

Introduction to Security Studies (International Relations II) - Fall 2025 - GL

The Role of the State in Protection and Harm

Mark S. Cogan

Associate Professor of Peace and Conflict Studies

Office: 601 (Nakamiya Campus)

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursdays: 10:45am-12:15pm

E-mail: mscogan@kansaigaidai.ac.jp

Class Date/Period: Tuesday, 1st Period (9:00 - 10:30am), Thursday, 1st Period (9:00 - 10:30am)

Classroom: 2201 (Tue.), 2221 (Thu.)

Course Description/Synopsis:

Security means many different things to people, such as the freedom to exist without fear of individuals, groups, or even the state itself. But it is not just physical security that concerns people around the world. There are rising concerns over economics, the environment, or the most basic things needed for life itself—food, water and shelter. This course explores the multifaceted and multidimensional topic of security, largely in the Asian context. The course is divided into two distinct parts. Part one will provide a philosophical and theoretical view of security as well as an alternative view of security through the modern concept of “human security” and its many dimensions. Part two explores several essential regional and country-specific case studies, from Thailand, Cambodia, and Hong Kong. This class is aimed at first and second-year undergraduate students. Previous studies in political science or international relations surely would be helpful, but are not required.

Course Objectives:

This undergraduate course will explore state and human security in the Asian context through multiple lenses and through prescient case studies. By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- **Understand Theory and Philosophy of Security:** Exploring theoretical and philosophical explanations for security, as well as alternative perspectives on what it means to be both protected and vulnerable.
- **Measure and Analyze Security:** This course will attempt to provide answers to fundamental security questions: How do we define security and insecurity? What factors contributed to the deterioration of security? How can security be restored?
- **Grasp the Country Context:** Students will learn to distinguish histories and events that explain insecurity in different country contexts, both past and present.

Classroom, Literature and Materials:

This course combines formal lectures by the instructor with assigned group work and student-led in-class activities. Before each class session, students are expected to have read the assigned reading before coming to class, where participation is both encouraged and expected. Reading newspapers, periodicals and other relevant material is encouraged. Each session will last 90 minutes, with classes held twice per week. Some classroom time will be allotted to small groups to discuss and prepare for assigned presentations.

Regular attendance *is* a requirement for this course, and is *strongly* encouraged. However, life will somehow find a way to interfere with regular classroom activities, from family visits, illnesses, pre-arranged travel, and more. Therefore, to avoid an unexcused absence, please notify me no later than 2 hours before class. Medical emergencies can be resolved later. Please use common sense. If you are ill, please do NOT come to class. If you must be absent, please notify me BEFORE class so I can help you catch up on missed discussions or lecture points that you will have missed.

Course Readings: Readings for this course have been uploaded to [Blackboard](#). No textbook is required.

Course Schedule:

Introduction	
1 - 9/11	Introductions / Syllabus ❖ Please review the course syllabus, become familiar with Blackboard, access all required course readings and familiarize yourself with the KGU Library.
2 - 9/16	Class Expectations and Best Practices ❖ This class period will discuss article presentations, group presentations and other critical details to better prepare you for assignments and what to expect in class.
Theory and Philosophy	
3 - 9/18	What is Security? ❖ In-Class Exercise
4 - 9/23	The Field of Security Studies ❖ Williams, P. (2008). Introduction, in: Williams, Paul D. (ed.): Security Studies: An Introduction, London, pp. 1-9.
5 - 9/25	Theory/Philosophy: The State as Protector and Tyrant (Realism) ❖ Elman, C. (2008). Realism, in: Williams, Paul D. (ed.): Security Studies: An Introduction, London, pp. 15-26. ❖ Wendt, A. (1992). Anarchy is what States Make of it: The Social Construction of Power Politics. <i>International Organization</i>, 46(2), 391–425. http://www.jstor.org/stable/2706858
6 - 10/7	Theory/Philosophy: The State as an Agent of Cooperation and Peace (Liberalism) ❖ Navari, C. (2008). Liberalism, in: Williams, Paul D. (ed.): Security Studies: An Introduction, London, pp. 29-43.
7 - 10/9	Group Presentation Preparation Period #1 ❖ This period has been set aside for preparations for your Group Presentations scheduled for the end of the semester. Attendance is required, unless you have a valid medical/ family reason.
8 -	Reading Summary Quiz #1 (Take-Home) ❖ Prepare for the first quiz, in Word (.doc) format, maximum 800 words per essay..
Dimensions of Human Security	
9 - 10/14	Human Security as a Concept ❖ Commission on Human Security (2003). Human Security Now. Chapters 1-2.
10 - 10/16	Human Security - Personal Security ❖ Commission on Human Security (2003). Human Security Now. Chapters 5-7.

11 - 10/21	Human Security - Food Security ❖ Quisumbing, A. R., Brown, L. R., Feldstein, H. S., Haddad, L., & Peña, C. (1996). Women: The key to food security. <i>Food and Nutrition Bulletin</i>, 17(1), 1-2. ❖ UNICEF/FAO: The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (2021). (Chapters 1 - 3.)
12 - 10/23	Human Security Synthesis Period ❖ To supplement the previous lectures on human security, questions will be distributed via small groups for reflection and further analysis. Attendance is <i>strongly</i> encouraged!
13 - 10/30	Human Security Criticism / Journal Article Preparation Period ❖ Part of this period has been set aside for preparations for group assignments. Attendance is required, unless you have a valid medical/family reason.
14 - 11/4	Group Presentation Preparation Period #2 ❖ This period has been set aside for preparations for your Group Presentations scheduled for the end of the semester. Attendance is required, unless you have a valid medical/ family reason.
Regional Issues and Case Studies	
15 - 11/6	Group Journal Article Presentations #1 ❖ As a group, please bring an academic journal article (preferably one less than 10 years old, in English) to class. You will be asked to summarize (in about 10 minutes) the article and how it relates to the material we are learning in class.
16 - 11/11	International Organizations and Security Issues ❖ Hathaway, O. & Patrick, S. (2024) Can the UN Security Council Still Help Keep the Peace? Reassessing Its Role, Relevance, and Potential for Reform, Chatham House. ❖ Berdal, M. (2003). The UN Security Council: Ineffective, but Indispensable. Norwegian Institute for Defence Studies, April 2003.
17 - 11/13	Security in East Asia ❖ Hosoya, Y. (2018). Japan's Security Policy and East Asia. Japan and Asia's Contested Order, 177–190. ❖ Cronin, P. & Lee, S. (2017). Expanding South Korea's Security Role in the Asia-Pacific Region. Council on Foreign Relations Discussion Paper. ❖ Duchâtel, M., Bräuner, O., & Seibel, K. (2015). Maritime disputes in the South and East China seas. Trends In East Asian Security. SIPRI. 269-276.
18 - 11/18	Security in Southeast Asia ❖ Eyler, B. (2020). Science Shows Chinese Dams Are Devastating the Mekong. <i>Foreign Policy</i>. ❖ Nijhuis, M. (2015). Harnessing the Mekong or Killing It? <i>National Geographic</i>. ❖ Maizland, L. (2022). Myanmar's Troubled History: Coups, Military Rule, and Ethnic Conflict. <i>Council on Foreign Relations</i>.
19 - 11/20	Group Presentation Preparation Period #3 ❖ This period has been set aside for preparations for your Group

	Presentations scheduled for the end of the semester. Attendance is required, unless you have a valid medical/family reason.
20 - 11/25	Mid-Term Examination (In-Class)
21 - 11/27	Group Journal Article Presentations #2 ❖ As a group, please bring an academic journal article (preferably one less than 10 years old, in English) to class. You will be asked to summarize (in about 10 minutes) the article and how it relates to the material we are learning in class.
22 - 12/2	State Repression - Cambodia and the Khmer Rouge ❖ Williams, T. & Neilsen, R. (2016). "They will rot the society, rot the party, and rot the army": Toxification as an ideology and motivation for perpetrating violence in the Khmer Rouge genocide? <i>Terrorism and Political Violence</i>, pp. 1-22.
23 - 12/4	State Repression - Thailand After 2014 ❖ Baker, C. (2016). The 2014 Thai Coup and Some Roots of Authoritarianism. <i>Journal of Contemporary Asia</i>, 46(3), 388–404.
24 - 12/9	State Repression - Present-day Hong Kong ❖ Maizland, L. & Fong, C. (2024). Hong Kong's Freedoms: What China Promised and How It's Cracking Down. <i>Council on Foreign Relations</i>. ❖ Clift, B. (2024) Hong Kong carving its own path of repression. <i>East Asia Forum</i>. https://doi.org/10.59425/eabc.1706306595 ❖ Overholt, W. (2019). Hong Kong: The Rise and Fall of "One Country, Two Systems". Harvard Kennedy School.
25 - 12/11	Reading Summary Quiz #2 (In-Class) ❖ Prepare for the first quiz, in Word (.doc) format.
26 - 12/16	Group Presentation Preparation Period #4 ❖ This period has been set aside for preparations for your Group Presentations scheduled for the end of the semester. Attendance is required, unless you have a valid medical/family reason.
27 - 12/18 28 - 12/23	Group Presentations ❖ These class periods are reserved for Group Presentations at the end of the semester. Attendance is required, regardless of whether you are presenting or not. Support your fellow classmates.

Class Etiquette:

- Come to class prepared to learn and engage.
- Falling asleep or deliberately tuning out class discussions is disrespectful. If you need a drink of water, coffee, or food to help you maintain your focus, please do so by all means.
- Cellular phones or other mobile devices must be put away--turned off or put on silent.

Learning Assessment/Course Rubric:

Quizzes (x2)	20%
Journal Article Presentations (x2)	10%
Group Presentation:	30%

Mid-Term Exam:	20%
Final Exam:	20%

Group Presentations (30%): You will be divided into small groups. Each group will give a 35-minute presentation on an aspect of security in a region or country of their choice. Your task is to give the class a detailed examination of the security context you selected. Your method of analysis can be creative. This is not a descriptive exercise. You are not assessed on a chronological explanation of key events; rather, your analysis of security, via critical thinking. *Why* is this topic worthy of study? *What* makes it significant and relevant? Audio-visual/multimedia presentations are strongly encouraged. All topics must be approved in advance. Each group must provide an outline of their presentation by Session 18 for approval.

Mid-Term Examination (20%): The mid-term examination will feature two (2) essay questions over required readings, class lectures, and discussions covered during the first half of the semester. You will be graded not only on your recollection of key arguments or concepts, but your ability to *critically* think about the course material.

Final Exam (20%): The final exam will feature two (2) essay questions covering key messages in assigned readings or as presented during lectures. Again, you will be graded not only on your recollection of key arguments or concepts, but your ability to *critically* think about the course material. The date for the final exam will be announced later in the semester.

Classroom Policy Information:

- **Plagiarism** (*the practice of taking someone else's work or ideas and passing them off as one's own*) of any kind will not be tolerated.
- **Disability Statement:** *This course is open to all students who meet the academic requirements for participation.* Any student who has a need for accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss the specific situation as soon as possible (within the first week of class). It is the responsibility of the student to contact the instructor then meet to determine reasonable accommodation based on the official documentation/accommodation list.
- **Syllabus:** I reserve the right to modify the course syllabus at any time, especially if I feel it enhances the learning experience or is necessary due to unforeseen circumstances. I will provide advanced warning of any changes.