

Huron Brief Course Outlines

Fall/Winter 2023-2024

Course Title: Security Studies: Theory and Governance

Course Number and Section

POLISCI

3353E - 550

Instructor Name(s): Jennifer Mustapha

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Disclaimer: Information in the brief course outline is subject to change. The syllabus posted on OWL is the official and authoritative source of information for the course.

Course Description:

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, 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 global pandemics, climate change, mass migration, economic and political upheaval, and new technologies. 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 foreclose and what do they make possible? In addressing such questions, this course will introduce students to the broad field of Security Studies and consider the always intimate relationships between theory and governance.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the course, students will be able to demonstrate familiarity with the basic concepts and questions that animate the broad field of Security Studies.

By the end of the course, students will be able to demonstrate a critical understanding of the concept of "security" and, in particular, recognize that there are multiple ways of understanding and enacting "security."

By the end of the course, students will be able to demonstrate analytical and empirical knowledge of contemporary topics and issues in security; and material practices and policies of contemporary security governance.

By the end of the course, students will be able to demonstrate and convey these competencies in a clear, critical, and reflexive communication style.

Textbooks and Course Materials:

- 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 on OWL.

Methods of Evaluation:

| Assignment | Due Date mm/dd/yy | Weight - % |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| Participation (2 T average) | Ongoing | 10 |
| Module Reflections (2 T average) | Ongoing | 15 |
| Discussion Prompt T1 | TBD | 10 |
| Peer Response T1 | TBD | 5 |
| Think Piece/ Film Response T1 | 12/04/2023 | 15 |
| Issue Presentation T2 | TBD | 20 |
| Capstone Research Proposal T2 | 03/11/2024 | 5 |
| Capstone Research Essay T2 | 04/08/2024 | 20 |

In solidarity with the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, and Chonnonton peoples on whose traditional treaty and unceded territories this course is shared.