


POLS 3376E
Security Studies: Theory and Governance
-Selected Topics in International Politics-

Huron University College- Fall 2018

Dr. Jennifer Mustapha

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Thursdays, 12:30-2:30

Location: HC-A1

Course Prerequisites:

PoliSci 2231E OR permission of the department

My Office: A15

Office Hours: Wednesday 4:00pm-5:00pm; Fridays 12:30pm-1:30pm (Subject to change)

Contacting me:

The best way to contact me is through e-mail at jmustap@uwo.ca - During the week, I will try to respond within 24 hours, and on the weekends or over holidays within 48 hours. *Due to privacy rules, you must e-mail me from your own uwo.ca e-mail account.* E-mails are best for setting up office appointments and for asking brief questions, for which I can provide brief answers.

Course Materials:

- **REQUIRED TEXTBOOK- *Security: A Critical Introduction*, by Lee Jarvis and Jack Holland (2015) London: Palgrave MacMillan (ISBN: 9780230391956)**
- All other required course materials are available through your access to the UWO library and through provided web links, and will consist mostly of academic articles and relevant media items. **A detailed list of weekly reading assignments will be provided at the beginning of term and posted on the course OWL site.**

Course Overview:

This course offers an introduction to the field of “Security Studies” as well as a critical exploration of specific topics, debates, and issues in contemporary security theory and governance. “Traditional” approaches to security, preoccupied with military threats and state responses, steeped in the language of the Cold War, and grounded in a rigid understanding of the state have become less tenable in our current world. “Security” (and “insecurity”) can mean many different things in a time of terrorism, homeland security, state surveillance, global climate change, mass migration, economic upheaval, powerful private corporate interests, new technologies, and the prevalence of social media. With this in mind, this course is concerned with basic questions around how security is understood and approached, as well as questions around the material practices and policies of security. What is “security”? *Whose* security are we concerned with? What are the *politics* of security? What do the politics of security *make possible*? What do they *foreclose*? In addressing such questions, this course will introduce the broad field of Security Studies and consider the always intimate relationships between theory and governance.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- 1) Demonstrate familiarity with the basic concepts and questions that animate the broad field of Security Studies.
- 2) Demonstrate a critical understanding of the concept of “security” and, in particular, recognize that there are multiple ways of understanding and enacting “security.”
- 3) Demonstrate analytical and empirical knowledge of significant contemporary topics and issues relating to security.
- 4) Demonstrate analytical and empirical knowledge of the material practices and policies of contemporary security governance.
- 5) Demonstrate and convey these competencies in a clear, critical, and reflexive communication style.

Evaluation- To be discussed in class and on OWL

(NOTE: Preliminary and subject to change based on class size):

Attendance and Participation:	20% (10% each term)
T1 Think Piece Reflection:	15% (Due Oct. 25)
T1 Critical Film Analysis:	20% (Due Dec. 06)
T2 Issue Presentation:	20% (TBD)
T2 Final Research Essay:	25% (Due Apr. 04)

Course Format:

Features of this full year course include lectures, seminar discussion, student presentations, writing assignments, and the use of a variety of media. **There is a participation mark and your active attendance is expected.** In general, in the first hour I will usually lecture or we will have student presentations, depending on the week. We will use the second part of our classes to critically engage the main points of the required readings and discuss issues relating to the weekly topic and the broader themes of the course. **My classes are very interactive-** I will not just be standing at the front talking for the whole time. I will often raise questions and engage you in classroom discussion. There are required reading assignments each week- usually two or more chapters/ articles. **All students are expected to complete the assigned readings each week before class,** and to come to every class armed with relevant questions and ideas in order to participate actively. The success of this course for all students depends on your continued participation and collaboration.

Laptop/device use in the classroom:

I love tech as much as the next person, but over the years I have observed that an open laptop or a cellphone in the classroom can become an easy distraction, and students can fall into the habit of surfing and messaging, rather than engaging with the presentation or discussion that is taking place. This harms your learning and it is also a distraction to others. Please be mindful of this, and know that I reserve the right to ask students to close their laptops or put their devices away on a case-by-case basis.

Index of Weeks and Topics

*IMPORTANT: Subject to change, especially in the event of illness or inclement weather.
Appropriate notice will be given in the event of any changes.*

Date	Weekly Topic
PART I- THE BASICS: WHAT IS SECURITY STUDIES?	
Sep. 06	Introduction to the course
Sep. 13	Security: The (essentially contested) concept
Sep. 20	The study of security: How we know what we know
Sep. 27	Referents: who or what is security for?
Oct. 04	Security governance: actors, organizations and institutions
PART II- THEORY: EXPLAINING AND UNDERSTANDING SECURITY	
Oct. 11	*****NO CLASS: FALL READING WEEK*****
Oct. 18	Conflict and cooperation: Realist and Liberal approaches
Oct. 25	<i>(Think Piece due)</i> Security scholarship- Power, Information and Authority
Nov. 01	Making the world we're in: Social Constructivist approaches
Nov. 08	Emancipation and peace: The Welsh School and Critical Theory
Nov. 15	Discourses, identity, and literal stuff: Post-structuralist and IPS approaches
Nov. 22	Otherness, gender, and the body: Feminist and Post-Colonial approaches
Nov. 29	TBD
Dec. 06	<i>(Critical Film Analysis due)</i> Term Review
*****DECEMBER BREAK*****	
PART III- PRACTICE: CONTEMPORARY SECURITY ISSUES	
Jan. 10	New wars and new threats: The Changing Nature of Security <i>(*Weeks with student issue presentations)</i>
Jan. 17	New Security Actors I: PMCs and the Defence Manufacturing Sector*
Jan. 24	New Security Actors II: Think Tanks, Civil Society, and New Media*
Jan. 31	The War on Terror I: "Homeland Security" and Risk*
Feb. 07	The War on Terror II: Pre-emption and States of Exception*
Feb. 14	Security Technologies I: "Smart" borders, (Fire)Walls, and Surveillance*
Feb. 21	*****NO CLASS: READING WEEK*****
Feb. 28	Security Technologies II: Algorithms, Drones, and "Smart" Weapons*
Mar. 07	Human Security I: Food and environmental security*
Mar. 14	Human Security II: Mass migration and humanitarian intervention*
PART IV- CONCLUSION: CONTEMPLATING SECURITY	
Mar. 21	TBD
Mar. 28	Is "Security" even Possible?
Apr. 04	Course Wrap Up and Review <i>(Final Research Essay due at beginning of class)</i>



The Appendix to Course Outlines is posted on the OWL course site.