INTL4295: War and Human Security

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Fall 2021

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Class Room: MLC 268
Office : TBA

Course Description

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 first 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.

Required Materials

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?

Course Objectives

By the end of this course students should be able to:

1. identify the multiple dimensions of human security from the real-world cases;
2. explain the key arguments of the major debates of war and human security;
3. indicate the key elements of war and human security;
4. compare and contrast the different logical arguments on war and human security;
5. produce arguments of their own based on the learnings from this course.

Course Expectations

Any 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.

Assessments

The grade will count the assessments using the following proportions:

- **20%** Test 1
- **20%** Test 2
- **20%** Final Exam
- **20%** Group Projects
- **15%** Participation and Informed Discussions
- **5%** Reflection Paper
Tests
The majority of your grade will be determined by three tests (two midterms and one final exam). 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. I will provide a review session prior to each exam. The test schedule is stated in the course schedule section.

Group Project
Students will be assigned to a group project which will be about specific cases of real world human security crises. Groups are required to combine two or more topics from the course as their topic of their podcast. To follow up the progress, each group is required to schedule at least two meetings during the semester to discuss about the progress and plans for the project with the instructor.

Students can be creative in how the podcast will be formed. The quality of the podcast will be assessed by the content of the project, the styles and technological fanciness will not affect the grades substantially. So, be creative! However, since the instructor who is going to listen to your podcast for assessment may listen the podcast with a toddler, please watch your language when you record the podcast. The due date for this assignment is Nov. 19th.

Participation
I have also allotted 15% of your grade to participation and 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. As such, I will take attendance every day and will record whether you are willing and able to participate in the course discussion and answer questions about the readings. At certain times throughout the semester, an in-class quiz will be used for that day’s participation points. You will be allotted 2 course absences without penalty for your participation grade. After that, any excused absence will require documentation. If documentation of an excused absence is provided, you will be required to take a make-up quiz (during office hours) to verify your understanding of the materials that you missed. Your active participation is very important. Always feel free to state your opinions in a way that invites discussion. No outside knowledge of international relations or political science scholarship, of history, or of current events will be necessary for effective class participation. Discussion of other scholarship, history, and current events will certainly be welcome when they are relevant, but careful reading of the materials assigned for this course and concentrated thinking about the ideas raised in class will be a sufficient basis from which to contribute profitably to class discussion. The first step toward participating in class is attending class and reading the course materials prior to the day they are assigned.
Reflection Paper

By the end of semester, students are going to be asked to submit a short reflection paper on how their thoughts about war and human security has changed after finishing this course. The length of this reflection paper should not exceed two double-spaced pages formatted in Times New Roman 12-point font and justified with 1-inch margins. I will only accept submissions in pdf, docx or doc files. The due date for this assignment is Dec. 1st.

Grading Scale

Your final grade will be calculated on the following scale.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>94 to 100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90 to 93</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>87 to 89</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>84 to 86</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>80 to 83</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<td>77 to 79</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>64 to 66</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>60 to 63</td>
<td>D-</td>
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<td>59 and below</td>
<td>F</td>
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Coronavirus Information for Students

Face Coverings

Effective July 15, 2020, the University of Georgia—along with all University System of Georgia (USG) institutions — requires all faculty, staff, students and visitors to wear an appropriate face covering while inside campus facilities/buildings where six feet social distancing may not always be possible. Face covering use is in addition to and is not a substitute for social distancing. Anyone not using a face covering when required will be asked to wear one or must leave the area. Reasonable accommodations may be made for those who are unable to wear a face covering for documented health reasons. Students seeking an accommodation related to face coverings should contact Disability Services at https://drc.uga.edu/. Also, per CDC, face shields are NOT a substitute for face masks.

DawgCheck

Please perform a quick symptom check each weekday on DawgCheck—on the UGA app or website—whether you feel sick or not. It will help health providers monitor the health situation on campus: https://dawgcheck.uga.edu/

What do I do if I am notified that I have been exposed?

Students who learn they have been directly exposed to COVID-19 but are not showing symptoms should self-quarantine for 14 days consistent with Department of Public Health (DPH) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines. Please correspond with your instructor via email, with a cc: to Student Care & Outreach at sco@uga.edu, to coordinate continuing your coursework while self-quarantined. If you develop symptoms, you should contact the University Health Center to make an appointment to be tested. You should continue to monitor your symptoms daily on DawgCheck.

How do I get a test?

Students who are demonstrating symptoms of COVID-19 should call the University Health Center. UHC is offering testing by appointment for students; appointments may be booked by calling 706-542-1162. UGA will also be recruiting asymptomatic students to participate in surveillance tests. Students living in residence halls, Greek housing and off-campus apartment complexes are encouraged to participate.
What do I do if I test positive?
Any student with a positive COVID-19 test is required to report the test in DawgCheck and should self-isolate immediately. Students should not attend classes in-person until the isolation period is completed. Once you report the positive test through DawgCheck, UGA Student Care and Outreach will follow up with you.

Course Policies and Useful Information

Discussion Etiquette
All students are expected to be good course citizens in the online discussion forum. Contributions to online discussions should be meaningfully related to the course material and advance the quality of deliberation. Students should be respectful of their classmates. This does not mean that criticism of others’ ideas is barred; in fact, such criticism is helpful for advancing discussion. Importantly, though, any critiques should be cordial and professional.

Late Assignments and Make-up Exams
Any late assignment will receive be lowered one letter grade for each day it is late. Assignments can only be made up when the student provides acceptable documentation more than three call periods before the due date. It is the student’s responsibility to obtain the note and contact the instructor. Make-up exams will be given only with an excused absence (and documentation). The student must contact the instructor before the exam and it is also the responsibility of the student to schedule a make-up exam within one week of the original exam date. No make-up exams will be given after one week.

University Honor Code and Academic Honesty Policy
The following is taken verbatim from https://curriculumsystems.uga.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus:

UGA Student Honor Code: "I will be academically honest in all of my academic work and will not tolerate academic dishonesty of others.” A Culture of Honesty, the University’s policy and procedures for handling cases of suspected dishonesty, can be found at www.uga.edu/ovpi.

We expect that the Student Honor Code will guide your efforts in this course. A lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy does not explain a violation.

Accommodations for Disabilities
The following is taken verbatim from https://drc.uga.edu/content_page/sample-access-statements:

"If you plan to request accommodations for a disability, please register with the Disability Resource Center. They can be reached by visiting Clark Howell Hall, calling 706-542-8719 (voice) or 706-542-8778 (TTY), or by visiting http://drc.uga.edu."

The following is taken verbatim from https://online.uga.edu/documents/ugasyllabusguidelines.pdf:

"Students with disabilities who require reasonable accommodations in order to participate in course activities or meet course requirements should contact the instructor or designate during regular office hours or by appointment."

Mental Health and Wellness Resources
The following is taken verbatim from https://curriculumsystems.uga.edu/curriculum/courses/syllabus:

"If you or someone you know needs assistance; you are encouraged to contact Student Care and Outreach in the Division of Student Affairs at 706-542-7774 or visit https://sco.uga.edu. They will help you navigate any difficult circumstances you may be facing by connecting you with the appropriate resources or services."
UGA has several resources for a student seeking mental health services ([https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga](https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga)) or crisis support ([https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/emergencies](https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/emergencies)). If you need help managing stress anxiety, relationships, etc., please visit BeWellUGA ([https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bevelluga/bewelluga](https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bevelluga/bewelluga)) for a list of FREE workshops, classes, mentoring, and health coaching led by licensed clinicians and health educators in the University Health Center. Additional resources can be accessed through the UGA App.

Some material in this course contains references to violence. We urge you to take your mental health seriously. There are campus resources to help.

**Technical Requirements**

It is important that students have reliable internet service, particularly as some of the assignments are time sensitive. Students will also need access to a computer that allows them to engage with audiovisual content, such as YouTube videos. Students experiencing technical issues can contact the EITS Help Desk at: helpdesk@uga.edu.

**Syllabus Change Policy**

The syllabus is a plan for the course, and we may deviate from it. The instructor will clearly communicate to students any changes that become necessary, and will do so in a timely manner.

**Course Schedule**

**August 18th: Introduction to Course - State of War and Human Security**

**Part 1. Theoretical Lens on War and Human Security**

**August 20: International Relations and the Study of Human Security**

**Required Reading**


**August 23: Defining Human Security and Human Rights**

**Required Reading**


**August 25: Defining War and Conflict**

**Required Reading**

August 27: Why Wars Occur

Required Reading

August 30: Why Civil Wars Occur

Required Reading

September 1: Ethnic Conflict

Required Reading

Part 2. War and Human Rights Abuse

September 3: Determinants of Human Rights Abuse

Required Reading

September 6: Labor Day - NO CLASS

September 8: Review for Test 1

September 10: First Test - In class

September 13: Determinants of Genocide/Mass Killing

Required Reading

September 15: Refugees and War

Required Reading
September 17: Human Trafficking and War

Required Reading

September 20: Economic Consequences of War

Required Reading

September 22: Educational Consequences of War

Required Reading

September 24: Public Health Consequences of War

Required Reading

September 27: Public Health Consequences of War - Mental Health

Required Reading

September 29: Rape as a Weapon of War

Required Reading

October 1: Child Soldiers and Recruitment in Complex Emergencies

Required Reading
October 4-8: Alternative Course Assignment - Classes Canceled for ISA South Week


October 11: Review for Test 2

October 13: Test 2 - In Class

Part 3. Solutions for Human Security Crises

October 15, 18: Solutions for Human Security - Options and Cost - Focus on International Aid

**Required Reading**


October 20, 22: Solutions for Human Security - International Legal Options

**Required Reading**


October 25, 27: Solutions for Human Security - Interventions

**Required Reading**


October 29: Fall Break - NO CLASS

November 1, 3 and 5: Solutions to Genocide/Civil War

**Required Reading**


November 8, 10 and 12: Solutions to Refugee Crises

**Required Reading**

- TED Talk by Alexander Betts. Available at [https://www.ted.com/speakers/alexander_betts](https://www.ted.com/speakers/alexander_betts)
November 15, 17 and 19: Solutions to Human Rights Abuses - NGOs

Required Reading


November 22-26: Thanksgiving Break

December 1, 3: International Organizational Solutions? - Universal Periodic Review

Required Reading


Reflection Paper Due: December 1

December 6: Review for Final Exam & Wrap-Up

December 13 9:00am - 11:00am: Final Exam!!