

## **IAFS 3000-002, Security Studies**

Date and Time – Monday, Wednesday, Friday 12 to 12:50

Location – Visual Arts Center 1B88

Instructor – Dr. Mike Kanner

### **Contact Information**

E-mail – [michael.kanner@colorado.edu](mailto:michael.kanner@colorado.edu)

Office Location – Ketchum 114F

Office Hours – Monday, Wednesday, Friday – 10:30 to 11:30 AM

Campus Box – 333 UCB

### **Communication Policies**

The best way to contact me is by e-mail. My normal response time is 8 to 12 hours (although it may just be an acknowledgment). If you do not hear from me within 24 hours, contact the political science office (303.492.7871) and ask them to call me.

### **Instructor Biography**

In addition to political science, I teach for the international affairs and Farrand Hall residential academic programs. Although I have taught in most subfields of political science, my focus is in conflict and security studies as well as American foreign policy. While my bachelor's degree at the US Military Academy was a concentration in engineering, my masters are in managerial science from Troy State University, and international relations from Salve Regina University. My Ph.D. from the University of Colorado, Boulder focused on political psychology and foreign policy decision making.

Prior to teaching, I had a career in the Department of Defense serving as an operations officer from brigade to theater Army level in the United States, Latin America, and Europe. My final assignment was as a Senior Plans and Policy analyst at Headquarters, US Army Europe where I dealt with issues related to the end of the Cold War including political violence and force transition.

In addition, I am a graduate of the US Army Command General Staff College and was an analyst/investigator on several special study groups including the Defense Department's *Joint Low-Intensity Conflict Study Group*, the Army War College's *Living Expert System (Senior Leader Decision Support System) Concept Study Group*, and SAIC's *Military Forces in Preventive Diplomacy Study Group*.

### **Course Description**

Examines the ways in which security is discussed on both a theoretical and practical level. The course looks at the evolution of security from mere material interests to the broader view of human security. Traditional and emerging threats will be examined and evaluated in terms of the level of threat as well as policy implications.

Prerequisite: IAFS 1000 or PSCI 2223

### **Course Objectives**

1. Distinguish the different facets of security.
2. Outline the growth of security studies as an academic discipline.
3. Identify the influences on security theory and practices.

4. Analyze the ways in which different theories discuss security.
5. Compare the different theories.
6. Describe the different threats and the different theories relate to them.
7. Use theories discussed to explain the impact of different threats.

**Key Questions.**

Williams (2018, 5) gives us what are the major questions for the discipline in the first reading. Consider these questions throughout your readings and the course.

1. What is security?
2. Whose security are we talking about?
3. What counts as a security issue?
4. How can security be achieved?

**Overview**

The emphasis in the course will be on discussions. After an initial presentation, students will either discuss the theory or apply to a current security issue (the specifics will be part of the initial presentation). During the debates, students will be asked to present positions and then support those positions when questioned by the instructor and other students. The focus will be on the reasoning and evidence that is presented to support their positions.

Since publication does not require acceptance of an author’s position, students should analyze each reading based on these elements.

1. Identify the assumption or statements that frame the argument.
2. Examine the accuracy and validity of these assumptions and statements.
3. Relate the assumptions and statements to a worldview or theory.

**Required Texts (subject to availability)**

Mahnken, Thomas G and Joseph A. Maiolo. 2014. *Strategic Studies: A Reader, 2d Edition*. New York: Routledge Press

Williams, Paul D. and Matt McDonald. 2018. *Security Studies: An Introduction, 3rd Edition*. New York: Routledge Press

Recent journal articles and policy papers will also be posted on the course support software. Material published during the semester will be distributed through the course support website (these will be recommended, but not required readings).

**Grading**

Final grades will be based on a 100-point scale.

	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69	F	0-59
A	94-100	B	83-86	C	73-76	D	63-66	
A-	90-93	B -	80-82	C-	70-72	D-	60-62	

Points are allocated on the following basis.

Analysis of Readings – 3 at 5 points each	15 points
Critical Papers – 2 at 20 points each	40 points
Research Project	35 points
Proposal – 5 points	
Literature review – 10 points	

Final Paper – 20 points	
Attendance/participation	10 points
Total	100 points

### Analysis of Readings

You need to submit a written analysis of three of the daily readings. These will be due at the beginning of class on the day the reading is assigned. Late papers will not be accepted. It is your choice which readings you analyze, but you need to do one within each module. Modules and the last day they may be submitted are –

Module	Last Date for Submission
1. Introduction and Theory	September 24
2. Concepts	October 17
3. Challenges	December 7

Your analysis should be 300 to 500 words double-spaced. You do not need to do additional research. Your analysis should address the following questions.

1. What is the central point or assertion of the article?
2. What is the supporting evidence?
3. Is it convincing?
4. What problems did you see in the article (either assertions or evidence)?
5. How might you have improved the article?

There is no extra credit for submitting additional papers and you cannot substitute a later paper for a bad grade on an earlier paper.

### Critical Papers

There are two take-home papers. The questions and administrative instructions will usually be posted 10 to 14 days prior to the date the paper is due. One question will be theoretical, while the second will ask you to apply theories to a current event. No research is necessary for these papers. Late papers will not be accepted.

### Research Paper

This will be an original question dealing with a current state, regional or global security issue. You are encouraged to identify an issue that you feel has not been adequately researched. Your paper will consist of –

- A specific research question;
- Why you think the issue is interesting;
- A review of the academic and policy work that has been done;
- Your own research;
- How do you think your research contributes to understanding the issue?

Your research grade will be based on these elements<sup>1</sup>:

*Research Proposal.* Research proposals demonstrate your ability to identify questions and bring together different pieces of information. Your proposal should be 500 to 750 words, double-spaced and follow this format.

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<sup>1</sup> The grading cut sheets for each of these requirements will be available in advance.

• Purpose. This is a clear statement of the problem to be investigated. Its purpose is to get the reader excited in reading the rest of the proposal. In selecting your problem, consider the limited amount of time and length of the study (as well as your expertise). Try to keep it manageable by thinking in terms of who, what, when, why and how.

*Bad question* – “What is the role of private military firms in US operations?”

*Better question* – “What is the liability of the United States government for friendly fatalities due to the actions of contracted security forces?”

• Background on the Problem to be investigated. This section contains an *initial* review of the pertinent literature. (Your literature review should expand on this.) Your review should go from the general to the specific. You need to show that your research will build on an existing body of knowledge and fill any gaps.

• Theoretical Framework. This contains your initial assumptions and hypothesis about the problem being studied. Assumptions need to be valid based on previous research or history. Weak assumptions will cause your entire study to be considered invalid.

You do not need to prove your theory at this point, however, it should be plausible to an educated individual even if they are not conversant in the literature involved. There should be a clear statement of the causal connections leading to the phenomenon being studied.

• Methodology. How would you provide evidence in proof of your theory? If you are planning on using case studies, which cases have you begun to look at and why?

• Plausible Implications of Results. Basically, you need to answer the question of how the research adds to the body of knowledge about an issue.

*Literature Review*. This will be a survey of previous work that has been done on your topic. It is the basis for your own research and shows a familiarity with the work done by others. Your review should address these questions.

- What aspect of the issue has the research addressed?
- What assumptions were made and what were the conclusions?
- Are there disagreements among researchers? What is the basis of these disagreements?
- Where will your research fit in this area?

*Final Copy*. This is a report of your research and will be due on **November 16**. It should contain the following elements (you should format your paper this way).

- An abstract (separate page, 150 to 180 words, single-spaced) (not included in the page or word count)
- Body (8-10 pages, double-spaced)
  - Introduction. Restate your research question and why you thought it was important
  - Literature review. What work has been done before and what is missing from the research.
  - Methodology. How you investigated the question. If you used a case study, explain the reason it was chosen.
  - Theory. Presentation of the answer you proposed.
  - Evidence. Show how your theory is supported
  - Summary and conclusion. Self-explanatory. Include what additional research you think is necessary.

- Any appendices or annex (not included in page count),
- Bibliography (not included in page count).
- All sources should be cited. Failure to do so will lead to suggestions that you are committing plagiarism.
- You can use any format (e.g., MLA, APA, Chicago) as long as you are consistent throughout the paper
- There are several bibliography generators which you might consider using. One that I have used is *Easybib.Com* (<http://www.easybib.com/>).

Participation/Attendance.

Part of success in life is just showing up. The same is true for this course.

**Course Schedule.**

August				
27 – Syllabus (read in advance)	28	29 – W – “An Introduction to Security Studies.”	30	31 – M 1, 3
September				
3 – Labor Day (no class)	4	5 – M 4, 6, 7	6	7 – W 1 <i>Presentation on Research Project</i>
10 – W 2	11	12 – W 3, 11	13	14 – W 4
17 – W 5	18	19 – W 6	20	21 – W 7
Research Proposal Due				
24 – W 8	25	26 – W 9	27	28 – W 29, M 10
<i>Last day for submission reading analysis, Section 1</i>				
October				
1 – W 10	2	3 – W 12	4	5 – M 8, 9
8 – M 18, 19	9	10 – W 13	11	12 – W 15, 16 Literature Review Due
15 – W 32	16	17 – W 21 <i>Last day for submission reading analysis, Section 2</i>	18	19 – Critical Paper 1 Due
22 – M 12, 13	23	24 – W 22	25	26 – W 23
29 – W 24	30	31 – W 25		

November				
			1	2 – W 21
5 – M 17	6	7 – W 27	8	9 – W 28, M 16
12 – W 30	13	14 – W 31	15	16 – Research Paper Final Copy Due
19 – Fall Break	20 – Fall Break	21 – Fall Break	22 – Fall Break	23 – Fall Break
26 – W 33	27	28 – W 34	29	30 – W 35
December				
3 – W 36	4	5 – W 37, M 23	6	7 – W 38
				Last day for submission reading analysis, Section 3
10 – M 24	11	12 – Critical Paper 2 Due	13	14 – Reading Day
Legend				
M	Mahnken, Thomas G and Joseph A. Maiolo. 2014. <i>Strategic Studies: A Reader, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition</i> . New York: Routledge Press			
W	Williams, Paul D. and Matt McDonald. 2018. <i>Security Studies: An Introduction, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition</i> . New York: Routledge Press.			

**Policies** (as established by the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education)

## SYLLABUS STATEMENTS

### ACCOMMODATION FOR DISABILITIES

If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability, please submit your accommodation letter from Disability Services to your faculty member in a timely manner so that your needs can be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities in the academic environment. Information on requesting accommodations is located on the [Disability Services website](#). Contact Disability Services at 303-492-8671 or [dsinfo@colorado.edu](mailto:dsinfo@colorado.edu) for further assistance. If you have a temporary medical condition or injury, see [Temporary Medical Conditions](#) under the Students tab on the Disability Services website.

### CLASSROOM BEHAVIOR

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. Those who fail to adhere to such behavioral standards may be subject to discipline. Professional courtesy and sensitivity are especially important with respect to individuals and

topics dealing with race, color, national origin, sex, pregnancy, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, veteran status, political affiliation or political philosophy. Class rosters are provided to the instructor with the student's legal name. I will gladly honor your request to address you by an alternate name or gender pronoun. Please advise me of this preference early in the semester so that I may make appropriate changes to my records. For more information, see the policies on [classroom behavior](#) and the [Student Code of Conduct](#).

## HONOR CODE

All students enrolled in a University of Colorado Boulder course are responsible for knowing and adhering to the Honor Code. Violations of the policy may include: plagiarism, cheating, fabrication, lying, bribery, threat, unauthorized access to academic materials, clicker fraud, submitting the same or similar work in more than one course without permission from all course instructors involved, and aiding academic dishonesty. All incidents of academic misconduct will be reported to the Honor Code ([honor@colorado.edu](mailto:honor@colorado.edu); 303-492-5550). Students who are found responsible for violating the academic integrity policy will be subject to nonacademic sanctions from the Honor Code as well as academic sanctions from the faculty member. Additional information regarding the Honor Code academic integrity policy can be found at the [Honor Code Office website](#).

## SEXUAL MISCONDUCT, DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT AND/OR RELATED RETALIATION

The University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder) is committed to fostering a positive and welcoming learning, working, and living environment. CU Boulder will not tolerate acts of sexual misconduct (including sexual assault, exploitation, harassment, dating or domestic violence, and stalking), discrimination, and harassment by members of our community. Individuals who believe they have been subject to misconduct or retaliatory actions for reporting a concern should contact the Office of Institutional Equity and Compliance (OIEC) at 303-492-2127 or [cureport@colorado.edu](mailto:cureport@colorado.edu). Information about the OIEC, university policies, [anonymous reporting](#), and the campus resources can be found on the [OIEC website](#). Please know that faculty and instructors have a responsibility to inform OIEC when made aware of incidents of sexual misconduct, discrimination, harassment and/or related retaliation, to ensure that individuals impacted receive information about options for reporting and support resources.

## RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

Campus policy regarding religious observances requires that faculty make every effort to deal reasonably and fairly with all students who, because of religious obligations, have conflicts with scheduled exams, assignments or required attendance. In this class, see me and we will work on

any necessary accommodation. See the [campus policy regarding religious observances](#) for full details.