International and Global Security
Peer Discussion

What is security?
International Security

- What is security?
  - Freedom from threats to core values?

- Contestation over referent object: Individual? State? System?

- How is security achieved?
  - State interests versus common security
International Security

- During Cold War, security = national security = military capabilities

- Too Narrow?
  - Buzan: political, economic, societal, environmental as well as military security
  - Does Globalization mean a greater need to focus on societal security?
  - Global, rather than national, threats
Theory and Security

Classical Realism
- Humans and the international system are brutal
- Security is a pipe dream

Neorealism
- Anarchic system does not allow for security; structure drives insecurity
- Intentions of other states cannot be known, state survival cannot be assured
- Bipolar system = most secure
Theory and Security

- Neoliberal Institutionalism
  - Institutions can help states enhance security
  - Institutions provide information, reduce transaction costs, makes commitments more credible, and facilitates reciprocity

Image courtesy of Beckendorf on flickr. License CC BY.
Theory and Security

- Constructivist
  - Security is the product of social reality rather than just material reality
  - Security dilemma is the product of intersubjective understandings
  - Security as politics
    - Security = referent object + existential threat
Theory and Security

- Critical Security Studies
  - De-emphasize the state
    - Often, the state is the cause of insecurity (Tilly: State as protection racket)
  - Emancipative and normative, not problem solving
- Feminism
  - Security protects male-dominated social order (e.g. myth of protection)
- Post-modern
  - Realism is a discourse of power and rule
  - Change the software: change the way we talk about international security
Peer Discussion

What is the cost of security?
Global Security

- Some security issues transcend the interstate system
  - Environmental problems (climate change)
  - Poverty
  - Weapons of Mass Destruction

- Some security issues arise out of the breakdown of states
  - Crime
  - Terrorism
  - Ungoverned spaces

Image courtesy of futureatlas.com. License CC BY.