INTL 4295: War and Human Security
Spring 2019
Baldwin 101D, 1:25 (MWF)

Instructor: Brian Starks (brian.starks@uga.edu)
Office: 402A Holmes Hunter
Office Hours: By appointment

Course Description and Objectives:

What are the human consequences of war? Does anything help to limit these consequences? This course focuses on the social scientific study of the human security effects of war. We will focus on scientific explanations for why wars occur and the human toll that wars have. After this class, you will have not only an understanding of the major players and factors influencing human security but a base understanding of the social scientific processes which govern human security outcomes more generally. As such, this class is not a history class or a class on current events. Though current and historical events will be discussed, your grade will not depend on your rote memorization of these events.

Instead, the focus will be on understanding the underlying interests of important actors for human security, the arenas in which these actors interact, and the rules which govern their interactions. This focus on the basic principles will provide you with a rich practical knowledge of the study of human security. We will begin the semester by defining war and human security and then focusing on the social scientific method and its role in the study of human security. After this introduction, the class will be divided into three major sections: (1) background theory on why wars occur, (2) theoretical frameworks for the causes of major human security disasters associated with wars (e.g., human rights violations, genocides, refugees, human trafficking, public health, sexual violence, and child soldiers), (3) the social scientific literature on the efficacy of a variety of interventions and solutions for human security.

Classroom Expectations

This classroom has reached its maximum student capacity. Due to the large size of the course, disruptive behavior of any kind will not be tolerated. To ensure a productive learning atmosphere, students will behave professionally and respectfully throughout the course. With 40 students in the classroom, there are bound to be different backgrounds, perspectives, personal interests, and opinions. Let’s use these differences to approach War and Human Security from multiple angles.
If you have a name and/or set of pronouns that differ from those that appear in the UGA records, please let me know at any point (in-person or via email).

**A Note on Course Themes**

Given the nature of the course, we will often discuss cases of violence and abuse. Students always welcome to excuse themselves during class (without penalty). Our department encourages students to take mental health concerns seriously. There are [campus resources](#) to support you and your fellow classmates. Lastly, all students are welcome to reach out to me directly to process the unfortunate reality of these human security issues.

**Course Readings**

No textbook is necessary for this class.

All of the readings come from academic journal articles, book chapters, or free and publicly available documents. These readings will all be found on the eLearningCommons at least one week in advance of the date we cover the material in class. I expect you to have completed all of the required readings before the day they appear on the syllabus. When doing the readings, it works best to identify each reading’s research question, theory, hypotheses, empirical analysis, and conclusion. Think critically about these readings. What did the author(s) do well? Can you identify one or two problems or questions you have with the work?

Taking detailed and orderly notes will help students in preparing for the exams. To that end, students may want to consider using Microsoft OneNote to organize their notes on course readings. This software is free for all UGA students. For more information, visit UGA’s Enterprise Information and Technology Services (EITS): [https://ugamail.uga.edu/download_office_proplus/](https://ugamail.uga.edu/download_office_proplus/)

**Grading:**

Your course grade will be calculated as follows:

- Policy Briefs: **20%**
- Exams: **60%**
  - Midterm 1
  - Midterm 2
  - Final
- Participation: **10%**
- Pop Quizzes: **10%**
Grades reflect UGA standards, found at [http://bulletin.uga.edu/Bulletin_Files/acad/Grades.html](http://bulletin.uga.edu/Bulletin_Files/acad/Grades.html).

Grades will be rounded to the nearest whole number and will be assigned according to the following distribution:

- **A** = 93-100 percent
- **A-** = 90-92 percent
- **B+** = 87-89 percent
- **B** = 83-86 percent
- **B-** = 80-82 percent
- **C+** = 77-79 percent
- **C** = 73-76 percent
- **C-** = 70-72 percent
- **D** = 60-69 percent
- **F** = fewer than 60 percent

### Policy Briefs:

Regardless of your future careers, employers and colleagues will value skillful analysis of complex topics. Each week, at least one **pair of students will provide a 15-minute policy briefing and accompanying 1-2 page written report** on a human security disaster in a recent or ongoing armed conflict. This will be an opportunity to enhance students’ abilities to discuss these issues with broader audiences (researchers, journalist, policymakers, private industry, etc.). This presentation should be oriented toward such audiences while incorporating the theories discussed in class.

The policy brief should include a summary of the issue as well a thoughtful analysis of what could be expected in the future. Policy briefs should address, at minimum, the following:

- **Conflict background**
  - Who is/was involved?
  - Where does/did it take place?
  - What are/were its causes?
  - If resolved, how did it conclude? If not, what factors are preventing a resolution?
- **Human security disaster**
  - Who is/was affected? In what way?
  - Why has/did this disaster occurred?
  - What are its implications?
- **What is/was the response of the international community?**
  - Who is/was involved? In what way?
  - If conflict ongoing, what are your expectations for this disaster in the near future?
  - If conflict concluded, is the human security disaster also resolved?

Presenters should also be prepared to accept questions from the class. Groups will be graded on the quality of their sources, respect for the given time limit, clarity of their presentation,
strength of analysis, and ability to respond to questions. Consider visual aids, such as PowerPoint or handouts, to help the audience follow along during the briefing.

**On the day of your group’s presentation, email the 1-2 page report and any electronic visual aid files to me (brian.starks@uga.edu) no later than 9:00 am.** Groups may lose points if we waste class time waiting for PowerPoint files on flash drives before policy brief presentations.

**Exams:**

The first two exams will take place within regular class periods during the semester. The final exam will take place during the allocated exam time. Each test will consist of multiple choice questions and short essay questions designed to test your understanding of the course material, including the lectures and readings. The first two tests will not be cumulative. The final exam will focus on the material covered in the last third of the class, but may also include an additional cumulative essay question. The lowest exam grade will be dropped at the end of the semester.

Missed exams can be made up only in cases of extreme circumstances (e.g., prolonged illness or death in the family) or travel related to university activities. Arrangements for missed exams must be made before-hand. Make-up exams must be taken within a week of the original exam date unless there are extenuating circumstances.

**Participation**

Students are expected to be actively engaged with the lectures and to participate in informed discussion. An upper-level course that relies on the scholarly literature only works if we all have read the readings for each class period and are willing to discuss these readings.

If students are constantly on their cell phones or engaging in side conversations, they will be asked to leave for the remainder of the day’s lecture.

**Pop Quizzes and Attendance**

Attendance will not be taken in this course. Some classes will begin with a pop quiz to reward students who attend class and stay current with the assigned reading. The lowest pop quiz grade will be dropped at the end of the semester. Quizzes missed due to excusable reasons (i.e. illness or family emergency) will not count against the student.
**Disability Accommodations**

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the UGA Disabilities Resource Center (DRC) office will be accommodated according to university policy. If you have documentation for accommodations from the DRC, please make arrangements with me as soon as possible to ensure the proper accommodations can be made. For more information, contact the DRC at 706-542-8719.

**Academic Honesty**

As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to follow the University's academic honesty policy (“A Culture of Honesty”) and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards contained in “A Culture of Honesty” (including policies that cover plagiarism; for more information, see [https://honesty.uga.edu/](https://honesty.uga.edu/)). Students are responsible for informing themselves about these standards before performing any academic work and may direct any specific questions they have regarding the policy (or its application to course assignments) to the instructor. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated in this course. Students caught cheating or plagiarizing will be referred to the UGA Office of Academic Honesty and Student Appeals.

**Syllabus Changes**

The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.
Course Schedule & Readings

Part One: Introduction

Week 1: Introduction

- Wednesday (01/09)
  - No reading required
- Friday (01/11)
  - United Nations General Assembly. 1948. Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Part Two: War and Human Security

Week 2: War, Human Security, and Political Science

- Monday (01/14)
- Wednesday (01/16)
- Friday (01/18)

Week 3: Causes of Civil War

- Monday (01/21):
  - **Class Cancelled for Martin Luther King Jr. Day**
- Wednesday (01/23)
- Friday (01/25)
Week 4: Causes of Civil War

- Monday (01/28)

- Wednesday (01/30)

- Friday (02/01)

Week 5: Targeting Civilians during Conflict

- Monday (02/04)

- Wednesday (02/06)

- Friday (02/08)

Week 6: Midterm 1 and Child Soldiers

- Monday (02/11)
  - Review for Exam 1

- Wednesday (02/13)
  - Midterm 1- In Class

Part Three: Human Security Disasters
- Friday (02/15)

Week 7: Child Soldiers and Gender Security

- Monday (02/18)

- Wednesday (02/20)

- Friday (02/22)

Week 8: Displaced Persons and War

- Monday (02/25)

- Wednesday (02/27)

- Friday (02/29)
Assignment for Monday:
- Email a brief article or essay related to INTL4295 class that you want me to read

**Week 9: Human Trafficking and War**

- **Monday (03/04)**

- **Wednesday (03/06)**
  - **Read Pages 1-16**

- **Friday (03/08)**

**Week 10: Spring Break- No Class**

**Week 11: Climate Change, Natural Disasters, and Human Security**

- **Monday (03/18)**

- **Wednesday (03/20)**

• Friday (03/22):

**Week 12: Rebel Governance**

• Monday (03/25)

• Wednesday (03/27)

• Friday (03/29) Exam 2 Review
  • Midterm 2 Review

**Week 13: Midterm 2 and Conflict Consequences**

• Monday (04/01)
  • **Midterm 2- In class**

• Wednesday (04/03): Economic Consequences
  • Only Read Chapters 1 and 4:

• Friday (04/05): Educational and Health Consequences

**Part Four: Solutions to War and Human Security Problems**
Week 14: International Non-Governmental Organizations

- Monday (04/08)

- Wednesday (04/10)

- Friday (04/12)

Week 15: Foreign Aid and International Law

- Monday (04/15)

- Wednesday (04/17)

- Friday (04/19)

Week 16: Peacekeeping and Military Intervention

- Monday (04/22)

- Wednesday (04/24)
• Friday (04/26)

**Week 17: Wrapping Up**

• Monday (04/29)
  • Class Wrap-Up and Review for Final Exam
• Wednesday (05/01): Reading Day