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American Public University System

The Ultimate Advantage is an Educated Mind

School of Security and Global Studies
NSEC 613
Current and Emerging Threats to U.S. National Security
Credit Hours: 3
Length of Course: 8 Weeks
Prerequisite: None

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Instructor Information

Instructor Name: [insert name with credentials]

Biography: [insert link from APUS website]

Please contact me through the "messages" tab in the classroom while our class is in session.

After the course ends, please contact me through the university email system: [insert mycampus address]

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Course Description (Catalog)

NSEC 613 (3 credit hours)

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The emergence of new epidemics and the militarization of cyberspace are but two emergent threats that have raised the awareness of U.S. government decision makers and the private sector about the risk such threats pose to the vital systems and infrastructures upon which U.S. society and economy depend. This course examines contemporary globalization, its links to emergent threats, and potential U.S. responses. To familiarize students with the types and effects of emergent threats, the course considers several topics including the history and future of: cyber conflict, transnational organized crime, terrorism, WMD, state failure and civil war, radicalization of U.S. citizens, emerging technologies, bioterrorism and public health, and climate change. This course is about the politics of emergent threats and does not require any specialized technical background.

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Course Scope

The purpose and scope of this course is to describe the fundamental attributes of current and emergent threats to global and human security, and the ways the current U.S. national security system may or may not be able to address them. Students will be provided with the analytical tools to comprehend and explain the complexities policymakers face in dealing with complex security challenges of the 21st century. The course also provides the intellectual foundation for further studies of current and emergent security threats.

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Course Objectives

After successfully completing this course, you will be able to:

CO-1: Analyze foreign and national security policy challenges since the Cold War.

CO-2: Assess how state failure, non-state actors, and transnational organizational crime impact U.S. National Security

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CO-3: Evaluate non-traditional and traditional threats to U.S. National Security.

CO-4: Appraise threats posed to public and private sectors.

CO-5: Generate new ideas regarding current and emerging threats to U.S. National security.

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Course Delivery Method

This course, delivered via distance learning, will enable students to complete academic work in a flexible manner, completely online. Course materials and access to an online learning management system will be available to each student. Online assignments are due by Sunday at 11:55 pm ET and include all written assignments, examinations, and research papers submitted for grading. Weekly Forum questions (accomplished in groups in a Forum) require an initial response by Thursday at 11:55 pm ET, with all other required responses due by Sunday at 11:55 pm ET. The assigned faculty will support the students throughout this eight-week course.

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Course Resources

Required Course Textbooks

The **required** texts for this course are:

Richard A. Clarke and Robert K. Knake, *Cyberwar: The Next Threat to National Security and What to do About it*. (New York: HarperCollins, 2010).

Peter Hough, *Understanding Global Security*. (London: Routledge, 2013).

Robert I. Rotberg, ed., *When States Fail: Causes and Consequences*. (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2004).

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Required Readings

- John Arquilla and David Ronfeldt, eds., *Networks and Netwars: The Future of Terror, Crime, and Militancy*. (Santa Monica: Rand, 2004).
- External websites and other assigned readings are found in the Lessons area of the classroom.
- Weekly Lesson Notes and videos or audio files are found in the Lessons area of the classroom.

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Evaluation Procedures

The course grade is based on the following assessments:

Discussion Forums – 30 percent

Discussion questions will be provided and posts should reflect an assimilation of the readings and respond to the assigned topic(s). Students are required to provide a substantive initial post by Thursday at 11:55 pm ET and respond to 2 or more classmates by Sunday 11:55 pm ET. Forum posts are graded on timeliness, relevance, knowledge of the weekly readings, and the quality of original ideas.

Midterm Assignment – 20 percent

This assignment is a take-home essay assignment of 2 questions, 2-3 pages each, to test knowledge and assimilation of the course objectives. The exclusive use of required texts and readings from this course is mandatory.

Specialized Project – 30 percent

This project will demonstrate your ability to synthesize discipline specific material. This is a task based exercise. 12-15 pages.

Final Assignment – 20 percent

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This assignment is a take-home essay assignment of 2 questions, 2-3 pages each, to test knowledge and assimilation of the course objectives. The exclusive use of required texts and readings from this course is mandatory.

ASSIGNMENT	Percentage
Midterm Assignment	20 percent
Specialized Project Assignment	30 percent
Discussion Forums	30 percent
Final Assignment	20 percent
TOTAL	100 percent

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8 – Week Course Outline

<u>Week</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Course Objectives</u>	<u>Readings</u>	<u>Assignments</u>
Week 1	The New Strategic Environment	CO-1	<i>Understanding Global Security, Chapters 1 and 2</i>	Week One Forum Discussion and Introduction
2	Failed States and Civil Wars	CO-2 CO-3	<i>When States Fail, Chap.1-6</i> Failed State Index: (Link in the Course Materials).	Week Two Forum Discussion

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3	Violent Non-State Actors	CO-2 CO-3 CO-5	<p><i>Understanding Global Security</i>, Chapters 3 and 5.</p> <p>MAJORITY INVESTIGATIVE REPORT</p> <p>Subject: Al Shabaab: Recruitment and Radicalization within the Muslim American Community and the Threat to the Homeland</p> <p>http://homeland.house.gov/sites/homeland.house.gov/files/Investigative%20report.pdf</p> <p>Threat of Islamic Homegrown Terrorism</p> <p>http://www.cfr.org/terrorism/threat-homegrown-islamist-terrorism/p11509</p>	Week Three Forum Discussion
4	Transnational Organized Crime	CO-1 CO-2 CO-3 CO-5	<p><i>Understanding Global Security</i>, Chapter 10.</p> <p>John Arquilla, David Ronfeldt, eds. "Transnational Criminal Networks" in <i>Networks and Netwars: The Future of Terror, Crime, and Militancy</i>.</p>	Week Four Forum Discussion Midterm Assignment
5	Climate Change and Global Health	CO-1 CO-2 CO-3 CO-5	<p><i>Understanding Global Security</i>, Chapters 4, 6, 7, 8, & 9.</p>	Week Five Forum Discussion

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6	Cyber Conflict	CO-1 CO-2 CO-3 CO-5	Cyber War, Chaps 1-6.	Week Six Forum Discussion Special Project Assignment
7	Security Policy Challenges	CO-4	Understanding Global Security, Chapter 11. When States Fail, Chaps 7-13	Week Seven Forum Discussion
8	Threat Assessment	CO-5	When States Fail, Chap 14 Cyber War, Chaps. 7-8	Week Eight Forum Discussion Final Assessment

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Policies

Please see the [Student Handbook](#) to reference all University policies. Quick links to frequently asked question about policies are listed below.

- [Drop/Withdrawal Policy](#)
- [Plagiarism Policy](#)
- [Extension Process and Policy](#)
- [Disability Accommodations](#)

[Citation and Reference Style](#)

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Attention Please: Students will follow the Turabian/Chicago Style as the sole citation and reference style used in written work submitted as part of coursework to the University.

See <http://www.apus.edu/Online-Library/tutorials/chicago.htm>.

Late Assignments

Students are expected to submit classroom assignments by the posted due date and to complete the course according to the published class schedule. As adults, students, and working professionals, I understand you must manage competing demands on your time. Should you need additional time to complete an assignment, please contact me before the due date so we can discuss the situation and determine an acceptable resolution. Routine submission of late assignments is unacceptable and may result in points deducted from your final course grade.

Netiquette

Online universities promote the advancement of knowledge through positive and constructive debate – both inside and outside the classroom. Forums on the Internet, however, can occasionally degenerate into needless insults and “flaming.” Such activity and the loss of good manners are not acceptable in a university setting – basic academic rules of good behavior and proper “Netiquette” must persist. Remember that you are in a place for the rewards and excitement of learning which does not include descent to personal attacks or student attempts to stifle the Forum of others.

- Technology Limitations: While you should feel free to explore the full-range of creative composition in your formal papers, keep e-mail layouts simple. The Sakai classroom may not fully support MIME or HTML encoded messages, which means that bold face, italics, underlining, and a variety of color-coding or other visual effects will not translate in your e-mail messages.
- Humor Note: Despite the best of intentions, jokes and especially satire can easily get lost or taken seriously. If you feel the need for humor, you may wish to add “emoticons” to help alert your readers: ;-), :), ☺

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Online Library

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The Online Library is available to enrolled students and faculty from inside the electronic campus. This is your starting point for access to online books, subscription periodicals, and Web resources that are designed to support your classes and generally not available through search engines on the open Web. In addition, the Online Library provides access to special learning resources, which the University has contracted to assist with your studies. Questions can be directed to librarian@apus.edu.

- *Charles Town Library and Inter Library Loan:* The University maintains a special library with a limited number of supporting volumes, collection of our professors' publication, and services to search and borrow research books and articles from other libraries.
- *Electronic Books:* You can use the online library to uncover and download over 50,000 titles, which have been scanned and made available in electronic format.
- *Electronic Journals:* The University provides access to over 12,000 journals, which are available in electronic form and only through limited subscription services.

Request a Library Guide for your course
(<http://apus.libguides.com/index.php>)

The AMU/APU Library Guides provide access to collections of trusted sites on the Open Web and licensed resources on the Deep Web. The following are specially tailored for academic research at APUS:

- Program Portals contain topical and methodological resources to help launch general research in the degree program. To locate, search by department name, or navigate by school.
- Course Lib-Guides narrow the focus to relevant resources for the corresponding course. To locate, search by class code (e.g., SOCI111), or class name.

If a guide you need is not available yet, please email the APUS Library:
librarian@apus.edu.

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Turnitin.com

Faculty require assignments be submitted to Turnitin.com. Turnitin.com will analyze a paper and report instances of potential plagiarism for the student

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to edit before submitting it for a grade. The instructor will post information in the classroom on student procedures.

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