



Course information 2018–19

IR3140 Security in international relations

This course provides insights and understanding of order and stability both within and between states. A common misunderstanding is to equate security with defence, but the security agenda is much broader than this and now includes along side questions of force and military preparedness, problems and policies to do with human and minority rights, migration, poverty, the environment, and other societal issues. Security in international relations is increasingly concerned not only with the safety of states but also of the peoples within them. What students take away from this course is an understanding of security as a core value of human life and an awareness that security policies will vary depending upon how one answers the key questions: security in (or of) what; security from what; and security by what means.

Prerequisite

If taken as part of a BSc degree, courses which must be passed before this course may be attempted:

IR1011 Introduction to international relations.

Aims and objectives

The aim of this course is to:

- introduce students to the central concepts in security studies
- develop students' comparative skills of analysis of differing security policies in practice
- promote critical engagement with the security policy literature and enable students to display this engagement by developing their ability to present, substantiate and defend complex arguments.

Assessment

This course is assessed by a three-hour unseen written examination.

Learning outcomes

At the end of this course and having completed the essential reading and activities students should be able to demonstrate:

- ✓ a critical understanding of the issues involved in security policy decision making
- ✓ an understanding of the contexts, pressures and constraints with which security policy-makers have to deal
- ✓ an ability to engage in comparative analysis of security policy without losing a sense of historical context.

Essential reading

For full details, please refer to the reading list

- Bain, W. (ed.) *The Empire of Security and the Safety of the People*. (London: Routledge)
- Buzan, Barry *People, States and Fear: An Agenda for International Security Studies in the Post Cold War Era*. (London: Pearson)
- Hough, Peter *Understanding Global Security*. (London: Routledge)
- Economides, Spyros and Mats Berdal (eds) *United Nations Interventionism, 1991–2004*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press)

Syllabus

This is a description of the material to be examined. On registration, students will receive a detailed subject guide which provides a framework for covering the topics in the syllabus and directions to the essential reading

The idea of security: The value of security; *Key assumptions of security; Security of the state and security of the person; Normative vs instrumental approaches to security; Three paradigms of security*

The state as a security arrangement: *Security of the prince; security of the people; nation states and national security*

National security: current issues and contemporary application: *National security as a reciprocal arrangement; National security policies; National security and deterrence; National security and the war on terror; National security in authoritarian states; Security in weak, failed or quasi-states*

International society as a security arrangement: *International security and the problem of disorder; International security; The balance of power and the concert of great powers*

International security: current issues and contemporary application: *The international security paradigm in operation; Military Intervention; Nuclear Non-proliferation; Climate Change; Why International Security is Difficult to Achieve*

Human security as an alternative to national and international security: *State-centred approach to security; A person centred approach to security; Instruments of human security*

Human security: current issues and contemporary applications: *Achievements of human security; Problems with human security; Overcoming the problems of human security; Towards a Responsibility to Protect (R2P)*

Security paradigms in conflict: the problems of intervention: *Different paradigms, different priorities; Origins of the problem of military intervention; current justifications for military intervention; Military intervention for international peace and security: Iraq; Military intervention for national security: Bosnia-Herzegovina and Afghanistan; Military intervention for human security: Kosovo; Military Intervention after R2P: Darfur*

Students should consult the appropriate *EMFSS Programme Regulations*, which are reviewed on an annual basis. The *Regulations* provide information on the availability of a course, where it can be placed on your programme's structure, and details of co-requisites and prerequisites.