

CAPSTONE  
GSC 550

PROFESSORS

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COURSE OVERVIEW

This course serves as the culminating experience of the Masters in Global Security (MAGS). The capstone course allows students to explore a contemporary research area or question of interest to them, applying the multitude of analytical tools to which they were exposed during the program. Final written products will be developed individually or in a small group based on consultation with faculty.

COURSE STRUCTURE AND CREDITS

The course is organized around student's interests and engagement with MAGS material, ideas, themes, theories and questions. Readings and other materials will be developed in relation to specific capstone projects and programming. Assignment of specific faculty will be done by the MAGS program staff prior to course start.

The standard capstone will result in the production by the student of a policy memo of 2,500-4,000 words in length. Topics will be worked agreed upon through discussion with the assigned capstone faculty. Weekly assignments will help guide the ideation, research and writing process.

Students may opt to do an individual project that results in some other type of product or publication. This should be negotiated with the MAGS staff prior to the start of the capstone session.

Periodically the MAGS staff may arrange for an outside agency to provide a research question that is best worked through by a group of students. In this case, students will do a group research project that will result in a report of 4,000-6,000 words as well as develop a 30-minute presentation for the sponsoring agency.

As with any online course, but even more so in the case of this capstone, communication with assigned faculty is critical. This is a 3-credit course and students are expected to spend no less than 135 hours of time completing the tasks laid out in the capstone.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the completion of this course, students will be able to:

- Summarize, explain and illustrate key ideas related to the MAGS program
- Identify, recall and apply core theories from the MAGS program to specific issues, situations and/or cases
- Review and explain fundamental aspects of ideas, theories and their applications as covered in the MAGS program
- Outline, explain, recognize and analyze central themes and concepts from the MAGS program as linked to particular areas of interest and focus

ASSIGNMENTS

The capstone class involves a set product, paper and/or project that will be determined individually for each student.

### GRADING

Grading is based on performance on the capstone project and will differ based upon the type of capstone being accomplished. The letter grades assigned are based on ASU grading policies.

Due dates/times – Assignments must be handed in on time using the dates and times indicated in each assignment. Standard late assignment penalties may be assessed.

## Communicating With the Instructor: Community Forum

This course uses a discussion topic called "Community Forum" for general questions and comments about the course. Prior to posting a question, please check the syllabus, announcements, and existing posts. If you do not find an answer, post your question. You are encouraged to respond to the questions of your classmates. Email questions of a personal nature to your instructor or assigned TA. You can expect a response within 48 hours.

## Communicating With the Instructor: Chat

The Chat tool in Canvas allows students and teachers to interact in real time. Use Chat only for informal course-related conversations unless your instructor informs you otherwise. Chat is not ideal for questions about assignments; instructors are not required to monitor it and conversations may be buried or lost.

## Online Course

This is an online course. There are no face-to-face meetings. You can log into your course via MyASU or <https://my.asu.edu>.

## Email and Internet

ASU email is an **official means of communication** among students, faculty, and staff. Students are expected to read and act upon email in a timely fashion. Students bear the responsibility of missed messages and should check their ASU-assigned email regularly.

All instructor correspondence will be sent to your ASU email account.

## Course Time Commitment

This three-credit course requires approximately 135 hours of work. Please expect to spend around 18 hours each week preparing for and actively participating in this course.

## Late or Missed Assignments

Notify the instructor **BEFORE** an assignment is due if an urgent situation arises and the assignment will not be submitted on time. Published assignment due dates (Arizona Mountain Standard time) are firm. Please follow the appropriate University policies to request an **accommodation for religious practices** or to accommodate a missed assignment **due to University-sanctioned activities**.

## Submitting Assignments

All assignments, unless otherwise announced, **MUST** be submitted to the designated area of Canvas. Do not submit an assignment via email.

## Drop and Add Dates/Withdrawals

This course adheres to a compressed schedule and may be part of a sequenced program, therefore, there is a limited timeline to **drop or add the course**. Consult with your advisor and notify your instructor to add or drop this course. If you are considering a withdrawal, review the following ASU policies: **Withdrawal from Classes**, **Medical/Compassionate Withdrawal**, and a **Grade of Incomplete**.

## Grade Appeals

Grade disputes must first be addressed by discussing the situation with the instructor. If the dispute

is not resolved with the instructor, the student may appeal to the department chair per the [University Policy for Student Appeal Procedures on Grades](#).

### Student Conduct and Academic Integrity

Academic honesty is expected of all students in all examinations, papers, laboratory work, academic transactions and records. The possible sanctions include, but are not limited to, appropriate grade penalties, course failure (indicated on the transcript as a grade of E), course failure due to academic dishonesty (indicated on the transcript as a grade of XE), loss of registration privileges, disqualification and dismissal. For more information, see <http://provost.asu.edu/academicintegrity>. Additionally, required behavior standards are listed in the Student Code of Conduct and Student Disciplinary Procedures, Computer, Internet, and Electronic Communications policy, and outlined by the Office of Student Rights & Responsibilities. Anyone in violation of these policies is subject to sanctions.

Students are entitled to receive instruction free from interference by other members of the class. An instructor may withdraw a student from the course when the student's behavior disrupts the educational process per Instructor Withdrawal of a Student for Disruptive Classroom Behavior.

Appropriate online behavior (also known as netiquette) is defined by the instructor and includes keeping course discussion posts focused on the assigned topics. Students must maintain a cordial atmosphere and use tact in expressing differences of opinion. Inappropriate discussion board posts may be deleted by the instructor.

The Office of Student Rights and Responsibilities accepts **incident reports** from students, faculty, staff, or other persons who believe that a student or a student organization may have violated the Student Code of Conduct.

### Prohibition of Commercial Note Taking Services

In accordance with ACD 304-06 Commercial Note Taking Services, written permission must be secured from the official instructor of the class in order to sell the instructor's oral communication in the form of notes. Notes must have the notetaker's name as well as the instructor's name, the course number, and the date.

### Course Evaluation

Students are expected to complete the course evaluation. The feedback provides valuable information to the instructor and the college and is used to improve student learning. Students are notified when the online evaluation form is available.

### Syllabus Disclaimer

The syllabus is a statement of intent and serves as an implicit agreement between the instructor and the student. Every effort will be made to avoid changing the course schedule, but the possibility exists that unforeseen events will make syllabus changes necessary. Please remember to check your ASU email and the course site often.

### Accessibility Statement

In compliance with the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, Section 504, and the Americans with Disabilities Act as amended (ADAAA) of 2008, professional disability specialists and support staff at the Disability Resource Center (DRC) facilitate a comprehensive range of academic support services and accommodations for qualified students with disabilities.

Qualified students with disabilities may be eligible to receive academic support services and

accommodations. Eligibility is based on qualifying disability documentation and assessment of individual need. Students who believe they have a current and essential need for disability accommodations are responsible for requesting accommodations and providing qualifying documentation to the DRC. Every effort is made to provide reasonable accommodations for qualified students with disabilities.

Qualified students who wish to request an accommodation for a disability should contact the DRC by going to <https://eoss.asu.edu/drc>, calling (480) 965-1234 or emailing DRC@asu.edu. To speak with a specific office, please use the following information:

<b>ASU Online and Downtown Phoenix Campus</b> University Center Building, Suite 160 602-496-4321 (Voice)	<b>Polytechnic Campus</b> 480-727-1165 (Voice)
<b>West Campus</b> University Center Building (UCB), Room 130 602-543-8145 (Voice)	Tempe Campus 480-965-1234 (Voice)

### Title IX

Title IX is a federal law that provides that no person be excluded on the basis of sex from participation in, be denied benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity. Both Title IX and university policy make clear that sexual violence and harassment based on sex is prohibited. An individual who believes they have been subjected to sexual violence or harassed on the basis of sex can seek support, including counseling and academic support, from the university. If you or someone you know has been harassed on the basis of sex or sexually assaulted, you can find information and resources at:

<https://sexualviolenceprevention.asu.edu/faqs>.

As a mandated reporter, I am obligated to report any information I become aware of regarding alleged acts of sexual discrimination, including sexual violence and dating violence. ASU Counseling Services, <https://eoss.asu.edu/counseling>, is available if you wish discuss any concerns confidentially and privately.

### Computer Requirements

This course requires a computer with Internet access and the following:  
Web browsers ([Chrome](#), [Internet Explorer](#), [Mozilla Firefox](#), or [Safari](#))  
[Adobe Acrobat Reader \(free\)](#)  
[Adobe Flash Player \(free\)](#)  
Microphone (optional) and speaker

### Technical Support

This course uses Canvas to deliver content. It can be accessed through MyASU at <http://my.asu.edu> or the Canvas home page at <https://myasucourses.asu.edu>

To monitor the status of campus networks and services, visit the System Health Portal at <http://syshealth.asu.edu/>.

To contact the help desk call toll-free at 1-855-278-5080.

### Student Success

This is an online course. To be successful:

- Check the course daily
- Read announcements
- Read and respond to course email messages as needed

- Complete assignments by the due dates specified
- Communicate regularly with your instructor and peers
- Create a study and/or assignment schedule to stay on track