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DURHAM, N.H. – The public is invited to participate in a forum exploring the use of force in today’s world led by four University of New Hampshire political science students Thursday, Oct. 16, 2003, at 7:30 p.m. in Murkland 115.

The nonpartisan event is sponsored by the Department of Political Science. It will be moderated by Richard Ager, a reporter for New Hampshire Public Television’s nightly newsmagazine NH Outlook. The forum is part of a national effort, “The People Speak: America Debates Its Role in the World,” to stimulate dialogue about the future of U.S. foreign policy.

The presenting students are Meghan McPherson, a senior from Derry; Matt Garascia, a junior from Auburn, Maine; Lindsay Straw, a graduate student from Freedom; and J.P. Boyle, a senior from Stratham. They will present a view on one of four topics: the preemptive use of force, military intervention, the role of international law and the United Nations, and multilateral or unilateral action. After a brief discussion among the presenting students, the audience will be invited to ask questions.

“The use of military force is a major issue in any administration’s foreign policy, and these are topics we believe the public needs to consider carefully,” says Lionel Ingram, political science instructor at UNH and organizer of the forum. “The goal is to have people leave the forum thinking about what they’ve heard as opposed to having made up their mind. These students are not presenting the answer, but trying to help people understand the complexities surrounding these issues.”