

Study Abroad Programme

The module description below is from the 2019/20 academic year and is subject to change, and for the use of study abroad students only.

Module name	Security Studies: Conceptual Approaches
Module code	IP2024
School	School of Arts and Social Sciences
Department or equivalent	International Politics
UK credits	15
ECTS	7.5
Level	5
Delivery location (partnership programmes only)	N/A

MODULE SUMMARY

Module outline and aims

This module is designed to provide you with a comprehensive overview of the main conceptual approaches to the study of international security, and the contribution of these approaches to the analysis of a number of contemporary international security threats, challenges and conflicts in the world stage. This module will offer you the opportunity to explore in depth the various meanings that the concept of security has acquired in the last few decades, taking into consideration its political, military, cultural and economic sources, from the local to the global. The various meanings of the concept of security will be associated with different theoretical bodies of thought in order to shed light on how theory can drive our understanding of the 'real' security world.

Content outline

The module covers the main conceptual approaches to the study of international security. The overall aim is to analyse the idea and definition of "security" from different theoretical/conceptual standpoints.

Topics covered include:

- What is Security?
- Traditional Understandings of Security
- Peace Studies
- Critical Security Studies
- Societal Security
- Human Security
- Gender in Security Studies
- Environmental Security
- Globalization in Security Studies
- Revision Session

WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

On successful completion of this module, you will be expected to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding:

- Understand the changing nature of the concept of security and its evolution throughout the 20th and 21st centuries
- Demonstrate knowledge of the different theoretical understandings of the concept of security.
- Understand and engage critically with the assumptions that underpin contending conceptualisations of international security challenges.

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- Identify the links between conceptual debates in security studies and in International Relations more generally
- Apply a multidisciplinary approach to the study of security, drawing not only from International Relations and political science but also economics, sociology, international law, history and psychology.

Skills:

- Distinguish empirical, normative and explanatory statements from each other.
- Define abstract concepts and apply them with consistency and rigour when making sense of complex issues affecting international security.
- Formulate clear arguments in written and oral format.
- Justify your own positions on a number of topics related to the study of international security.
- Demonstrate the importance of IT skills and time management skills

Values and attitudes:

- Appreciate the complex nature of the concept of security
- Appreciate the role that theories play in explaining contemporary international security threats, challenges and conflicts
- Demonstrate tolerance towards the opinions of colleagues.
- Produce written materials that indicate in a precise and honest manner what is your own work and what is attributable to others.
- Show consideration for the rules and regulations of the University.

HOW WILL I LEARN?

Acquisition of knowledge and understanding is promoted through a combination of lectures and interactive classes with a strong emphasis on students' presentations and class exercises. This learning process is supported by the use of a wide range of information sources, from books and journal articles to online sources, official documents and audio-visual sources of information. Some time will also be set aside (weekly) to answer questions you may have from the preparatory readings.

You are expected to undertake extensive reading and independent study in order to: (1) understand the topics covered in the course; (2) broaden and deepen your knowledge of the subject; and (3) develop your own value positions on a number of topics related to the study of international security. You will receive feedback on your coursework to encourage you to reflect on what you have produced and how you can improve.

Teaching pattern:

Teaching component	Teaching type	Contact hours (scheduled)	Self-directed study hours (independent)	Placement hours	Total student learning hours
Lecture-led	Lecture	10	40	0	50
Student Presentations, Seminar Discussions and Class Exercises	Seminar/Tutorial	10	90	0	100
Totals		20	130	0	150

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WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?

Assessments

The assessment includes a combination of coursework and exam:

- One 2,500 words essay
- One 2-hour long unseen exam

Assessment pattern:

Assessment component	Assessment type	Weighting	Minimum qualifying mark	Pass/Fail?
Essay (2500 words)	Coursework	50%	30	N/A
Exam	Exam (unseen)	50%	30	N/A

Assessment criteria

Assessment Criteria are descriptions of the skills, knowledge or attributes you need to demonstrate in order to complete an assessment successfully and Grade-Related Criteria are descriptions of the skills, knowledge or attributes you need to demonstrate to achieve a certain grade or mark in an assessment. Assessment Criteria and Grade-Related Criteria for module assessments will be made available to you prior to an assessment taking place. More information will be available from the module leader.

Feedback on assessment

Following an assessment, you will be given your mark and feedback in line with the Assessment Regulations and Policy. More information on the timing and type of feedback that will be provided for each assessment will be available from the module leader.

Assessment Regulations

The Pass mark for the module is 40%. Any minimum qualifying marks for specific assessments are listed in the table above. The weighting of the different components can also be found above. The Programme Specification contains information on what happens if you fail an assessment component or the module.

INDICATIVE READING LIST

Baldwin, D. (1995) "Security Studies and the End of the Cold War", *World Politics*, vol. 48, no. 1, pp. 117-41.

Barash, D.P. & Webel, C.P. (2009), *Peace and Conflict Studies*, Thousand Oaks: Sage.

Collins, A. (ed.) (2013) *Contemporary Security Studies*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Hough, P. (2008) *Understanding Global Security*, London: Routledge.



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Jones, C. & Kennedy-Pipe, C. (2000) *International Security in a Global Age: Securing the Twenty-First Century*, London: Frank Cass.

Krause, K. & Williams, M.C. (eds.) (1997) *Critical Security Studies: Concepts and Cases*, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Sheehan, M. (2005) *International Security: an Analytical Survey*, London: Lynne Rienner.

Terriff, T. & Croft, S. & James, L. & Morgan, P. (2000) *Security Studies Today*, Cambridge: Polity Press.

Williams, P. (ed.) (2012) *Security Studies: An Introduction*, London: Routledge.

* A longer reading list divided per topic into essential and recommended readings will be provided at the start of the module.

Version: 1.0