This course is a survey of issues at the intersection of human rights and international security. It introduces students to “human security” as a way of thinking about world politics and analyzing and evaluating specific global policy issues. We will begin by considering what the term means, and how useful the concept is in describing the world, and how it intersects with various issue areas on the global policy agenda. We will then consider a number of current global issues through a “human security analysis.” Specific topics to be covered will include human rights, just war theory, genocide prevention, disaster assistance in complex emergencies, and civil-military relations. We will conclude by considering strategies to embed human security analysis in global policy-making.

REQUIRED READINGS


Students are also required to read several articles from *Foreign Affairs*. These can be accessed through the library, purchased individually online, or students can purchase a student subscription to *Foreign Affairs* for $19.95, which will allow them to read assigned articles in the journal’s digital archive from any computer.

A few additional readings are available online – follow hyperlinks from this syllabus.
GRADING AND ASSIGNMENTS

**Grading:** Your final letter grade is based on a 100 pt. scale. 93-100 = A; 90-92.9 = A-; 87-89.9 = B+; 82-86.9 = B; 80-81.9 = B-; 77-79.9=C+; 72-76.9=C; 70-72.9 = C-; 60-69 = D; < 60 = F.

**Attendance and Participation (30 pts):**

The class and discussion sections will be highly interactive. Class meetings will consist of short interactive lectures, and discussion over the readings. Attendance and engaged participation is essential both to your ability to absorb the information and to the effective functioning of the classroom environment. I do not take class attendance, but if you do not show up for lectures you will be unlikely to do well on graded assignments. 20% of your participation grade will be based on eight pop quizzes over the readings that will take place at the start of random classes. The other 10% will be based on my subjective appraisal of your in-class participation.

**Writing Assignments (70 pts)**

Students must turn in a total of 3 writing assignments for the term: two analytical memos and a research paper. Memos are due electronically at 5pm Friday on specific weeks; the final paper is due on the last day of class. Late assignments will not be accepted unless a student has an excused absence negotiated well in advance. All writing projects should be turned in spell-checked, proofread and with accurate citations.

**Policy Memos (40 points):** Students must write two of five short analytical memos for 20 points each during the course of the term. Memo topics are handed out at the start of the term and are due on specific dates to coincide with module readings. There are six opportunities to fulfill this requirement; students who want an A are encouraged to write at least three memos and drop their lowest score(s). Policy memos are designed to communicate a recommended course of action to a specific audience. They must include a concise problem statement, a set of policy options, an analytical discussion of the merits of each option *from a human security rather than a purely national security perspective*, and a policy recommendation. They can be no more than 3 single-spaced pages (minimum 11 font w/ 1-inch margins) including footnotes (minimum 10-pt font).

**Term Writing Project (30 points):** On the last day of class, each student will turn in a term paper on a human-security-related topic approved by the instructor. There are two options for fulfilling this requirement.

*Option A.* A cumulative research essay answering the following questions: “To what extent does the foreign policy of President Barack Obama conform to human security principles? Begin by defining your use of the term ‘human security,’ and then justify your argument through the use of evidence and example, with reference to the cumulative readings from the class, and to
Option B. An independent research paper on a human-security related topic. Students choosing this option must select a suitable topic in consultation with the professor early in the semester, submit a preliminary abstract by **October 12** and engage in a peer feedback exercise on **November 16**. All students are strongly encouraged, though not required, to turn in rough draft well in advance of the deadline. **Rough drafts will not be reviewed after November 20.** All papers will be evaluated based on their intellectual merit, including: originality, analytical logic and consistency, and writing style (which should be scholarly, expressive and concise). For additional information on how to craft a scholarly argument, see Teresa Pelton Johnson, "Writing for International Security: A Contributor's Guide."

**NOTE: PLAGIARISM WILL NOT BE TOLERATED ON ANY WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT.**

**PLAGIARIZED WORK OF ANY KIND OR ANY OTHER FORM OF ACADEMIC DISHONESTY WILL RESULT IN AN AUTOMATIC F FOR THE ASSIGNMENT.**

**Extra Credit Options.**

Extra credit may be earned by publishing letters to the editor on class-related topics. A letter published in a local paper after the start of classes earns 1 point of extra credit; a letter published in a national or international venue such as the *New York Times* or *London Guardian* will receive 2 points. Students should submit an electronic copy of the printed letter to the professor in order to receive the points.

Additional extra credit opportunities *may* be available to the class as a whole at my discretion. However, I do not concoct ad hoc extra credit for students who perform poorly on assignments, so don’t ask.

**Students with Disabilities.** If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact me as well as Disability Resources and Services (231 Whitmore Administration Building, 413-545-0892) as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for the course.

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1Plagiarism means attempting to pass off someone else’s research or writing as your own. It is very easy to catch plagiarists, and I love to do it, so don’t risk your grade or your academic reputation. University of Massachusetts-Amherst’s plagiarism policy can be found at: [http://www.umass.edu/writingprogram/resources/plagiarism.html](http://www.umass.edu/writingprogram/resources/plagiarism.html).
TENTATIVE READING LIST

Introduction: Concepts, Actors, Basic Analytical Tools

September 7: Introductions
Kaldor, introduction; Macfarlane and Khong, introduction; Hampson, introduction.
President Obama, “Remarks by the President at the Acceptance of the Nobel Peace Prize”

September 9: What is Human Security? What Good is Human Security?
MacFarlane and Khong, chapter 1.
Hampson, Chapter 2.

September 14: The Human Security “Network”
Hampson, Chapter 3
Keith Krause. “Building the agenda of human security.”

September 21: Measuring “Human Security”
MacFarlane and Khong, ch. 3
Kaldor, ch. 7
Gary King and Christpher Murray, “Rethinking Human Security”
Charli Carpenter, “How to Think Like a Human Security Analyst”
Examine the Human Security Unit website and the Human Security Report website especially this page entitled “What is Human Security”?

September 23: Applying Basic Principles of “Human Security Analysis”: Wikileaks
Analytical Paper Instructions Handed Out.
Wikipedia, “Afghan War Dairies” [use as starting point, not ending point]
Spencer Ackerman and Joshua Foust, “Bloggingheads.tv: Wikileaks and Afghanistan”
Eben Harrell, “Wikileaks Comes Under Fire From Rights Groups”
Marc Thiessen, “Wikileaks Must Be Stopped”
Peter Ludlow, “Hackers Are Screwing With Oppressive Regimes All Over the World”

Human Rights and Human Security

September 28: What Are Human Rights? Why Do They Matter for Security?
Handout: Chris Brown, “Human Rights”
United Nations, “Universal Declaration of Human Rights”
Isabel Coleman, “The Payoff From Women’s Rights”
Gary Haugen and Victor Boutrous, “And Justice for All?” (FA Subscription required)
Thomas Franck, “Are Human Rights Universal?” (FA Subscription required)

September 30: NO CLASS
Professor Carpenter presenting research at George Washington University. Students will take an online survey and participate in a discussion on the class website about human rights and human security.

October 1: “Right to Bear Arms” Policy Memo Due Electronically at 5pm

October 5: Global Human Rights Architecture and Effectiveness
Hampson, Chapter 4
Jack Donnelly, “Human Rights: A Regime Analysis”
Suzanne Katzenstein and Jack Snyder, “Expediency of the Angels”
Emilie Hafner-Burton and James Ron, “Seeing Double”

Armed Conflict and Human Security

October 7: The Laws of War: Rules and Architecture
ICRC Website, “International Humanitarian Law in Brief”
Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, Articles 5, 6, 7, 8
Colin Kahl, “In the Crossfire or in the Crosshairs?”

October 12: NO CLASS

Monday Class Schedule

October 14: Are the Laws of War Obsolete?
Rosa Brooks, “War Everywhere”
Renee de Nevers, “The Geneva Conventions and New Wars”
Kenneth Roth, “The Law of War in the War on Terror”

October 15: “Targeted Killings Memo” Due Electronically at 5pm

October 19: Global Conflict Prevention: Architecture and Effectiveness
Guest Lecturer: Joshua Goldstein
MacFarlane and Khong, Chapter 3

October 21: The UN Charter Regime and the Non-Aggression Norm
United Nations Charter
Kaldor, Chapter 6
MacFarlane and Khong, Chapter 2
October 26: The UN Charter Regime and The Problem of Mass Atrocity  
HANDOUT: “Genocide and the Peacekeeping Culture at the United Nations”

October 28: Genocide Prevention Architecture  
Professor Carpenter at Council on Foreign Relations in Washington. Students will watch an online screen-cast of the lecture and participate in an online exercise on genocide prevention architecture.

October 29: “Exiting Afghanistan Memo” Due Electronically at 5pm.

November 2: IN-CLASS DEBATE on Exiting Afghanistan

November 4: Film in Class: Why We Fight  
Professor Carpenter presenting research at Dalhousie University. Students will receive 2 points of extra credit for attending an in-class screening of “Why We Fight” and submitting a response on the class blog.

November 9: Just War Theory and The Responsibility to Protect  
Kaldor, ch. 1  
MacFarlane and Khong, Chapter 5  
Hampson, ch. 7  
Scott Strauss, “Darfur and the Genocide Debate” (FA Subscription Required)

November 10: The Military as a Humanitarian Tool  
Guest Lecturer: Professor Robert Farley, Patterson School of International Affairs  
Thursday Class Schedule Being Followed

The Humanitarian Community

November 16: Humanitarian Action: Principles and Architecture  
Thomas Weiss, “Principles v. Politics”

November 18: Dilemmas of Humanitarian Action  
Kaldor, ch. 4; MacFarlane and Khong, Chapter 6 and one of the following: Sarah Kenyon Lischer, “Collateral Damage”; Alexander Cooley and James Ron, “The NGO Scramble”

November 19: “Humanitarian Response in Mexico” Due Electronically at 5pm

November 23: Humanitarian Assistance v. Protection  
IN-CLASS DEBATE: Humanitarian Response in Mexico
November 25: NO CLASS
Thanksgiving Recess

Building Better Human Security Norms

November 30: How Do International Norms Change?
Finnemore and Sikkink, “International Norm Dynamics and Political Change”
Hampson, Chapters 5 and 6

December 2: Case Study: Regulating The Means of War: Landmines, and Explosives

December 3: “Drone Warfare Memo” Due Electronically at 5pm.

December 6: Opening Statements for Debates Due at 5pm.

December 7: IN CLASS DEBATE on Drone Warfare

December 9: STUDENT PRESENTATIONS and Evaluations

December 17: Hard Copy of Final Essays/Papers Due by 5pm.
You can drop these in the box in the mailroom anytime during finals week prior to 5pm Friday.
APPENDIX: POLICY MEMO ASSIGNMENTS

Write a 2-3 page (single-spaced) memo on each of two of the following topics. Use 1-inch margins and no smaller than 11-pt font for text (10-pt font for footnotes). Be sure to include a problem statement that reflects the question being asked, a discussion of the human security implications of each of two possible options, and a recommended course of action. Base any factual assertions on reliable sources, and cite these using footnotes. A concise, five-sentence executive summary outlining your argument should be written last and placed at the top of the memo. These are due electronically on the day stated at 5pm, and must be submitted with a subject heading exactly the same as the text in the quote marks. Papers will not be accepted late without a documented excuse negotiated in advance.

October 15: “Targeted Killings Memo” Due Electronically at 5pm. Write a memo to the US Defense Department on the pros and cons targeted killing of terror suspects, from a human security perspective. Be sure to speak to the interests of your audience, and weigh all options discussed according to the same criteria – one of which must be the potential gains or losses to human security (however you choose to define it).

October 29: “Exiting Afghanistan Memo” Due Electronically at 5pm. Write a memo to the United States National Security Advisor evaluate arguments for and against a withdrawal from Afghanistan, from a human security perspective. Be sure to speak to the interests of your audience, and weigh all options discussed according to the same criteria – one of which must be the potential gains or losses to human security (however you choose to define it).

November 19: “Humanitarian Space Memo” Due Electronically at 5pm. Nearly 30,000 civilians have been killed so far in Mexico’s drug war. You are a human security analyst working for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and you must draft a memo to the Secretary General to assist him in deciding what to propose to the President of the United Nation Security Council with regard to protection of civilians in Mexico. In particular, should the Secretary-General recommend the UNSC authorize the use of force under the R2P doctrine to stabilize the situation before it gets worse? Or should non-military approaches be recommended to protect civilians? In human security terms, what are the likely costs, benefits and risks of each course of action, and what do you recommend?

December 3: “Drone Warfare Memo” Due Electronically at 5pm. Write a letter to the International Committee of the Red Cross on whether it should spearhead a campaign against the use of unmanned drones as a weapon of war. Be sure to speak to the interests of your audience, and weigh all options discussed according to the same criteria – one of which must be the potential gains or losses to human security (however you choose to define it).

Or

December 3: “Right to Bear Arms Memo” Due Electronically at 5pm. Write a memo to Human Rights Watch evaluating whether or not it help spearhead a campaign for the Right to Bear Arms. Be sure to speak to the interests of your audience, and weigh all options discussed according to the same criteria – one of which must be the potential gains or losses to human security (however you choose to define it).