

**New Approaches to International Peace and Security:
Active Learning of Innovation and Digital Tools
Spring/Summer 2025
Tuesdays, 8:45-10:30am
Classroom 23**

Syllabus

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OVERVIEW

This course introduces cutting-edge tools and approaches for analyzing and responding to collective threats. Students will learn the basics of crisis mapping, data analysis, and open source intelligence (OSINT) and interact with guest lecturers from the UN, research institutes, and aid groups online or in person. At the beginning of the course, they will participate in the International Humanitarian Mapathon. The final assignment will be a Speculative Design contest in class. No prior knowledge or training is required. Reading materials and in-class active learning exercises will be provided.

INSTRUCTOR CREDENTIALS

The instructor holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from the City University of New York (New York, NY) and an M.A. in Law and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School (Medford, MA). She has since worked with the UN Development Fund for Women (which was subsequently transformed into UN Women), the Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum at the Social Science Research Council, and the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, as well as the Department of Peace Operations. Her expertise includes conflict resolution, peace operations, and peacebuilding.

GOALS

The goal of this course is to enable students to think and act creatively in responding to issues

of global scale and concern. By the end of the semester, students will be able to:

- Gain insights into alternative concepts and techniques in the study of international relations
- Improve critical thinking and research skills
- Be able to verify facts using online tools

RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER COURSES

This class will be complimentary to other courses offered in the areas of international organizations, international security, international human rights and humanitarian laws, and global governance, as well as subjects under the preview of the new Faculty of Social Data Science.

SCHEDULE

Part I: Crisis Mapping (International Humanitarian Mapathon with UCLA, the Univ. of Southern California, and Reitaku Univ)

Session 1 (15 April): Introduction to crisis mapping + International Humanitarian Mapathon

Step 1 (self-introduction on Padlet)

Session 2 (22 April): International Humanitarian Mapathon Step 2 (map/story creation)

Session 3 (29 April): International Humanitarian Mapathon Step 3 (map/story submission)

30 April is the international meetup day! We will connect Japan, the US, Mexico, and the Philippines from 10 am to 11 am with a speaker from the UN and an award for the best map. Further details to be announced. <https://mapathon.la/en/>

Part II: Working with Data

Session 4 (9 May): Data and Conflict Analysis – Afghanistan Case Study

Armed Conflict Location and Event Data (ACLED), “*The World According to the Taliban: New Data on Afghanistan*” (2019), “*ACLED Methodology and Coding Decisions around Political Violence and Demonstrations in Afghanistan* (2022)

Session 5 (13 May): Digital Solutions for Humanitarian Emergencies with a guest speaker from the United Nations

Part III: Open Source Intelligence (OSINT)

Session 6 (20 May): Introduction to OSINT

Session 7 (27 May): OSINT Training I - Social Media Analysis

Session 8 (3 June): OSINT Training II - Satellite Imagery Analysis

Session 9 (10 June): Misinformation and disinformation

Part IV: AI and VR for Peace

Session 10 (17 June): Digital Tools for Conflict Resolution

Session 11 (24 June): Virtual Reality

Part V: Future Design

Session 12 (1 July): Speculative Design Concept and Practice

Session 13 (8 July): Speculative Design Contest

15 July Paper due

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

Participation (30%): Read assigned readings before each class, participate actively in class discussions, and complete in-class active learning exercises.

International Humanitarian Mapathon (20%): Participate in the international online collaboration project to create a disaster map (further details to be announced in class).

Speculative Design Contest (20%): Draw a solution to a future crisis (further details to be announced in class).

Final Project (30%): Write a brief investigative paper (5 pages, double-spaced) on a topic of your choice, applying one of the techniques discussed in this course.

Reference materials

Reading: Berkeley Protocol on Digital Open Source Investigations (UC Berkeley Human Rights Center and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, 2022) - read II Principles, V Preparation, and VI Process)

<https://advocacyassembly.org/en/courses/>

<https://academy.iwpr.net/digital-journalism/open-source-investigations-human-rights-defenders>