Human Security Student Conference

Overview

This two-credit course will examine problems associated with human security and ideas for improving US policy in this area. Students enrolled in the course will participate in a mandatory student conference from March 13-16 at Aspen Grove that will involve other students from around the country.

Objectives

Gain a better understanding of current human security issues.

Develop critical thinking and communication skills as you analyze problems and policies and develop and defend new policy ideas.

Prepare for and participate in a student conference analyzing human security and US foreign policy.

Requirements

Participation in Course and at Conference 25 percent
Draft Policy Paper and Annotated Bibliography 35 percent
Final Policy Paper 40 percent

Participation. Participation at all class sessions and throughout the entire conference is required. Fifteen percent of your overall course grade is based purely on class and conference attendance. The remaining 10 percent is based on quality contributions to class discussions. See wiac.byu.edu for more information about the conference.

Draft Policy Paper and Annotated Bibliography. A draft policy paper and annotated bibliography is due in class on Friday, Feb. 17. This is an individual project, though you should coordinate with your group so you cover a broad range of issues and sources among you. This assignment consists of two parts.

In the first part, you should write a five-page paper (double-spaced) that provides initial answers to the following questions: What are US interests in your country? What problems exist in your country that affect the United States? What is the current US policy toward that country, either generally or on a particular significant issue? What problems or costs exist for that policy? What
alternative policy might you suggest and why? You obviously must cover a lot of ground in little
space and should be brief and succinct while still being specific.

In the second part, you must produce an annotated bibliography with at least 10 scholarly sources
(beyond the required readings for the course) on your chosen issue. Scholarly sources could
include high-quality public affairs magazines like The Atlantic, Foreign Policy, and Foreign
Affairs. If you include news articles, you need 3 such articles to equal one scholarly source.
Generally, do not use blog posts; they are often less thoughtful and insightful than articles that
have gone through an editorial process. The sources should be cited fully. For each source, you
should include 4-5 sentences that summarize the main policy arguments of that source, the
reasons given for those arguments, and the nature of the evidence used to defend those
arguments.

Final Policy Paper. This is a group project. Each group should produce a 10-page policy paper
that answers the same questions as the draft policy paper and that integrates the various
perspectives and issues addressed by the individual draft papers. A bibliography should be added
to these 7-8 pages, but annotations of that bibliography are not required. This paper is due on
Friday, March 23. Twenty percent of the grade will be based on evaluations of other group
members of your contribution to this final paper.

Course Schedule and Readings

Note that this syllabus constitutes a work in progress. We will adapt the readings each week to
suit your needs as you prepare for the conference.

We have one required book:
All articles you will need to find on your own within the BYU Library and website.

Jan. 9 Brief Introduction

Jan. 16 Holiday

Jan. 23 Overview of Human Security (H)

Reveron and Mahoney-Norris, Ch. 1
Reveron and Mahoney-Norris, Ch. 8
Rethinking Human Security – Gary King and Christopher Murray – Political Science
Commission on Human Security, Human Security Now. 2003. Read Chapter 1 and
browse remainder of report. See report at:
http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/reliefweb_pdf/node-21617.pdf
Jan. 30  Political Security I: Civil Liberties and Political Rights (C)


Gary Haugen and Victor Boutros, “And Justice For All,” *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2010 (access to courts, anti-corruption)


Archie Brown, “Forms Without Substance,” *Journal of Democracy*, April 2009 (formal democracy but less freedom in Russia)

Richard Pipes, “Flight From Freedom,” *Foreign Affairs*, May/June 2004 (survey evidence; Russians don’t value freedom as much as stability)

Feb. 6  Political Security II: Physical Integrity Rights (H)


Jon Western and Joshua S. Goldstein, “Humanitarian Intervention Comes of Age,” *Foreign Affairs* Nov/Dec 2011


Feb. 13  Community Security (C)


TUESDAY, Feb. 21  Personal Security (H)

Reveron and Mahoney-Norris, Ch. 2: “Civic Security”


Jorge G. Castaneda, “What’s Spanish for Quagmire” Foreign Policy, Jan/Feb 2010


E. Benjamin Skinner, “A World Enslaved,” Foreign Policy, Mar/Apr 2008

Feb. 27  Economic Security (C)

Reveron and Mahoney-Norris, ch. 3: “Economic Security”


Joseph Stiglitz and Lyn Squire, “International Development: Is It Possible?” Foreign Policy, Spring 1998


March 5  Environmental Security (H)

Reveron and Mahoney-Norris, Ch. 4: “Environmental Security”


*March 12*  
**Health Security and Food Security (C)**

Reveron and Mahoney-Norris, ch. 6: “Health Security”


