Creveld, p. 139). DO NOT USE FOOTNOTES. DO NOT USE ENDNOTES.

This assignment has three parts with three different due dates!

ANY STUDENT WHO FAILS TO COMPLETE PARTS 1 AND 2 WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO TURN IN PART 3.

PART 1 DUE ON SEPT. 18
This is an exercise in how to correctly quote and paraphrase. Some students know how to paraphrase, most do not.

For Part 1, each student selects two essays from the Evan book. For each essay, the student must present the following items:

1. At the top of the page, the name of the author and the name of the essay.
2. Three important quotes (that is, quotes that go straight to the heart of the argument being made) presented in full with quotation marks and followed by an internal cite (Creveld, p. 139). These quotes should be no more than 3 sentences long.
3. Three paraphrased statements summarizing the essence of each of the three quotes used in point 2. These paraphrased statements must also be followed by an internal cite. DO NOT SIMPLIFY CHANGE A WORD OR TWO. PUT THE QUOTES INTO YOUR OWN WORDS, DEMONSTRATING THAT YOU CAN RESTATE AN ARGUMENT AND STAY TRUE TO THE ORIGINAL AUTHOR’S INTENT.

PART 2 DUE ON OCT. 14
For this part of the assignment, each student must turn in a list of the essays to be used in the paper.

List 10 essays for the side in favor of the statement and 10 essays for the side opposed to the statement.

For each essay, include a one-sentence synopsis of how the essay argues in favor or against the statement.

PART 3 PAPER DUE ON NOV. 13
The final paper is due at the start of class on Nov. 13.

The authors of the 6-8 best papers will be notified by the Thanksgiving break that they will be presenting a short version of their papers to the class.