Instructor: Professor Soyoung Kwon  
Class hours: Wednesday 9:00-11:45  
Course delivery: synchronous on-line.  
E-mail: skwon14@gmu.edu  
Office Hours: by appointment

Course Description and Objectives

This course focuses on the major debates and issues in international security. Students will be introduced to a variety of competing concepts of security, evolution of security concepts, and existing as well as emerging security problems at the core of the international system. The course is divided into three parts: (i) Approaches to Security; (ii) Traditional and Non-Traditional Security; and (iii) Security institutions. Cases of regional security dilemmas and challenging security threats will be examined closely to analyze, understand, transform, and eventually resolve conflicts that threatens the peaceful coexistence in today’s world.

This course aims to provide students with a solid understanding of:

- major theoretical approaches used in the study of international security;
- significant concepts that underpin contemporary debates on international security;
- different types of traditional and non-traditional security theme;
- contemporary challenges and security dilemmas;
- alternatives to attaining international security in the future.

Textbooks:

Course Delivery

This course features a synchronous on-line format. The class will meet weekly on Wednesday 9:00 via Zoom (links can be found in blakboard – course tools – zoom). Synchronous lectures and in-class discussions will take place during the assigned class time. Asynchronous assignments including the use of a discussion board and group works will be encouraged in a mixed modality form. Assignments and Exams will be submitted via Blackboard, not via email.

Course Requirements

1) Active Participation:
Participate regularly in class discussion while demonstrating that you have completed required readings. The class will be divided into groups on the first day and these groups will be required to give short mini presentations and lead some discussions. Occasionally, you may be asked to bring short responses to readings to class.

2) Short Paper:
You will be assigned to write a short (1,500 word) essay on any subject related to international security based on a journal article review. You can find some sample journal articles on the Blackboard.

3) Midterm Exam:
You will be tested on the mastery of the course materials.

4) Final Exam (Case Presentation)
More details on the assignment will be given on the Blackboard.

5) Group Simulations
You will have a final group presentation on the assigned regional security dilemmas.

Grading Rubric:
Class Participation and Discussion 10%
Midterm Exam 20%
Final Exam 20%
Simulation Report 10%
Journal Article Review 10%
Final Research Paper 30%
**Grading scale:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Points Accumulated</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>97-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>80-82</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<tr>
<td>93-96</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>78-79</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>90-92</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>74-77</td>
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<tr>
<td>87-89</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>70-73</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<td>83-86</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>60-69</td>
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<td>0-59</td>
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**Course Policies and Information**

**Diversity Statement:** George Mason University promotes a living and learning environment for outstanding growth and productivity among its students, faculty and staff. Through its curriculum, programs, policies, procedures, services and resources, Mason strives to maintain a quality environment for work, study and personal growth. An emphasis upon diversity and inclusion throughout the campus community is essential to achieve these goals. Diversity is broadly defined to include such characteristics as, but not limited to, race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, disability, and sexual orientation. Diversity also entails different viewpoints, philosophies, and perspectives. Attention to these aspects of diversity will help promote a culture of inclusion and belonging, and an environment where diverse opinions, backgrounds and practices have the opportunity to be voiced, heard and respected. Please see [http://ctfe.gmu.edu/professional-development/mason-diversity-statement/](http://ctfe.gmu.edu/professional-development/mason-diversity-statement/) for the full GMU diversity statement.

**Honor Code:** George Mason University has an Honor Code, which requires all members of this community to maintain the highest standards of academic honesty and integrity. Cheating, plagiarism, lying and stealing are all prohibited. See a copy of the Honor Code at [http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code-2/](http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code-2/). All violations of the Honor Code will be reported to the Honor Committee for review. Plagiarism means using the exact words, opinions, or factual information from another person without giving the person credit. Writers give credit through accepted documentation styles, such as parenthetical citation, footnotes, or endnotes. All
material used from other authors must also be cited, using Chicago format. A simple listing of
books or articles is not sufficient. Plagiarism is the equivalent of intellectual robbery and cannot
be tolerated in the academic setting. No paper should have more than 25-30% of its content from
another source (both direct and indirect quotes). With specific regards to plagiarism, three
fundamental and rather simple principles to follow at all times are that: (1) all work submitted be
your own; (2) when using the work or ideas of others, including fellow students, give full credit
through accurate citations; and (3) if you are uncertain about the ground rules on a particular
assignment, ask for clarification. No grade is important enough to justify academic misconduct.

**Participation and Attendance:** This is a very interactive class and there will be an emphasis on
discussions, participation and group work. In accordance to the GMU attendance policies
(Section AP 1.6), students are expected to attend the class periods of the courses for which they
are registered. In-class participation is important not only to the individual student, but also to
the class as a whole. Because class participation may be a factor in grading, instructors may use
absence, tardiness, or early departure as de factor evidence of nonparticipation. Students who
miss an exam with an acceptable excuse may be penalized according to the individual
instructor’s grading policy, as stated in the course syllabus. An absence is excused when it is due
to serious illness, religious observance, participation in university activities at the request of
university authorities, or compelling circumstances beyond control. To claim an excused
absence, you must provide proper proof within three calendar days of your return from that
absence. You are responsible for all announcements, group works, assignments, materials and
date changes covered or made in class while you are absent.

**Writing Guidelines:** Your written assignments for this class will be graded according to the
following criteria. The relative weight given to each of these categories will vary depending on
the nature of the assignment, and separate rubrics will be given as needed. *(Note: If you need
writing/grammar assistance, make an appointment with the writing center. I will not
excessively fix any grammar issues.)*

1. Clear and sound content and clarity of argument including: a well-stated thesis, related
   points to support that thesis, and applicable, logically presented, and specific evidence.
2. Depth of engagement with ideas, originality, seriousness of thought, and conceptual
   complexity.
3. Well-organized structure including: text that “flows” with coherent and effective transition between and among ideas; and appropriate voice, tone, and style for audience (e.g. no slang or contractions).

4. Sufficiently and consistently cited and documented; Chicago style citation used throughout the paper; references adequate number and appropriate type of sources; and proper use of indirect and direct quotations and references.

5. Correct mechanics including grammar, syntax, spelling, and punctuation.

6. The proper use of good academic/scholarly citations (both from your own research and from authors/theories given in class. Wikipedia, dictionary.com and other sites are NOT scholarly.

All papers should be thoroughly proof-read before being handed in, and will be marked down for excessive typographical errors. Quality of writing is critical because if the writing is poor, then you are unlikely to communicate clearly or deliver your arguments.

All papers will be in Microsoft Word format and double spaced; use 12 in Times New Roman Font; and use Chicago style in-paragraph citations with bibliography. All presentations will be in PowerPoint format with notes inserted on the note pages below the slide. An excellent source on how to write papers, properly site and use a bibliography is at https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/. You are required to submit all papers and other work electronically via blackboard by the due date.

**Technology Requirements:** Due to the asynchronous nature of this course, we will use Blackboard as the learning management system. You will need a browser and operating system that are listed compatible or certified with the Blackboard version available on the myMason Portal. See supported browsers and operating systems. Log in to myMason to access your registered courses. Some courses may use other learning management systems. Check the syllabus or contact the instructor for details. Online courses typically use Acrobat Reader, Flash, Java, and Windows Media Player, QuickTime and/or Real Media Player. Your computer should be capable of running current versions of those applications.
Students owning Macs or Linux should be aware that some courses may use software that only runs on Windows. You can set up a Mac computer with Boot Camp or virtualization software so Windows will also run on it. Watch this video about using Windows on a Mac. Computers running Linux can also be configured with virtualization software or configured to dual boot with Windows.

**Communications:** In compliance with a University-wide initiative, our correspondence will be only through GMU assigned email accounts. You must use blackboard (BB). Please check your email account or BB announcement regularly for updates, course assignments, and important announcements. Please check the syllabus before emailing me regarding course matters, and contact a classmate for notes. I will not respond to email inquiries that arise from a lack of attention to the syllabus. I am happy to respond to clarification requests on assignments, though I strongly prefer to address these matters during class time.

**Academic Accommodations:** If you are a student with a documented disability and need academic accommodations or assistance, please see me at the beginning of the semester.

**Important Dates:** [http://masonkorea.gmu.edu/academic-calendar/](http://masonkorea.gmu.edu/academic-calendar/)
### Course Schedule:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Reading &amp; Assignments (due)</th>
<th>Discussions</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td><strong>Introduction to Security Studies</strong></td>
<td>Collins, Ch. 1. What is Security Studies?</td>
<td><strong>What is the biggest security concern?</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>08/25</td>
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<td>09/01</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td><strong>Approaches to Security</strong></td>
<td>Williams, Ch. 1 Realism</td>
<td><strong>Comparing the US National Security Strategy Papers</strong></td>
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<td>09/08</td>
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<td>Williams, Ch. 2 Liberalism</td>
<td>US Presidential Documents</td>
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<td>Williams, Ch. 3 Constructivism</td>
<td><a href="http://www.whitehouse.gov/">www.whitehouse.gov/</a></td>
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<td>4</td>
<td><strong>Military Security</strong></td>
<td>Collins, Ch. 13</td>
<td><strong>Key concepts:</strong></td>
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<td>Williams, Ch. 12</td>
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<td>Williams Ch. 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td><strong>Regime Security</strong></td>
<td>Collins Ch. 14</td>
<td><strong>Key concepts:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>09/29</td>
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<td>Koblentz (2013) “Regime Security: new theory for understanding the proliferation of chemical and biological weapon” <em>Contemporary Security Policy</em></td>
<td><em>Uncertainty, Coercion</em></td>
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<td>Williams, Ch. 9</td>
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<td>Williams, Ch. 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td><strong>Human Security</strong></td>
<td>Williams Ch. 15</td>
<td><strong>Key concepts:</strong></td>
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<td>Williams, Ch. 14</td>
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<td>Williams Ch. 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/13</td>
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<td><em>R2P, Development</em></td>
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<td>Williams, Ch. 16</td>
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<td>Williams, Ch. 17</td>
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**Part I. Introduction and Approaches to Security**

**Part II. Broadening the Security Concepts**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Summary</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 9    | Alliances Regional Org. | 10/20 | Williams, Ch. 18  
US-Korea alliances |
| 10   | United Nations Peace Operation | 10/27 | Williams Ch. 20  
Strengths and Limitations of the UN and Peace operation |
| 11   | International Security simulation | 11/03 | Simulation package will be distributed to each stakeholder |
| 12   | Post-simulation Assessment: a Security dilemma | 11/10 | Report Due (Nov. 13)  
Challenges to Collective Security |

### Part IV. Traditional and Non-Traditional Security cases

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Traditional Security Topics</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Summary</th>
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</table>
| 13   | Nuclear Proliferation and WMD,  
Terrorism and Counter-terrorism,  
International Arms Trade, | 11/17 | Williams Ch. 22  
Williams Ch. 26-27  
Williams Ch. 31  
Case Presentations |
| 14   | Human Security Topics | 11/24 | Health, Gender, HR, Refugees, Environment  
Williams Ch. 32-37, Collins, Ch. 10 & 22  
Case Presentations |
| 15   | New Security Topics | 12/01 | Cyber Security  
Energy Security  
AI, Future Warfare, etc.  
Case Presentations |
| 16   | Final Exam | | Case Presentations Wrap-up |
List of Assignment:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignments</th>
<th>Descriptions</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
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</table>
| **Class Presentation & Discussion** | **Round 1**  
Theoretical Approaches to Security                                           | Week 3     |
| **Class Presentation & Discussion** | **Round 2**  
Concept Relay and Security Institutions                                        | Week 4-10  |
| **On-line Discussions**              | Post comments on the Discussion board  
Comments on two others’ posts                                                   | Announced  |
| **Mid-term Exam**                    | Take-home exam  
To be tested on the mastery of the course materials.                          | Week 8     |
| **Journal Article Review**           | Choose an article of your interest from the following security journals:  
*International Security or Security Studies*  
or  
You may choose one of the articles covered in class (in a folder on BB)  
Write a short essay to review the article 1500 words max. and references.  
It should summarize author’s point of view and present your own critiques and perspectives. You can find a sample journal review on BB | Oct. 29    |
| **Simulations**                      | Simulation on a security negotiation  
post-simulation assessment will be made.  
Submit the post-simulation review                                                 | Week 11-12 |
| **Case presentation**                | Choose a security topic you would like to explore in this semester. It should be related to one of the traditional or non-traditional topics that can found in the textbook (Williams). First, discuss the security issue, then introduce a case(s) relevant to your security topic.  
This will be peer-reviewed.                                                       | Week 13-15 |
| **Case Research Paper**              | You will submit a full paper on the case study, which you presented in class.  
Comments and feedback from the presentation should be reflected  
Detailed instruction on BB                                                        | Dec. 3     |