ANT 324L: Human Securities/Insecurities

Fall 2015, Mon, Wed & Friday, 10:00-11:00 AM—Location: CLA 0.106

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We live in a world that is not only full of dangers and threats, but also one where the nature of the adversities are better understood, the scientific advances are more firm, and economic and social assets that counter these menaces are more extensive. Not only do we have more problems to face, we also have more opportunities to deal with them.


So if, as it seems, talk about security is often unintelligible, then perhaps, we need to ask after the conditions of this unintelligibility.

—Mark Neocleous, Critique of Security

Course Overview:
This course surveys the various debates, concepts, and issues clustered around human security from an ethnographic perspective. The concept of human security is relatively new, referring to a supposed shift in the post-Cold War moment away from a focus on national security and towards a focus on populations. Yet it also refers to a serious of longstanding challenges including, but not limited to, the deprivations of poverty, vulnerability to environmental change, and risk in conflict and post-conflict situations. In short, it is often referred to as freedom from fear, freedom from want, and freedom to live life with dignity. This course will ask what “human security” as a term adds to and enables within global intervention. It will explore the implications of reframing issues such environmental change as security issues. It will ask what is gained or lost when considering issues such as conflict and climate together as "human security." The course is designed as a survey of a range of issues emerging in debates over security and human security today, but also as an introduction to key theoretical debates in the field. To that end, we will explore the various meanings of “human” and “security” embedded in the term as well as the tensions between conceptions of “human security”—as a strategy for integrated thinking about development, environment, and conflict—and “Human Security”—as an emerging regime of global governance. Finally, it will ask what an anthropology of human security adds to existing debates and what ethnographic perspectives on security yield. Students will engage with these issues through academic writings, explorations of policies and response strategies, and in-depth case studies.
COURSE FORMAT, POLICIES, & PROCEDURES

Course Format:

This is course will combine lecture, discussion, and in-class presentation. We will occasionally work in small groups to explore specific cases. We will cover a range of different materials, including academic writings, policy documents, case studies, and films. I expect your full, active, and professional participation in class. This means:

• Showing up on time
• Respectfully engaging with the course instructor and your peers
• Being responsible for all of the assigned reading and materials (this means that if you miss a class, it is your responsibility to do the reading and get class notes from one of your peers)
• Turning in assignments on time

Learning Objectives/ Goals:

Upon completion, students will be able to:

• Understand and explain the origins of key debates around human security
• Articulate the difference between “Human Security” as a program of global governance and “human security” as a series of concrete problems in the contemporary world.
• Use a series of key theoretical and analytical concepts central to human security (sovereignty, capabilities, biopolitics, etc.)
• Identify and analyze key challenges and complexities related to addressing specific problems in human security
• Use analytical frameworks such as political ecology to map causes and approaches to human security issues
• Analyze and understand different research approaches to the study of security and insecurity (e.g., ethnographic vs. macro-political analysis)

Reading Policy:

All of the course readings for this class can be found on Canvas. I have carefully considered the readings for this course. In some classes, we will spend significant time discussing particular readings. In others, we will treat them as background. In all cases, if there is something you don’t understand in the material, it is your responsibility to make sure that you gain an understanding of it by asking questions and raising issues. All things that we read are considered fair game for course discussion and for use in exams. You are expected to arrive at class ready to discuss any and all of the required course readings. The “Recommended” readings are not required, but, should you be interested in a topic and wish to pursue it more (for a final paper, for example) these are good places to start.
Assignments and Grades:

The following is a breakdown of how I will evaluate your performance in the class. More in-depth descriptions, rubrics, and prompts will be provided with each assignment.

- **Class Participation: 10%**—Active, informed, and respectful participation in class discussions and small group work. NOTE—I take this grade very seriously.

- **Reading Responses: 10%**—You are required to submit 10 reading responses over the course of the semester. They will be approximately 500 words in length. These will be graded on a check minus/check/check plus scale roughly corresponding to a C, B, and A grade.

- **Mid-Term Take Home Exam: 25%**—There will be a mid-term take home exam designed to evaluate your familiarity with concept from the first part of the course.

- **Course Group Presentation: 20%**—You will work in a group to write a 5-6 page briefing paper on a specific issue in human security; to create a presentation on this issue for class; and to run a group discussion on the issue. You will be evaluated both by me and your peers.

- **Final Exam: 35%**—Students will be given the choice of doing a final research paper or completing a take-home exam for the class.

Policy on Plagiarism:

I strongly believe that learning is a collaborative venture. I encourage you to study with your peers, meet to discuss readings with them, and, on particular assignments to work together with them. That said, the work that you produce for this course must be your own. Where you quote from other sources, those sources must be acknowledged with quotations and/or text references. There are NO EXCEPTIONS TO THIS RULE and NO LEGITIMATE EXCUSES FOR VIOLATING IT.

In event that you fail to acknowledge others’ work or that you are caught overtly plagiarizing from online or written sources, you will receive a zero on the assignment and may be subject to disciplinary procedures.

Academic Integrity:

You should familiarize yourself with the University Texas Policies

Academic Integrity:  

University Writing Center:  
[http://uwc.utexas.edu](http://uwc.utexas.edu)

Student Honor Code:  

Academic Integrity:  
Email and Office hours policy:
Please, feel free to contact me. However, please also keep in mind that I am as busy as you. Make sure you consult the course syllabus, other handouts, your peers and the course Canvas site BEFORE sending an e-mail. Note that e-mail should NOT be seen as an alternative to meeting with me during office hours. Nor should e-mail be used as a mechanism to receive private tutorials or to explain material that was covered in classes you missed (those are your responsibility to obtain from your peers). To ensure that your e-mail reaches my inbox, include the course code (ANT 324) and the nature of your question/comment in the subject of your e-mail. I will endeavor to respond within 24 hours, though I make no promises to do this on the weekend, so plan ahead.

My office hours are your time and you are welcome to drop by at any time during them. I am more than happy to set up an appointment with you if you cannot attend my office hours, however, I ask that you do not just drop by my office outside of office hours without checking with me first. I may be there, but I will be working on other things with pressing deadlines.

Late Policy:
I strictly adhere to the following late policy on assignments

• All reading responses must be turned in by 8AM the day of class. Late reading responses WILL NOT count towards your overall tally. The responses must deal with the readings for that day. Post-facto responses are not acceptable.

• Group Presentation briefing papers must be submitted by 6 PM the night before a presentation to give your peers adequate time to read them.

• Other assignments turned in up to 12 hours late will be penalized by 1/3 of a letter grade. Assignments turned in between 12 and 24 hours late will be penalized a full letter grade. Assignments turned in between 24 and 48 hours late will be penalized two full letter grades. Assignments more than 48 hours late will not be accepted.

Human Security Resources: These may be of assistance in preparing course presentations and projects:


The Ford Institute for Human Security: http://www.fordinstitute.pitt.edu


3P Human Security: http://3phumansecurity.org/site/

The Human Security Index: http://www.humansecurityindex.org

International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect: http://www.responsibilitytoprotect.org

INTRODUCING HUMAN SECURITY

The Problem of Human Security

1. Wednesday, August 26: Course Introduction

   Recommended:

2. Friday, August 28—“Human Security” and “human security”

   Recommended:

Histories of Human Security

3. Monday, August 31: Structural Adjustment

4. Wednesday, September 2: Old Wars/New Wars

The Concept of Human Security

5. Friday, September 4: The “Human” in Human Security—Capabilities

   Recommended:

Monday, September 7: No Class—Labor Day


   Recommended:

7. Friday, September 11: The “Security” in Human Security

   Recommended:

   SECURITY THINKING

Environmental Security

8. Monday, September 14—Political Ecology Frameworks

   Recommended:
   - Dalby, S. “Environmental Fears: From Thomas Malthus to Ecological ‘Collapse’”. In Environmental Security. Polity.

9. Wednesday, September 16—Climate and Conflict: Malthusian Visions?

   Recommended:

10. Friday, September 18: Class Presentation #1
    - TBD

11. Monday, September 21: Securitizing Nature

12. Wednesday, September 23: Degrading Security

13. Friday, September 25: Class Presentation #2
    - TBD

New Humanitarianism(s), Counter Insurgency, and Complex Emergency
14. Monday, September 28: Counter Insurgency as a “New” Security Doctrine

   Recommended:

15. Wednesday, September 30: Military Humanitarianisms and Counter Insurgency

16. Friday, October 2: Class Presentation #3
   - TBD

17. Monday, October 5: Bunkering of the Aid Industry

18. Wednesday, October 7: Humanitarian Contractors

19. Friday, October 9: Class Presentation #4
   - TBD
   Take-home Mid-Term exam distributed in class

20. Monday, October 12: Complex Emergencies
   - Guest Speaker: Paula Newberg, Government Department, University of Texas at Austin

21. Wednesday, October 14: Geographies of Security and Fear

   Recommended:

   Thursday, October 15: Take-Home Mid-Term exam due on Canvas by 10 PM.

22. Friday, October 16: Class Presentation #5
ENGAGING HUMAN SECURITY
Market Led Development & Empowerment

23. Monday, October 19: Culture and Market Led Development

   Recommended:

24. Wednesday, October 21: Debating the Fortune at the Bottom of the Pyramid

25. Friday, October 23: Class Canceled: Instructor out of town

26. Monday, October 26: Empowerment as Development

   Recommended:

27. Wednesday, October 28: Pathways of Empowerment

28. Friday, October 30: Class Presentation #6
   - TBD

Resilience

29. Monday, November 2: Resilience Thinking

   Recommended:
30. Wednesday, November 4: Against Resilience

   Recommended:

31. Friday, November 6: Class Presentation #7
   - TBD

32. Monday, November 9: Shifting Patterns of Sovereignty
   - ICISS. Forward and Summary. *The Responsibility to Protect.*

   Recommended:

33. Wednesday, November 11: Anthropologist and Witness
   - Hoffman, D. 2005. “The Brookfields Hotel (Freetown, Sierra Leone).” *Public Culture.* 17(1)

   Recommended:

34. Friday, November 13: Class Presentation #8
   - TBD

35. Monday, November 16: Peacekeeping in Practice
36. Wednesday, November 18: Managing Displacement

37. Friday, November 20: Food Security and Food Aid Delivery
   - Guest Lecture by: Erin Lentz, LBJ School of Public Affairs, University of Texas at Austin

**Human Security and its Futures**

38. Monday, November 23: From Human Security to Human Rights

   *Recommended:*

39. Wednesday, November 25: Managing Outbreaks: Ebola

40. Monday, November 30: Class Presentation #9
   - TBD

**COURSE CONCLUSION**

41. Wednesday, December 2: The Futures of Human Security

42. Friday, December 4: Conclusion