

Preliminary Draft
COURSE SYLLABUS
Political Science 300 Section ###
Political Topics: “Security Studies”
University of New Mexico

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PURPOSE Globalization—the transition to a single economic and communication space around the entire globe—has transformed the way that states carry out policies with respect to their neighbors. This course on defense and security studies analyzes contemporary factors, mechanisms, measures and circumstances of national security policies in a comparative perspective. This course is the foundation course in the National Security Studies Program and is open to students pursuing coursework in the program. Permission by instructor only.

RATIONALE The course begins with the observation that traditional conceptions of security are increasingly challenged by the emergence of non-state actors as fundamental elements in the dynamics of international relations. Conventional Westphalian concepts of the international system posit states as the primary actors in the dynamics of international high politics. Collective security arrangements, while they vary in form and scope, typically obligate states to act in certain ways with respect to other states. In the post-Cold War landscape of challenges emanating from hard-to-identify and hard-to-locate terrorist, separatist, criminal and extremist organizations, states have sought to spur international cooperation through reinvigorating collective security organizations. The threats posed by non-state actors are different in essential features from the threats posed by inter-state rivalries. The effectiveness of well-defined alliance structures at confronting state-to-state threats is often measured by the effectiveness of deterrence, which is the ability to avert certain kinds of unwanted adversary behavior. In some cases, the goal may be to induce a particular behavior in an adversary through compellence. (Schelling, 1960) But in either case the goal is not the complete elimination of the adversary. Cold-war era alliance structures were designed primarily to achieve the objective of deterring future threats. They were not designed to eliminate the sources of those threats. NATO’s guiding purpose during the period of the Cold War was to make communist aggression self-defeating and pointless. The Warsaw Pact had just the opposite objective. But neither organization had as an element of its public mandate the complete elimination of the rival. In this regard, the challenges posed by non-state actors such as terrorists are distinctively different in nature. Collective security cooperation opposing these terrorist entities envisages their complete neutralization or elimination. This is a different kind of struggle. It is a struggle that must be waged differently. It is a struggle whose success must be gauged differently. Insurgent movements have political strategies. But, to varying degrees, these movements also have economic agendas. This course on politics and markets is a detailed study of some examples of the relationship between political strategies and economic agendas.

CURRICULUM STRUCTURE AND COURSE ADMINISTRATION Gregory Gleason's office is located in room 2064 of the Social Science Building (Bldg. #78). Gleason’s phone is 277-5447, fax is 277-2821 and his email is gleasong@unm.edu. Office hours will be noted at a later date.

Grading for the course is based upon: 1) mid term (30 percent); 2) studio participation as indicated by studio reports (30 percent); and 3) a final exam/term paper. (40 percent). The exams are a combination of multiple choice and essay questions. Students are expected to participate in the studio sessions on a regular basis. These studio sessions provide an opportunity to interact with the instructor and student colleagues to analyze theoretical and applied problems of public policy.

READING ASSIGNMENTS All the reading materials necessary for this course are available at the class website www.unm.edu/~gleasong/300/2010/2010.300.htm