

IP634 Outline - Winter 2013

1 Introduction

This seminar offers the opportunity for students to explore human security issues in an interdisciplinary setting. The course is focused on the application of ideas drawn from your classes to the policy environment. The main elements of the course are a series of case studies on current issues in human security policy and a major research paper.

2 Faculty

Drs. Ken Jackson, Alison Mountz and James Orbinski are the faculty members responsible for the course and will be involved in the development of your major papers and the three case studies. Their details are listed in their separate course outlines. Ken Jackson is the course coordinator, and procedural questions regarding the course, such as questions about absences, requests for extensions, or grade appeals should be directed to him.

3 Course Requirements and Evaluation

This course is focused on student writing and presentations. There is no specific reading list, though background material will be recommended to provide you with a starting point for each of the case studies.

1. Case studies - x3 - 15% each
2. A major research paper - 55%
 - Proposal - 5%
 - Progress report presentation - 5%
 - Final presentation during class conference - 15%
 - Final paper - 30%

All written material for the course must be submitted via My Learning Space, either through the DropBox or the discussion board, as indicated in class.

4 Case Studies

The three case studies will each take a different form, and the specific requirements will vary. Details on each of the case studies will be posted to My Learning Space through the term. Generally, there will be three components. A short written brief due before the class, an in-class presentation of your position, and the discussion that follows. Your grade will reflect performance in all three areas.

5 Position Paper

This is a formal, analytical paper focused on a current human security issue. Students must advance an argument based on their research, usually in the form of recommendations for policy. In other words, this is not a paper that simply 'describes' or 'broadly explores' a particular topic. Topic choice is left to the student, subject to approval by the instructors, but you are strongly encouraged to choose topics that fit with the specific issues that will be discussed in your classes. While final papers may vary substantially in length, 4,000-6,000 words is a general guideline, plus maps, tables, graphs, diagrams, etc. as needed. Where possible, please incorporate any figures or tables directly into the body of the text.

Proposals

On January 14th, we will have an in-class workshop to develop ideas for the proposal stage. All students will be expected to come to class with at least one, and preferably two or three basic ideas for paper topics. We will take these ideas as a group, and discuss how they could be developed into an effective position paper. Active participation in that session is expected of all students.

By Friday, January 25th, each student must submit a 3-4 page proposal for their paper, including:

- A specific question that your paper will answer, and a working title.
- A preliminary hypothesis and paper outline.
- An introduction to the issue, with a short review of the relevant literature.
- A basic methodology, including any critical evidence or data sources that you expect to use.

Paper Development

On February 4th, there will be a presentation by staff from the writing centre on policy briefs, position papers and academic articles. On February 11th, the class will be used for a workshop on the major papers. This is intended to get students to move past the proposal stage, and consider how their paper may be designed in the context of the writing centre presentation. Again, active participation is expected of all students.

Progress Report Presentation

On March 4th, all students will make a 10 minute presentation of their preliminary research. These presentations should focus on areas of weakness, rather than strength as the goal is to get feedback on areas of the paper that can be improved.

Draft Working Paper

On March 21st, students must submit a draft of their paper. This will be used in the Writing Centre workshop on March 25th. Dates TBA.

Practice Presentation

Students will have the option of practicing their final presentation for a limited audience on April 8th.

Final Paper and Presentation

Final papers are due by the end of the day on Wednesday, April 17th (the day before the class conference). All submissions must be through the appropriate DropBox folder on My Learning Space. Final presentations will be done during the class conference, which is scheduled for April 18th. Each student will have 15 minutes to present their paper, followed by a short question period. Attendance and active participation in the entire class conference is a course requirement.

6 Preliminary Class Schedule

Dates and topics are subject to change.

1. January 7th* - What is human security?
2. January 14th* - Workshop to develop paper proposals
3. January 21st - Background material for case study #1
4. January 28th* - Case study #1 - International Trade and Essential Medicines
5. February 4th - Writing centre presentation
6. February 11th - Workshop on paper development
7. February 25th - Presentation skills workshop; background material for case study #2
8. March 4th* - Case study #2 - TBA
9. March 11th* - Progress report presentations
10. March 18th - Background material for case study #3
11. March 25th* - Case study #3 - International Migration and Human Rights
12. April 1st - Editing with the Writing Centre
13. April 8th - Practice presentations (optional)
14. April 18th* - Class conference

7 Further Details

Late Penalties

Late submissions of written material will be penalized at the rate of 25% per day. Computer or internet failure, or other similar excuses will not be accepted. Any students that miss class on the case study weeks, for any reason, will be required to write an extended (8-10 page) policy brief on the topic of the joint class. This is due on the following Monday unless other arrangements are made.

Participation

Students are expected to arrive in class on-time, have completed the necessary preparation, and actively participate in the class discussion. Participation grades are assessed as bonus or penalty marks to the final grade, to a maximum of plus/minus 5%. Missing class without an acceptable reason, or being consistently late, will result in further grade reductions.

Regrade Requests

Regrade requests on any item of assessment will only be considered if submitted within one week of receipt of the mark for that item, and accompanied by a written statement of the substantive grounds for the request. The entire assignment/exam will be regraded and the final mark could increase or decrease.

Accessible Learning

Students with disabilities or special needs are advised to contact Laurier's Accessible Learning Centre for information regarding its services and resources. Students are encouraged to review the Calendar for information regarding all services available on campus.

Academic Offense

You are reminded that the University will levy sanctions on students who are found to have committed, or have attempted to commit, acts of academic or research misconduct. You are expected to know what constitutes an academic offense, to avoid committing such offenses, and to take responsibility for your academic actions. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalty, please consult the relevant section of the Academic Calendar. If you need clarification of aspects of University policy on Academic and Research Misconduct, please consult your instructor.

Wilfrid Laurier University uses software that can check for plagiarism. Students may be required to submit their written work in electronic form and have it checked for plagiarism.