



### **International Security in Switzerland Summer 2021**

Core: GOVT 398 International Security in Global Perspective

Electives: GLOA 480 / CONF 385 / HIST 387 / CRIM 485 / CRIM 490 / INTS 399

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#### **1. Course Description**

Students will participate in two classes: the core class and an elective.

The core course, International Security in Global Perspective, introduces students to the broad topic of international security. The course includes an historical overview of international security, examines pressing global security challenges, and assesses the role of the United Nations and other organizations in preventing conflict and resolving international security issues. The elective courses will offer an opportunity for students to dig deeper into a specific set of issues through additional readings and a research project.

We start with a set of foundational readings, online lectures, and related activities prior to leaving for Switzerland. This module is designed to help familiarize everyone, especially those who don't have a background in security issues, get up to speed with the fundamentals of international security and to learn some of the field's important vocabulary. Once in Fribourg we will rely on in-class lectures, discussion, workshops/role-playing, and a fantastic series of site visits to international organizations including NATO, the Council of Europe, and the United Nations.

Our goal is to gain an increased understanding of international security by understanding the historical context and contemporary issues, while exploring a variety of European-based organizations and sites relevant to international security.

#### **2. Course Objectives**

This course offers an opportunity to grow academically, professionally, and personally. By completing the course students will:

- A. Have gained a general and broad understanding of international security
- B. Understand how various European-based organizations are involved in international security
- C. Have an improved ability to critically analyze arguments about international security
- D. Have an improved ability to craft arguments about international security
- E. Learn about the wide range of professional opportunities in the international security field
- F. Be able to reflect critically on American beliefs and values regarding security and other issues
- G. Have a better understanding of the interconnections among nations and of America's role in the world
- H. Become more comfortable navigating new cultural environments

### **3. Course Materials**

Most of the course readings will be available on Blackboard. Students will have to buy two books. They are available at the GMU bookstore as well as online.

#### *Required Books*

GOVT 398: Ian Bremmer, *Superpower: Three Choices for America's Role in the World* (Penguin 2015)

GLOA 480: Nicholas Kralev, *America's Other Army: The U.S. Foreign Service and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Diplomacy* (CreateSpace 2015)

CONF 385: John Karlsrud: *The United Nations at War: Peace Operations in a New Era* (Palgrave 2017)

HIST 387: John Ikenberry, *Liberal Leviathan: The Origins, Crisis, and Transformation of the American World Order* (Princeton 2011)

CRIM 485/490: *Rough Justice: The International Criminal Court in a World of Power Politics* (Oxford University Press 2014)

### **4. Course Format and Process**

The course will be a blast, and it will be intense. We will be studying in one of the most beautiful countries in the world, and our formal studies will take us to a number of wonderful and informative sites. We will also be covering six credits worth of academic material in a relatively short time.

We will break the course down into three components. The first is the online component, to be completed before you leave for Switzerland. It will be composed of online lectures, discussion board activities, and an exam. The second component is the study abroad period itself, which will include three weeks of full-time study, Monday-Friday, along with our site and study visits. Finally, the third component is the policy memo. You can turn it in at any time, but you will have three weeks after the Switzerland portion has concluded to submit your memo for the elective course.

The general flow while at the University of Fribourg will be class in the morning, break for lunch, class in the afternoon, and concluding the day's formal studies with a discussion section. Several "Hot Takes", discussed below, will be due by midnight on their assigned days.

During site visits, in addition to the tours and discussion provided by our hosts, we will conclude the day with a discussion period of approximately one hour.

Finally, with the exception of your mid-term scheduled for the morning of 7 July, the weekends are your opportunity to get out and enjoy all that Switzerland and the surrounding areas have to offer.

## 5. Evaluations and Grading

You will receive a grade for each course. For both I will use the following non-curved grading system:

98-100	A+	87-89:	B+	77-79:	C+	67-69:	D+	<60:	F
94-97	A	84-86:	B	74-76:	C	64-66:	D		
90-93	A-	80-83:	B-	70-73:	C-	60-63:	D-		

### GOVT 398

*Class Participation (25%)* Attendance and active participation in class and during site visits are critical. "Outstanding" class participation would include attendance at all classes and site visits, thoughtful and insightful contributions during class and discussion sessions, and demonstrating respect when offering different perspectives. Typically, thoughtful and insightful contributions will include a demonstrated understanding of the readings and / or lecture material and a critical analysis of the material (as opposed to simply repeating it back).

*Hot Take Forum (25%)* You will respond to a prompt on the next day's assigned reading with a "hot take" (i.e. a 300-word post). The post should make clear you have engaged the work's main arguments. The posts do not have to rise to the level of polished essays but they should reflect an effort to make a coherent set of points using clear and effective prose. You will respond to eight prompts during the course. Each Hot Take will be due at midnight and based on the next day's reading.

*Exam #1 (25%)* At the end of the first week the midterm exam will cover the readings and lectures from the first module of the course.

*Exam #2 (25%)* At the end of the third and final week, you will sit for your final exam. It will cover the readings, lectures, and material learned during site visits since the mid-term exam with an emphasis on the elective course topics.

### Elective course

*Discussion & Simulation (25%)* The main course texts will serve as the primary guide for our end of day class discussions. Each student will be responsible for facilitating one class discussion based on analysis

of the assigned reading. Students will also participate in a team-based simulation of the United Nations Security Council. Preparation, attendance, thoughtful facilitation, and active participation will be critical.

*Critical book review (25%) Due June 30.* each student will write a 4-5-page critical review essay of their course's required book.

*Policy memo (50%) Due Monday 12 August.* The elective course will emphasize independent research. The final product of your research will be a policy memo of roughly 10-12 pages, double-spaced. More information about the assignment is available on Blackboard.

## **6. Blackboard**

Access to [MyMason](#) and GMU email are required to participate successfully in this course. Please make sure to update your computer and prepare yourself to begin using the online format BEFORE the first day of class. Check [the IT Support Center](#) website. Navigate to [the Student Support page](#) for help and information about Blackboard. In the menu bar to the left you will find all the tools you need to become familiar with for this course. Take time to learn each tool. Make sure you run a system check a few days before class. Become familiar with the attributes of Blackboard and online learning.

To login in to the course:

1. Go to <http://mymason.gmu.edu>.
2. Login using your NETID and password.
3. Click on the "Courses" tab.
4. Click on GOVT 398 (Summer 2016)

### Technical Help

If you have difficulty with accessing Blackboard, please contact the ITU Support Center at 703.993.8870 or [support@gmu.edu](mailto:support@gmu.edu)

If you have trouble with using the features in Blackboard, email [courses@gmu.edu](mailto:courses@gmu.edu)

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Pre-Switzerland			
Day	Lecture Topics	Readings	Assignments
May 15 – June 10	Introduction to international security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read the assigned text for your elective course so you can write the critical review essay</li> </ul>	Hot Take 1 suggested due by June 10
June 11 – 20	Threat Matrix	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bremmer, <i>Superpower</i>, Ch. 1-2</li> <li>Coats, “Worldwide Threat Assessment”</li> </ul>	Hot Take 2 suggested due by June 20
June 21 – 29	Debating American Grand Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bremmer, <i>Superpower</i>, Ch. 3-6</li> </ul>	Hot Take 1, 2, and 3 all due by June 29
June 30	<i>June 30 is the deadline for completing the critical review essay</i>		
Switzerland			
Date	Lecture Topics	Readings	Assignments
Thu July 1	Arrival and orientation		Attend info session
Fri July 2	AM: The Geneva Conventions (Bourke)  PM : International Law of War (Dvaladze)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bourke folder</li> <li>Dvaladze folder</li> </ul>	
Sat July 3	AM: Modern debates (Thrall)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>	
Mon July 5	<b>AM/PM: UNODA study visit (Geneva)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UN Backgrounder</li> </ul>	Hot Take 4 due at midnight
Tue July 6	<b>AM: Depart for Metz</b>  PM: Terrorism (Thrall)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Council of Europe backgrounder</li> <li>Thrall folder on terrorism</li> </ul>	Hot Take 5 due at midnight

Wed July 7	<p><b>AM: Depart for Brussels</b></p> <p><b>PM: NATO study visit</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goldgeier, “The Future of NATO,”</li> <li>• Scrafton, “<a href="#">Can the Europeans Defend Europe?</a>”</li> </ul>	
Thu July 8	<p><b>AM: EU Parliament study visit</b></p> <p>PM: Session on ICC</p> <p>PM: Midterm exam (online)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EU Parliament backgrounder</li> <li>• ICC backgrounder</li> </ul>	
Fri July 9	<p><b>AM: Depart for Strasbourg</b></p> <p><b>PM: Council of Europe site visit</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Hackenberg Wikipedia entry</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Maginot Line Wikipedia entry</a></li> </ul>	
Sat July 10	<b>Return to Fribourg</b>		
Mon July 12	<p>AM: Fundamentals of International Diplomacy (Fabian Grass, Federal Dept. of Foreign Affairs and Artem Rybchenko, Ambassador of Ukraine)</p> <p>PM: Swiss national defense policy (Diethelm, Swiss Armed Forces)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grass &amp; Diethelm folders</li> </ul>	
<b>9</b> Tue July 13	AM: The role of the UN in Peace and Conflict (Niyoy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Niyoy folder</li> <li>• Evans and Sahnoun, “The Responsibility to Protect,”</li> <li>• Pape, “When Duty Calls,”</li> </ul>	Hot Take 6 due by midnight

	PM: The Responsibility to Protect debate (Thrall)		
<b>10</b> Wed July 14	AM: Neutrality and the UN Charter (Caluori, Federal Dept of Foreign Affairs)  <b>PM: Festung Vitznau study visit</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caluori folder</li> </ul>	Hot Take 7 due at midnight
<b>11</b> Thu July 15	AM: History of conflict (Thrall)  PM: Post-conflict mechanism (von Arx)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Caluori folder</li> <li>• Von Arx folder</li> </ul>	
<b>12</b> Fri July 16	AM: UN Security Council sim Part 1  PM: Independent study	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UN Security Council backgrounder</li> <li>• Simulation case files</li> <li>• Thrall, "How to Write a Killer Memo"</li> </ul>	Hot Take 8 due at midnight
<b>13</b> Mon July 19	AM: UN Security Council sim Part 2  PM: Final exam review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No readings</li> </ul>	
<b>14</b> Tue July 20	AM: Final exam		Final exam
<b>15</b> Wed July 21	Departures		
<b>Post-Switzerland</b>			
<b>Mon Aug 16</b>	<i>Policy memo is due August 12 at midnight via Blackboard</i>		

## **Appendix: University Policies & Information**

### **Academic Integrity**

Students must be responsible for their own work, and students and faculty must take on the responsibility of dealing explicitly with violations. The tenet must be a foundation of our university culture. [See <http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/distance>].

### **Honor Code**

Students must adhere to the guidelines of the George Mason University Honor Code [See <http://academicintegrity.gmu.edu/honorcode>].

Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.

### **MasonLive/Email**

Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their George Mason University email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account. [See <https://thanatos.gmu.edu/masonlive/login>].

### **Patriot Pass**

Once you sign up for your Patriot Pass, your passwords will be synchronized, and you will use your Patriot Pass username and password to log in to the following systems: Blackboard, University Libraries, MasonLive, myMason, Patriot Web, Virtual Computing Lab, and WEMS. [See <https://thanatos.gmu.edu/passwordchange/index.jsp>].

### **Responsible Use of Computing**

Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing. [See <http://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/1301gen.html>].

### **Students with Disabilities**

Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with the George Mason University Office of Disability Services (ODS) and inform their instructor, in writing, at the beginning of the semester [See <http://ods.gmu.edu>].

### **University Libraries**

University Libraries provides resources for distance students. [See <http://library.gmu.edu/distance>].

### **Writing Center**

The George Mason University Writing Center staff provides a variety of resources and services (e.g., tutoring, workshops, writing guides, handbooks) intended to support students as they work to construct and share knowledge through writing. [See <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu>]. You can now sign up for an Online Writing Lab (OWL) session just like you sign up for a face-to-face session in the Writing Center,



which means YOU set the date and time of the appointment! Learn more about the [Online Writing Lab \(OWL\)](#).

### **Counseling and Psychological Services**

The George Mason University Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) staff consists of professional counseling and clinical psychologists, social workers, and counselors who offer a wide range of services (e.g., individual and group counseling, workshops and outreach programs) to enhance students' personal experience and academic performance [See <http://caps.gmu.edu>].

### **Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)**

The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA), also known as the "Buckley Amendment," is a federal law that gives protection to student educational records and provides students with certain rights. [See <http://registrar.gmu.edu/privacy>].

### **Other Considerations**

If any issues arise, don't hesitate to contact me. During our time in Switzerland, I am available by email and cell phone 24/7 (but don't call me after business hours unless it's urgent!). Before or after our time in Switzerland, I am available via email at [athrall@gm.edu](mailto:athrall@gm.edu) or by phone at 703-993-3724.