Global Security in the Post-Apocalypse

This class is a survival guide for the apocalypse. However not a coming apocalypse like those on TV, the actual apocalypse. Crumbling nation-states, cataclysmic storms, life long debt, sci-fi total surveillance, ever-present terrorist threats, emerging diseases, nuclear meltdowns, melting ice caps, robot warriors... We no longer live in an era in which economic, environmental, criminal, and international problems can be dealt with separately. Instead, we live in an increasingly complex world where each crisis seems to amplify or mutate the other. So those who think that we are on the verge of global crisis are not paying attention. The apocalypse is already here. But apocalypse does not mean the end of the world. The word apocalypse actually means a break from a previous world and a transition to something new. If we want to understand global security in the post-apocalypse we have to become experts on how things work now and where they are headed even when these new challenges have little resemblance to how things used to be. So it is time to learn to live with and in what we have inherited. The course is broken up broadly into six sections. The sections: War, Drugs, Networks, Economies, and Climates, are each a crash course in the major challenges confronting global politics. The final section, Living in The Post-Apocalypse ask each of you to consider how we will tackle these global issues. Are existing governments and international institutions up to the task? Should we build walls and withdraw or forge new solidarities and alliances? The course is designed so that you, the students, can begin thinking about how you will design the future that is before us. If that sounds like something you might want to try than this is the class for you.
Requirements:
Participation: Attendance is a prerequisite of participation and a requirement of the class. If you miss more than two classes you need to have a verifiable reason.

Readings: I am not going to teach directly from the readings but I will presume that you have read them. So it is very important that you come to class prepared to discuss the major questions provoked by the readings. The take home exams will also require that you draw on the readings to support your answers. Therefore it is important to keep up.

Exams: There will be a midterm and final exam. They will both be take home exams. They will take the form of simulations. You will be given a packet of information regarding a particular global threat and you will have to prepare a short proposal regarding how best to prepare for the potential hazard.

Required Readings:

David Kilcullen, Out of the Mountains: The Coming Age of the Urban Guerrilla
Anabel Hernandez, Narcoland: The Mexican Drug Lords and Their Godfathers
Ronald J. Deibert, Black Code: Inside the Battle for Cyberspace
Mark Blyth, Austerity: The History of a Dangerous Idea
Clive Hamilton, Earthmasters: The Dawn of the Age of Climate Engineering
William E. Connolly, The Fragility of Things.
David Graeber, The Democracy Project: A History, A Crisis, a Movement

Reading Schedule
Wars
Week 1:
Kilcullen, Out of the Mountains, 1-75

Week 2:
Kilcullen, 100-175

Drugs
week 3:
Hernandez, Narcoland, 1-75

Week 4:
Hernandez, 100-175
Networks
Week 5:
Deibert, Black Code, 1-80

Week 6:
Black Code, 100-180

Economies
Week 7:
Blyth, Austerity, 1-75

Week 8:
Blyth, 100-180.

Climates
Week 9:
Hamilton, Earthmasters: 1-80

Week 10:
Hamilton, 100-80

Learning to Live in the Post-Apocalypse
Week 11:
Connolly, The Fragility of Things, 1-60

Week 12:
Connolly, 61-121

Week 13:
Connolly, 122-182

Week 14:
Graeber, The Democracy Project, 1-80

Week 15
Graeber, 100-180