At the end of this session, you should be able to understand

- Guest speaker Prof. Eduardo Mendieta will talk about militarization in the global age
- What is militarism/militarization and its history?
- What is national security?
- What makes a country secure in a global age?
- What is the role of the media and government propaganda to spread militaristic values and patriotism?
- What is the role of hegemonic powers?
- Is the U.S. becoming militarized? Countertrends?

History of the Globalization of Violence and Conflict
- European and U.S. imperial territorial and economic expansion drove globalization of military affairs
- New technologies of steamship, railroad, telegraph shrunk the geopolitical space
- “Firepower gap” aided the European and U.S. imperial expansion in Africa, Asia, Middle East, China, and Latin America in the 19th and 20th century. Now military technologies permit global annihilation and make war preparation constant
- With the 20th century began a true "Age of global conflict" WWI, WWII, Cold War ➔ birth of total and global wars based on geographic scope, mobilization of entire societies, scale of warfare around globe
- Cold War divided globe into two rival camps, but also unified it under threat of nuclear Armageddon
- Global arms trade and weapons proliferation is part of ongoing military globalization
- U.S. (and its allies) now are developing a “global regime blueprint” to govern world security affairs ➔ "War on Terror" & “War on WMD Proliferation” ➔ War to secure Hegemony if not New Empire of THE WEST (mainly U.S.) and its ideology & life style ➔ read the U.S. National Security Strategy & “Bush Doctrine” of permanent global military superiority
- Post-Cold War resurgence of ethnic and nationalist conflict and September 11 signals globalization of informal violence where networks of non-state actors (AlQuaeda) are operating on intercontinental basis

Militarism

- Global military spending exceeds $1 trillion annually
- U.S. defense budget for 2000 was $291 billion or about $2,000 for each person in the United States
- Factors underlying military spending
  The Cold War era confrontation U.S. vs. Soviet Union
  Post-Cold War redefinition of U.S. hegemony ➔ "Bush Doctrine"
  ➔ remain unchallenged superpower
  ➔ pre-emptive & preventive strikes
  ➔ unilateral if necessary, multilateral if possible
Military-industrial complex = political alliance involving the federal government, the Pentagon & U.S. defense industries

Militarization
- War and armament is “big business” in the U.S. “military-industrial complex.”
- Politicians, media, states, regions, unions, employees involved in bidding for military “pork” b/c it creates jobs, income, taxes, votes. BUT neglected are its costs, i.e. unproductive investment in destructive technology, environmental damage, corruption, overbilling, fraud…
- U.S. spends 4% of its GNP for military expenses = 400+ billion $ (Iraq expenses NOT counted). Foreign aid only 1/38th of military expenditures
- Western nations historically (Cold War) involved in militarization and weapons production—now in search of new potential or real “threats” and “enemies” to legitimate military expenditures and arms sales
- Arms sales are used as diplomatic “stick & carrot.” Example: NATO East expansion
- Global effects of militarization: continuous under-development, inequality, fueling of conflicts, ecological footprint maintains a negative balance

What is National Security?
- Territorial Integrity
- Preserving a given system of Government (Democracy, Rule of Law, Liberties…)
- Safety of American Citizens
- Protection of Strategic Interests
- Protection of Values and Ideals
- Economic Security & Prosperity
Can security in a global age defined as only "national" security?

Global Security Issues
- Economic: debt burden, adverse conditions of trade, inequality, poverty, technological gap, North-South and South-South conflicts, development
- Ecological: soil erosion, deforestation, desertification, depletion of fresh water, Ozone hole, pollution
- Human and Social: overpopulation, disease, famine, discrimination, violence against women, cultural violence, refugees
- Political: common security, racial and ethnic conflicts, WMD proliferation, militarism, militarization of space