POLI 440
Understanding Global Security

Instructor:
Dr. Will Greaves (Fall 2020)

Course description:
The concept of security is integral to understanding contemporary and historical developments in global politics, but security and its study have undergone enormous changes in the years since the end of the Cold War. These changes have presented substantial challenges to many of the fundamental assumptions of security studies, including the core questions of: What does ‘security’ mean? What does invoking security do? Who and what should be considered threats to global security? Whose security are we, or should we, be most concerned about? Who does the ‘we’ in the previous question even consist of? Ultimately, the answers to these questions are essential for understanding the role that security has played, and continues to play, in contemporary global politics, and ultimately in determining the conditions of life and death for people around the globe.

Prerequisites: POLI 240 or permission of the department

Course outcomes/objectives:
• Develop advanced reading, academic writing and discussion skills.
• Address questions regarding fundamental assumptions of security studies
• Introduce theoretical tools to make sense of numerous and contradictory understandings of the term ‘security’.

Topics may include:
Military and defence practice
Human security and intervention
Migration
Climate change
Peace operations

Course delivery: In the Fall 2020 term, this course will be delivered synchronously.