

# 17.559/17.560

## Comparative Security and Sustainability

### SYLLABUS

#### **INSTRUCTOR:**

Prof. Nazli Choucri

#### **COURSE MEETING TIMES**

Lectures: 1 session / week, 2 hours / session

#### **COURSE SUMMARY**

This course is in three parts with each part consisting of seminar sessions focusing on specific topics. Together they cover aspects of theory, methods, and empirical analysis within security and sustainability of states in international relations.

##### ***Part I: Framework and Approach***

Focuses on comparative approaches to security and sustainability in national and international contexts, with special emphasis on constraints and options, as well as strategies and policy choice. Theoretical foundations include: definitions of core concepts; implications of underlying assumptions and causal logic. Alternative frameworks for theory, research and policy are examined. The focus is on explanatory and predictive potentials.

##### ***Part II: Cases and Comparisons***

Comparisons are undertaken in terms of levels and locations (countries, regions, localities); systems (social, environmental, economic, political technological); methods and models (analytical, empirical and historical); time frame (past, present and future). Coverage includes developing and industrial contexts encompassed in a global perspective. The emphasis on specific countries reflects distinctive patterns of dilemmas and decision.

##### ***Part III: Implications and Inferences***

Many of the issues examined involve trade-offs, inter-temporal effects, and the creation of new problems as well as possibilities. The challenge is to anticipate the possibilities of creating security as well as sustainability.

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

Course requirements include

- The written requirement
- A mid-term exam
- Regular reading of the assigned materials
- Active class participation and discussion

Details about the written requirement can be found in the assignments section.

## **MID-TERM EXAM**

Everyone is expected to take the mid-term exam. It is intended to allow the instructor to give you feedback. The mid-term is take home, open book, and questions with choice. If you do well, it will be counted for you. If you do not do well, it will not be counted against you.

## **GRADING CRITERIA**

The grading scheme follows the course requirement format and will be weighted as follows:

<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>PERCENTAGES</b>
Written Requirement	50%
Mid-term Exam	10%
Regular Reading of the Assigned Materials	20%
Active Class Participation and Discussion	20%

## COURSE MATERIALS

All reading assignments are listed in the [readings](#) section. Other readings may be assigned from other books during the term. Copies of the books are on reserve at Dewey library.

## CALENDAR

WEEK #	TOPICS
<b>Part I: Framework and Approach</b>	
1	Introduction
2	Concepts and Theories
3	Modes of (In)security and (Un)sustainability
4	Local Conditions and Global Dilemmas
<b>Part II: Cases and Comparisons</b>	
5	When People Move or Boundaries Shift
6	When Resources are “Scarce”
7	When Environments “Strain”
8	When Regimes Fail or States Collapse
9	When Wars Happen
<b>Part III: Implications and Inferences</b>	
10	Technology Imperatives
11	Managing Security and Sustainability
12	Design Systems for Security and Sustainability