

**Department: International Relations      Faculty: Social Sciences**

**Course Title: Global Security Governance (MPhil/PhD, Optional)**

**Number of Credits: Four**

**Course Objectives:**

This course is designed to explore the scope of global institutions and networks in responding to contemporary security concerns in world politics. Broadly, it focuses on three aspects of global security governance. First, the course reviews key concepts underlying the subject such as security, governance, globalization, sovereignty, authority, legitimacy, agency and power. It also puts the notion of ‘global security governance’ in context of historical milestones of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century. The second aspect relates to the key actors, intergovernmental and non-governmental, engaged in global security practices including the United Nations (with particular emphasis on the Security Council). As an advanced course, it does not provide introductions to various sets of actors but examines these together, for instance, as ‘strategic complexes’ (Duffield 2001). Finally, the course critically reviews the ways in which global actors and networks collectively respond to both traditional (e.g. nuclear proliferation) and non-traditional (e.g. health) security issues. On completion of this course, students are expected to have a firm understanding of global security governance; and, be able to critically evaluate its implications for contemporary international politics, especially in relation to capacity and interests of the Global South.

**Course structure with units, if applicable:**

- 1) Introduction: Using some major policy documents, the focus is on examining the historical background and more recent evolution of what may be termed as ‘global security governance’.
- 2) Theoretical Background: All three terms – ‘global’, ‘security’ and ‘governance’ – are interrogated – to gain a deeper understanding of the subject, and to identify conceptual tools for the course.
- 3) Imperialism and Global Governance: Critics of global governance highlight the dominance of Global North and reproduction of neo-imperialism in security deliberations and practices. The complex relationships of power are highlighted.
- 4) Networks – ‘Complexes’ and ‘Assemblages’: While the United Nations remains the ‘centrepiece of global governance’, its work is increasingly located within a complex network of other security actors such as regional organisations, NGOs and private actors. The implications for global security governance, especially as it relates to the notion of ‘hybridity’, are relevant for both policy and scholarly discussions.
- 5) Maintaining International Peace and Security: The UN Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. However, what counts as a threat in this regard has changed, especially since the end of Cold War. The changing nature of conflict as well as the emergence of new issues on the security agenda is examined.
- 6) Arms Control and Nuclear Non-Proliferation: Thematically, the issue of arms control and nuclear non-proliferation dominated global policy deliberations during much of the twentieth century. While attention has shifted since the end of Cold War, these concerns remain pertinent.

- 7) Peace Operations: UN peace operations are no longer limited to maintenance of ceasefires, and include more 'robust' efforts for peace enforcement as well as efforts to secure long-term peace. This evolution of UN peacekeeping is examined.
- 8) Terrorism: Since the attack on the US World Trade Center by Al Qaeda in 2001, transnational terrorism has been recognized as a major global security concern. While terrorism had been discussed in the UN Security Council prior to 2001, the more recent responses have fermented further debates on sovereignty, international law and the concept of terrorism itself.
- 9) Environment: Even as commentators have warned against the 'securitizing' of environment, the threat of climate change is an imminent challenge for significant sections of human population. Issues such as rise in sea level, desertification and loss of biodiversity are being increasingly considered at the global level.
- 10) Forced Migration: Causes and consequences of growing numbers of refugees and internally displaced persons – and the humanitarian crises that these entail – are discussed here.
- 11) Health: Both HIV/AIDS and Ebola have been identified as a threat to international peace and security by the UN Security Council. In addition, health security is a key component of human security. The emergence of health as a security concern and the implications of this development (positive and negative) are discussed.
- 12) Conclusion: This final class would take as its starting point student contributions (term papers) and conclude with reflections on the key themes of the course.

**Reading suggestions:**

- Avant, Deborah D., Matha Finnemore and Susan K. Sell (eds.) (2010), *Who Governs the Globe?* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).
- Barnett, Michael and Raymond Duvall (eds.) (2005), *Power in Global Governance* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).
- Barnett, Michael and Martha Finnemore (2004), *Rules for the World: International Organizations in Global Politics* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press).
- Bosco, David L. (2009), *Five to Rule Them All: The UN Security Council and the Making of the Modern World* (Oxford: Oxford University Press).
- Commission on Global Governance (1995) *Our Global Neighbourhood: The Report of the Commission on Global Governance* (Oxford: Oxford University Press).
- Diehl, Paul F. and Brian Frederking (eds.) (2010), *The Politics of Global Governance*, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition (Boulder: Lynne Rienner).
- Duffield, Mark (2001), *Global Governance and the New Wars: The Merging of Development and Security* (London: Zed Books).
- Kirchner, Emil J., and James Sperling (eds.) (2007), *Global Security Governance: Competing Perceptions of Security in the Twenty-First Century* (London: Routledge).
- Lowe, Vaughan, Adam Roberts, Jennifer Welsh and Dominik Zaum (eds.) (2008), *The United Nations Security Council and War: The Evolution of Thought and Practice since 1945* (Oxford: Oxford University Press).

Meyer, Mary K. and Elisabeth Prügl (eds.) (1999), *Gender Politics in Global Governance* (Oxford: Rowman & Littlefield).

Thakur, Ramesh (2006), *The United Nations, Peace and Security* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press).

United Nations High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change (2004), *A More Secure World: Our Shared Responsibility: Report of the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges, and Change* (Vol. 5) (New York: United Nations Publications).