

**SEWARD COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
COURSE SYLLABUS**

**I. TITLE OF COURSE:** SS1773- Introduction to Security Studies

**II. COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Three **credit hours**  
Three **credit hours of lecture and Zero credit hours of lab per week.**

This course examines the role and scope of contemporary global security. It underscores the theoretical approaches to international relations and how those approaches influence decision making. This course emphasizes key concepts that underpin all global security challenges. This course discusses the impact of security challenges from global, national, societal, and individual perspectives. Security challenges are examined in reference to each other and in their impact upon civil liberties. Finally, this course covers the role politics plays in deciding what security means, and who benefits (or suffers) from government intervention. EduKan course number GO106.

For each unit of credit, a minimum of three hours per week with one of the hours for class and two hours for studying/preparation outside of class is expected.

Pre-requisite: None

**III. PROGRAM AND/OR DEPARTMENT MISSION STATEMENT:**

Division Statement: The mission of the Humanities and Social Sciences is to foster an appreciation of the role that the humanities and social sciences has played in the evolution of civilized society and to explore the ways that an understanding of theory and practice in philosophy, the social and behavioral sciences, the fine arts, and written and oral expression will enable students to participate thoughtfully in a global society.

Department Statement: The mission of political science is to study the structures and processes in politics to understand the roles of institutions and citizens in the society, the nation and the world.

**IV. TEXTBOOK AND MATERIALS:**

Williams, Paul D. and Matt McDonald, Security Studies: An Introduction, 3rd Ed. Oxford: Routledge, 2018.

**V. SCCC OUTCOMES**

Students who successfully complete this course will demonstrate the ability to do the following SCCC Outcomes.

- 1: Read with comprehension, be critical of what they read, and apply knowledge gained to real life
- 2: Communicate ideas clearly and proficiently in writing, appropriately adjusting content and arrangement for varying audiences, purposes, and situations.
- 3: Communicate their ideas clearly and proficiently in speaking, appropriately adjusting content and arrangement for varying audiences, purposes, and situations.
- 5: Demonstrate the ability to think critically by gathering facts, generating insights, analyzing data, and evaluating information

**VI. COURSE OUTCOMES:**

Through readings, discussions, reflections, assessments, group and individual projects, and presentations, students will be able to:

1. Understand the global scope of security in the contemporary world
2. Assess the theoretical approaches to security studies, their strengths and weaknesses, and how they influence decision making
3. Understand key concepts and how they influence global security
4. Assess the role institutions play in global security
5. Understand the historical background of contemporary security challenges
6. Assess the relationships between contemporary security challenges
7. Display the ability to think critically by examining articles from multiple news sources
8. Employ advanced critical thinking skills in assessing course readings and in preparation of course written and oral assignments
9. Display written and oral communication skills in developing a research project that applies theoretical approaches and key concepts to address multiple security challenges

## **VII. COURSE OUTLINE:**

1. Introduction: What is Security Studies?
2. Theoretical Approaches:  
Tradition Approaches  
Critical Approaches
3. Key Concepts:  
Part 1: Uncertainty, Polarity, Culture  
Part 2: War, Coercion, Peace and Violence  
Part 3: Human Security, The Responsibility to Protect, Development
4. Institutions:  
State-centric Institutions  
International Institutions  
Private/Corporate Institutions
5. Contemporary Challenges:  
Genocide and Ethnic Conflict  
Terrorism, Counter-terrorism, and  
Counterinsurgency  
Intelligence, Cybersecurity, and Outer Space  
International Crime  
Human Security  
Environmental Change and Security

## **VIII. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS:**

1. Lecture
2. Discussion question and answer
3. Research paper(s)
4. Project(s)
5. Weekly reference to international news outlets

## **IX. INSTRUCTIONAL AND RESOURCE MATERIALS:**

1. Textbook
2. The instructor may periodically supplement the reading to ensure course content remains relevant and up-to-date based on current events. Any additional reading materials and interactive learning presentations for this course will be available via the course Canvas site.
3. News articles and periodicals
4. Films and/or documentaries

## **X. METHODS OF ASSESSMENT:**

Outcome I:

1. Will be assessed by readings, discussions, reflections, assessments, group and individual projects, and presentations.

Outcome II:

1. Will be assessed by various written assignments regarding subject matter.

Outcome III:

1. Will be assessed by discussions, group and individual projects and presentations.

Outcome V:

1. Will be assessed by discussion, research papers, group and individual projects, presentations and exams.

## **XI. ADA STATEMENT:**

Under the Americans with Disabilities Act, Seward County Community College will make reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. If you need support or assistance because of a disability, you may be eligible for academic accommodations. Students should identify themselves to the Dean of Students at 620-417-1106 or going to the Student Success Center in the Hobbie Academic building, room 149 A.

Syllabus Reviewed: 3/8/2021