



Course information 2023-24

IR3140 Security in international relations

General information

COURSE LEVEL: 6

CREDIT: 30

NOTIONAL STUDY TIME: 300 hours

Summary

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 alongside 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.

Conditions

Prerequisite: If taken as part of a BSc degree, the following course must be attempted before you can register on this course:

- IR1011 Introduction to international relations
- IR1198 International relations: theories, concepts and debates

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 studies literature and enable students to display this engagement by developing their ability to present, substantiate and defend complex arguments.

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

Please consult the current EMFSS Programme Regulations for further information on the availability of a course, where it can be placed on your programme's structure, and other important details.

- an ability to engage in comparative analysis of security policy without losing a sense of historical context.

Essential reading

For full details of additional essential readings, please refer to the reading list.

Bain, W. (ed.) *The Empire of Security and the Safety of the People*. (London: Routledge, 2012) first edition [ISBN 978-0415514217]

Buzan, Barry *People, States and Fear: An Agenda for International Security Studies in the Post Cold War Era*. (London: Pearson, 2007) second edition [ISBN 978-0955248818]

Hough, Peter *Understanding Global Security*. (London: Routledge, 2018) fourth edition [ISBN 978-1138726833]

Economides, Spyros and Mats Berdal (eds) *United Nations Interventionism, 1991–2004*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003) [ISBN 978-0521547673]

Assessment

This course is assessed by a three-hour and fifteen-minute closed-book written examination.

Syllabus

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.*

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