Professor Nikola Mirilovic

The Scientific Study of Security (INR7332-0001)
Credit: 3 Units
University of Central Florida, Fall 2021
Time: Mon 1:00PM - 3:50PM
Location: HPH O305G

Office	Phillips Hall 311 D
Office hours	Online: Mon 12-1 PM and Tue 12-3 PM (or by appointment). Please call the SPSIA main office (407 823-2608) to have your call transferred to me during office hours.
Voice	(407) 823-5082
Email	Via the course page on Webcourses

Course description: This class centers on students developing and completing a security studies research paper ready for submission to a high quality peer reviewed journal. The process involves completing three drafts of the paper and presenting the paper in class three times. Students will work on improving their research design and data analysis skills, their presentation skills, and their knowledge of the relevant literature. Class discussion and participation focuses on students formally presenting their work and discussing their colleagues' work, as well as several articles from the extant literature.

Course goals: 1) Students will improve their writing, presentation, analytical and research skills. 2) Students will complete a security studies research paper ready for submission to a high quality peer reviewed journal.

Requirements: The final grade will be based on class participation, three drafts of the research paper, and a dataset summary. Research paper: the first draft will count for 5% of the final grade; the second draft will count for 25% of the final grade; the final draft will count for 35% of the final grade. The dataset summary will count for 5% of the final grade. Participation will count for 30% of the final grade.

Students will complete an original research paper (9,000 word maximum) on a security issue. The research paper should include a research question, key hypotheses, an explanation of the relevant causal logic, a discussion of alternative arguments and a literature review, and a discussion of key findings and of the research method and the data used in testing the hypotheses. The research paper will be an original work that the student produced for this class.

The first draft of the research paper should include a completed research design, including key hypotheses and causal logic, alternative arguments, literature review, and a discussion of how the

argument will be tested (i.e., which dataset will be used and/or which cases will be examined in detail). The grade for the first draft will be based on whether the draft was handed in on time and presented. The second draft will be the completed research paper which includes an improved version of the research design above as well as the completed testing and discussion of empirical results. The third draft of the research paper will include an improved version of the above: a paper that is overall ready for submission to a quality peer reviewed journal.

Participation is an important component of a seminar and it is particularly important in this class as it involves a number of presentations where students will formally present their research project to their colleagues. Students should regularly participate in class discussions: active participation is expected in every class. Quality of participation is also important: quality questions and comments are stated clearly, informed by the class readings (student papers and articles), and offer insightful and original arguments. Students should carefully read the work of their colleagues and the other assigned readings. They should be prepared to identify, explain and critique arguments from the readings and offer constructive feedback to their colleagues.

The dataset summary (800 word maximum): choose a dataset relevant to security studies. The summary should include: the title of the dataset and information on where it can be found, information about the unit of analysis and the time period covered, a description of the variables included. Furthermore, choose three relevant variables and discuss in detail how they were coded (e.g.: the coding criteria, variable values, a description of how the coding criteria were applied to a particular observation). Identify the key strengths and weaknesses of the dataset.

Turnitin.com: In this course we will utilize turnitin.com, an automated system which instructors can use to quickly and easily compare each student's assignment with billions of web sites, as well as an enormous database of student papers that grows with each submission. You will submit assignments through the Canvas Assignment Tool as pdf or docx files. After the assignment is processed, as an instructor I receive a report from turnitin.com that states if and how another author's work was used in the assignment. For a more detailed look at this process, visit http://www.turnitin.com.

Course Correspondence: All correspondence with the instructor will be via Webcourses. I will usually respond to your message within 48 hours on business days.

Paper Lateness Policy: The penalty for submitting a paper late is 10 points (one letter grade) for each calendar day of lateness (i.e., an A paper submitted a day late will receive a grade of B; if submitted two days late it will receive a grade of C, etc.).

Required Readings: required readings include articles listed under "course schedule" below. Students should use their online UCF Library access to download all of those readings at the beginning of the class. Furthermore, the student presenting a paper will upload that paper about a week before the presentation (please see specific deadlines below) for their classmates to read.

Academic Activity and Financial Aid: All instructors/faculty are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. In order to document that you began this course,

please complete the following academic activity by the end of the first week of classes or as soon as possible after adding the course: on the course page on Webcourses, post a brief description (up to a paragraph) of why you are interested in taking this course. Failure to do so may result in a delay in the disbursement of your financial aid.

Course Prerequsites/Corequisites: Admission to Political Science Ph.D. or C.I. Corequisite(s): None.

UCF Academic Integrity Statement: Students should familiarize themselves with UCF's Rules of Conduct at <https://scai.sdes.ucf.edu/student-rules-of-conduct/>. According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct," students are prohibited from engaging in

1. Unauthorized assistance: Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise unless specifically authorized by the instructor of record. The unauthorized possession of examination or course-related material also constitutes cheating.
2. Communication to another through written, visual, electronic, or oral means: The presentation of material which has not been studied or learned, but rather was obtained through someone else's efforts and used as part of an examination, course assignment, or project.
3. Commercial Use of Academic Material: Selling of course material to another person, student, and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the express written permission of the university and the instructor. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes, Instructor's PowerPoints, course syllabi, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, handouts, etc.
4. Falsifying or misrepresenting the student's own academic work.
5. Plagiarism: Using or appropriating another's work without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own.
6. Multiple Submissions: Submitting the same academic work for credit more than once without the express written permission of the instructor.
7. Helping another violate academic behavior standards.
8. Soliciting assistance with academic coursework and/or degree requirements.

Responses to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating
Students should also familiarize themselves with the procedures for academic misconduct in UCF's student handbook, *The Golden Rule* <https://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/>. UCF faculty members have a responsibility for students' education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and respond to academic misconduct when necessary. Penalties for violating rules, policies, and instructions within this course can range from a zero on the exercise to an "F" letter grade in the course. In addition, an Academic Misconduct report could be filed with the Office of Student Conduct, which could lead to disciplinary warning, disciplinary probation, or deferred suspension or separation from the University through suspension, dismissal, or expulsion with the addition of a "Z" designation on one's transcript.

Being found in violation of academic conduct standards could result in a student having to disclose such behavior on a graduate school application, being removed from a leadership position within a student organization, the recipient of scholarships, participation in University activities such as study abroad, internships, etc.

Let's avoid all of this by demonstrating values of honesty, trust, and integrity. No grade is worth compromising your integrity and moving your moral compass. Stay true to doing the right thing: take the zero, not a shortcut.

In-Class Recording Statement
Students may, without prior notice, record video or audio of a class lecture for a class in which the student is enrolled for their own personal educational use. A class lecture is defined as a formal or methodical oral presentation as part of a university course intended to present information or teach students about a particular subject. Recording classroom activities other than class lectures, including but not limited to lab sessions, student presentations (whether individually or part of a group), class discussion (except when incidental to and incorporated within a class lecture), clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving student participation, test or examination administrations, field trips, and private conversations is prohibited. Recordings may not be used as a substitute for class participation and class attendance, and may not be published or shared without the written consent of the faculty member. Failure to adhere to these requirements may constitute a violation of the University's Student Code of Conduct as described in the Golden Rule.

Unauthorized Use of Class Materials
There are many fraudulent websites claiming to offer study aids to students but are actually cheat sites. They encourage students to upload course materials, such as test questions, individual assignments, and examples of graded material. Such materials are the intellectual property of instructors, the university, or publishers and may not be distributed without prior authorization. Students who engage in such activity are in violation of academic conduct standards and may face penalties.

Course Accessibility Statement: The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need access to course content due to course design limitations should contact the professor as soon as possible. Students should also connect with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) <http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/> (Ferrell Commons 185, sas@ucf.edu, phone 407-823-2371). For students connected with SAS, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential course access and accommodations that might be necessary and reasonable. Determining reasonable access and accommodations requires consideration of the course design, course learning objectives and the individual academic and course barriers experienced by the student. Further conversation with SAS, faculty and the student may be warranted to ensure an accessible course experience.

Campus safety statement: Emergencies on campus are rare, but if one should arise during class, everyone needs to work together. Students should be aware of their surroundings and familiar with some basic safety and security concepts.

- In case of an emergency, dial 911 for assistance.
- Every UCF classroom contains an emergency procedure guide posted on a wall near the door. Students should make a note of the guide's physical location and review the online version at <http://emergency.ucf.edu/emergency_guide.html>.
- Students should know the evacuation routes from each of their classrooms and have a plan for finding safety in case of an emergency.
- If there is a medical emergency during class, students may need to access a first-aid kit or AED (Automated External Defibrillator). To learn where those are located, see <https://ehs.ucf.edu/automated-external-defibrillator-aed-locations>.

- To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to <https://my.ucf.edu> and logging in. Click on "Student Self Service" located on the left side of the screen in the toolbar, scroll down to the blue "Personal Information" heading on the Student Center screen, click on "UCF Alert", fill out the information, including e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click "Apply" to save the changes, and then click "OK."
- Students with special needs related to emergency situations should speak with their instructors outside of class.
- To learn about how to manage an active-shooter situation on campus or elsewhere, consider viewing this video (<https://youtu.be/NIKYajEx4pk>).

Deployed Active Duty Military Students: Students who are deployed active duty military and/or National Guard personnel and require accommodation should contact their instructors as soon as possible after the semester begins and/or after they receive notification of deployment to make related arrangements.

Religious observances: Students must notify their instructor in advance if they intend to miss class for a religious observance. For more information, see the UCF policy at <http://regulations.ucf.edu/chapter5/documents/5.020ReligiousObservancesFINALJan19.pdf>.

University Writing Center: Address and contact info: Colbourn Hall 105**;** Satellite Locations: Main Library, Rosen Library, Online**;** 407-823-2197 http://uwc.cah.ucf.edu/

The University Writing Center (UWC) offers writing support to students from first-year to graduate in every discipline. Tutors provide help at every stage of the writing process, including understanding assignments, researching, drafting, revising, incorporating sources, and learning to proofread and edit. The UWC's purpose is not merely to fix or edit papers, but to teach writing strategies that can be applied to any writing situation. Consultations are available for individuals and small groups. You may schedule a 45-minute appointment by clicking the Success Resources tab on Webcourses, calling the UWC at 407-823-2197, or through the UWC website.

The UWC seeks graduate and undergraduate tutors from all majors. To learn more about becoming a writing tutor, please contact us.

COVID-19 and Attendance Statements:

COVID-19 and Illness Notification

Students who believe they may have been exposed to COVID-19 or who test positive must contact UCF Student Health Services (407-823-2509) so proper contact tracing procedures can take place. Students should not come to campus if they are ill, are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 or have tested positive for COVID-19.

As stated above class participation and attendance is an important component of this class. Students should contact their instructor(s) as soon as possible if they miss class for any illness to discuss

reasonable adjustments that might need to be made. If you are sick, stay home. When possible, students should contact their instructor(s) before missing class.

Course Accessibility and Disability

Accommodations may need to be added or adjusted should this course shift from an on-campus to a remote format. Students with disabilities should speak with their instructor and should contact sas@ucf.edu to discuss specific accommodations for this or other courses.

Notifications in Case of Changes to Course Modality

If the instructor falls ill during the semester, there may be temporary changes to this course, including having a backup instructor take over the course or going remote for a short time. Please look for announcements or mail in Webcourses@UCF or Knights email for any temporary alterations to this course.

Grading Scale:

Letter Grade	Points
A	93 – 100 points
A-	90 – 92 points
B+	87 – 89 points
B	83 – 86 points
B-	80 – 82 points
C+	77 – 79 points
C	73 – 76 points
C-	70 – 72 points
D+	67 – 69 points
D	63 – 66 points
D-	60 – 62 points
F	59 and below

Class Schedule

1) **August 23: Introductory Session**

No readings.

2) **August 30**

Ross, Michael L. 2004. "How Do Natural Resources Influence Civil War? Evidence from Thirteen Cases." *International Organization* 58(1): 35-67.

Cruz, Consuelo. 2000. "Identity and Persuasion: How Nations Remember Their Pasts and Make Their Futures." *World Politics* 52(3): 275-312.

September 5 11:59 PM: paper 1st draft due – students A and B

3) **September 6: no class (Labor Day)**

4) **September 13**

Presentation A1
Presentation B1

Paper 1st draft due (9/13, 11:59 PM): students C and D

5) **September 20**

Presentation C1
Presentation D1

Paper 1st draft due (9/20, 11:59 PM): students E and F

6) **September 27**

Presentation E1
Presentation F1

7) **October 4**

Cheibub, José Antonio, Jennifer Gandhi & James Raymond Vreeland (2010). "Democracy and dictatorship revisited." *Public Choice* 143: 67–101

Belanger, Louis, Erick Duchesne & Jonathan Paquin (2005). "Foreign Interventions and Secessionist Movements: The Democratic Factor." *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 38(2): 435–462.

Paper 2nd draft due (10/4, 11:59 PM): students A and B

8) **October 11**

Presentation A2
Presentation B2

Paper 2nd draft due (10/11, 11:59 PM): students C and D

9) October 18

Presentation C2
Presentation D2

Paper 2nd draft due (10/18, 11:59 PM): students E and F

10) October 25

Presentation E2
Presentation F2

11) November 1

Maoz, Zeev & Bruce Russett (1993). "Normative and Structural Causes of Democratic Peace, 1946-1986." *American Political Science Review* 87(3): 624-638.

Ferwerda, Jeremy & Nicholas L. Miller (2014). "Political Devolution and Resistance to Foreign Rule: A Natural Experiment." *American Political Science Review* 108(3): 642–660.

November 5 11:59 PM: Paper 3rd draft due: students A and B

12) November 8

TBA: professor attending a conference.

Dataset summary due (11/8 noon).

13) November 15

Presentation A3
Presentation B3

Paper 3rd draft due (11/15, 11:59 PM): students C and D

14) November 22

Presentation C3
Presentation D3

Paper 3rd draft due (11/22, 11:59 PM): students E and F

15) November 29

Presentation E3
Presentation F3

Note: This syllabus is subject to change at instructor's discretion if necessary. Changes to the syllabus, if any, will be announced in class and the updated syllabus will be posted on Webcourses.