A. Course Description and Primary Objectives

This is a graduate course in Security and the Future whose purpose will be to provide the student with an examination of the security challenges facing the U.S. and the world in the next 15-20 years. The course will be taught in seminar format with the students preparing for weekly discussion on various future security concerns as selected by the instructor. The primary objectives of this course are to:

1. Examine various security issues that can emerge as global challenges to the US
2. Provide an opportunity for students to increase their writing skills
3. Understand the underlying causes of these security concerns.
4. Examine how these security concerns potentially affect the US

B. Course Requirements and Grading

Required Reading and Discussions: The instructor will suggest reading material from the textbooks as well as handout material as provided by the instructor. In addition, each student will be expected to prepare on a weekly basis a 6-10 page paper on the weekly topic as denoted in the annotated course outline. The instructor will randomly designate a different student to lead the discussion topic. Grades will be based on quality of student papers as they are graded weekly. Quality refers both to content and writing skills.

The first of the weekly papers are due on 07 February and weekly thereafter with the exception of spring break; unless there are other activities scheduled such as a class project. The first paper’s topic will be introduced on 28 January, and the topic discussed in class on 11 February. The next paper, due on 14 February will be introduced during class on 4 February and discussed on 18 February, etc.

There will also be one take home exam.
C. MAKE UP EXAMS

Generally, there will be no make up exams. However, if a student misses an exam for a valid reason (car didn’t start is not an excuse) there will be one opportunity for a re-take. Should the student be able physically to take the exam (not sick or under a doctor’s care) the exam will be given the same day or during the following week. However, no make up exams will be given after one week following the day of the original exam. If the student is ill and can bring an acceptable written verification, arrangements can be made to take the exam. No make ups will be given if the make up is not completed before the next scheduled exam.

Texts:

1. Mapping the Global Future: The 2020 report (CD available)
2. International Security: The Contemporary Agenda (Dannreuther)
3. Unconquerable Nation (Jenkins)

Academic Honesty

The University expects all students to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action.

The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

"Cheating" includes:

(1) Copying from another student's test paper, laboratory report, other report, or computer files, data listings, and/or programs.

(2) Using, during a test, materials not authorized by the person giving the test.

(3) Collaborating, without authorization, with another student during an examination or in preparing academic work.

(4) Knowingly, and without authorization, using, buying, selling, stealing, transporting, soliciting, copying, or possessing, in whole or in part, the contents of an unadministered test.

(5) Substituting for another student, or permitting another student to substitute for oneself, to take a test.
(6) Bribing another person to obtain an unadministered test or information about an unadministered test.

(7) Purchasing, or otherwise acquiring and submitting as one's own work any research paper or other writing assignment prepared by an individual or firm. This section does not apply to the typing of the rough and/or final versions of an assignment by a professional typist.

"Plagiarism" means the appropriation of another's work or idea and the unacknowledged incorporation of that work or idea into one's own work offered for credit.

"Collusion" means the unauthorized collaboration with another person in preparing work offered for credit.

"Abuse of resource materials" means the mutilation, destruction, concealment, theft or alteration of materials provided to assist students in the mastery of course materials.

Students are encouraged to review the statements presented in the Sam Houston State University’s Guidelines that refer to instances of “academic dishonesty”. In accordance with the statement, any student engaged in academic dishonesty in this class will receive an “F” for the semester and will, consequently, be terminated from the undergraduate program.

Your instructor may require that written material submitted in fulfillment of any of the requirements for this class be submitted for an evaluation through Turnitin.com so all work submitted must include appropriate source citation and must represent the original work of the student with appropriate source attributions.

D. Students with Disabilities

It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that no otherwise qualified disabled individuals shall, solely by reason of their disability, be excluded from the participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any academic program or activity.

Students with a disability which affects their academic performance are expected to arrange for a conference with the instructor in order that appropriate strategies can be considered to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

Services for Students with Disabilities (SSD) is located in the Counseling Center and provides accommodations, counseling and adaptive technology for students with disabilities. Refer to the Counseling Center website for more details.

E. Attendance Policy

Class attendance requirements will be followed in accordance with Academic Policy Statement 800401.
Attendance will be recorded for each class session and attendance records will be used to determine final grades in situations where a student petitions for special consideration in calculation of their final semester grade.

A student shall not be penalized for three or fewer hours of absences when examinations or other assigned class work have not been missed; however, at the discretion of the instructor, a student may be penalized for more than three hours of absences.

F. Student absences on religious Holy Days

Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student who is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. Refer to the Academic Calendar for the deadline date for notification by students to the faculty members of the student’s intent to be absent on religious holy days.

G. Use of electronic devices in the classroom and connectivity problems

Students are welcome to record any material presented during class lectures and/or discussions. This recorded material may not be transcribed or copied for distribution without first security written permission from the instructor.

Any electronic telecommunications devices (cell phones, pagers, etc.) should be set to “silent” or “off” prior to the beginning of each class session.

Part of this class requires that you be able to regularly gain access to the Internet. That means you are responsible for maintaining connectivity with a computer compatible with the technical requirements to fully participate in the assignments. Any material submitted to your professor for grading in an “electronic format” must be sent in a format compatible with Microsoft Word or saved as a “Rich Text Format” (RTF) document and you are advised to keep a “hard copy” as well as a back-up copy of your material in case of technical problems or operator error.

A key component of this course will be using the Blackboard Learning System. Each student should familiarize him/herself with Blackboard as soon as possible and get in the habit of checking it every day. Blackboard will be the instructor’s primary method of contacting the class outside of the designated meeting times.

H. Tobacco products

There will be no use of tobacco products allowed in the classroom at any time. Violators of this policy will be warned one time. The second instance of use will result in dismissal from the class.
Annotated Course Outline

28 Jan Introduction and syllabus explanation, student expectations, grading, etc. Introduce paper due 07/11 Feb.

04 Feb 2020 Report Discussion; Introduce topic due 14/18 Feb (1st paper due 7 Feb)

11 Feb The challenge of Iran to Mid-East stability; Introduce topic due 21/25 Feb

18 Feb The limitations of intelligence and analysis in the future; Introduce topic due 28 Feb/3Mar

25 Feb Immigration/migration/world population growth as worldwide security issues; (waves of immigration since the 1920’s including WWI, WWII and other events that displace large populations-Africa, etc); (aging populations in the West, China, Russia, Turkey, etc. whose fecundity rate is less than the 2.1 per female necessary to sustain the population); Introduce topic due 6/17 Mar

03 Mar HIV/AIDS and other pandemics or natural disaster as a future world security concern; Introduce topic due 20/24 Mar (TAKE HOME EXAM HAND OUT)

17 Mar Money Laundering as a future security concern; Introduce topic due 27/31 Mar

24 Mar Human trafficking/smuggling; Introduce topic due 3/7 Apr (TAKE HOME EXAM DUE)

31 Mar Terrorism/organized crime nexus; Introduce topic due 10/14 Apr

07 Apr Evolution of AQ as an ideology vice strategic force on the terrorist battlefield; Introduce topic due 17/21 Apr

14 Apr Pakistan: A failed state possibility with nuclear weapons (US policy implications following the Bhutto assassination and Pakistan’s relationship with India); Introduce topic due 24/28 Apr)

21 Apr The implications of an authoritarian Russian state to US political and economic policy (review election results, oil wealth, etc.); Introduce topic due 1/5 May

28 Apr China: A challenge to US regional political and economic issues

05 May Influence of religion in defining who we are (Will religion define future conflicts?)

12 May Final Exam

THESE TOPICS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE BASED ON CURRENT EVENTS