



Course Overview

Human Security

Professor: Shahrbanou Tadjbakhsh

Session: July

Language of instruction: English

Summary

The problems facing global citizens are multi-dimensional. In today's interconnected world, the concept of security extends well beyond the traditional analysis of the military actions and diplomatic policies of nation-states. The multiple crises of recent years have sharpened our focus on global inter-dependence and mutual vulnerability among people and nations. Cycles of financial crisis, pandemics, natural calamities, enduring and escalating wars, and rising food prices have not only brought havoc to the security and economy of nation-states and regional systems, but have resulted in disastrous consequences for the survival, well-being and dignity of individuals across national boundaries, often in a domino effect.

In this course, students will analyze international relations through the lens of human security, a topic at the intersection of the fields of security, economic development and human rights. The course will present a holistic worldview in which it is impossible to separate the effects of food security from environmental security, economic security from human dignity, and political security from violence and personal security. Over the course of four weeks, students will examine each of these topics in depth and assess how progress made in one of these areas simultaneously affects others— both positively and negatively. Students will not only develop a comprehensive understanding of the many issues that comprise human security, but also the tools to imagine innovative strategies to combat the problems faced by systems and individuals.

Professor biography



Shahrbanou Tadjbakhsh, is a leading expert in human security, and the head of the Human Security Specialization at Sciences Po's Master of Public Affairs. She is the author of numerous books and articles on human security and is an expert on Afghanistan, Central Asia, human development and human security. With over two decades of experience with the United Nations, Professor Tadjbakhsh has played an essential role as part of the Human Security Unit of the United Nations, where she has worked to develop a manual for human security practitioners and conducted numerous trainings for UN staff and the government.

Since 2010, Tadjbakhsh has worked as a consultant for the UN Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia, focusing on implementing the Global UN Counter Terrorism Strategy among the countries of Central Asia. She has also served since 2010 as a Research Associate with the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), where she is writing a book on regional security complexes around Afghanistan. She is co-author of *Human Security: Concepts and Implications* (Routledge, 2007) and editor of the book *Rethinking the Liberal Peace: External Models and Local Alternatives* (Routledge 2011). She has taught at Columbia University and has been a visiting professor or researcher at universities in Kabul, New Delhi, Pretoria, Moscow and Dushanbe. Between 1993 and 2003, she worked at the United Nations Development Program.