UAB
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

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International Security

Code: 104475
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2503778 International Relations	OB	2	1

Contact

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Use of Languages

Principal working language: english (eng)

Some groups entirely in English: Yes

Some groups entirely in Catalan: No

Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

Prerequisites

Prerequisites

Although no formal prerequisites are mandatory, the program is designed for students with a general knowledge of contemporary international political history (especially since 1945), and a general background on the main International Relations theories. Also, it is expected that students follow international news through quality sources.

The course is taught in English, and all the instructions, exams, readings and other documents related to the organization and development of the course will be in English. Therefore, it is expected that students have a good knowledge of this language.

Objectives and Contextualisation

Course description

This program is designed to offer a general introduction to the meaning, key concepts and relevant issues in contemporary international security studies. The course introduces students to different theoretical approaches which present different ways for theorizing security; and it assumes a broader perspective on security, not only of what security is and the means to achieve it, but also on whose security should be guaranteed or promoted, what is to be secured, and how is securing performed.

By focusing on both traditional and non-traditional security issues, the course seeks to provide students with the theoretic and empirical basis for a better understanding of the complexity of contemporary security issues. Traditional approaches to international security will be critically contrasted with new perspectives on security (including human security, global security, security governance, comprehensive security, among others).

The course is divided in four parts and a first introductory session. The first part, "Analytical framework", includes the following topics: thinking about international security and defining security, and theorizing about international security, classical and contemporary approaches. The second part review different "Traditional international security issues", such as: inter-sate conflict and the meaning of war; the evolution of war and different forms of inter-sate violence; alliances, and international and regional security institutions; proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction; and the debate on "old wars" vs. "new wars", and humanitarian intervention.

The third part, "Broadening the international security agenda", deals with some of the key contemporary non-traditional security matters: terrorism and counterterrorism in international security; the impact of transnational organized crime; climate change, the environment and international security; and cyberspace and technology: international security implications. Finally, the fourth part of the program includes student's presentations on key security issues in different regions of the world, and a final closing session on the challenges for the future of international security.

A typical class will involve a combination of lecturing, collective discussion of assigned texts, analysis of relevant international security events, and the identification of the possible policy implications of the different conceptual approaches to international security issues.

<u>Course objectives</u>

The course is intended to help students be able to:

- Discuss and appraise the various meanings ascribed to international security in the academic and policy worlds.

- Gain a general understanding of the challenges of providing security both in theory and in the policy world.

- Apply key international security approaches and concepts to particular security events in international relations and demonstrate an understanding of both traditional and new sources of insecurity.

- Relate theoretical approaches to international peace and security and apply them to contemporary security problems, and address the "pros" and "cons" of various approaches to achieve international security.

- Reflect critically on the key security issues arising in the contemporary world.

- Develop basic skills to critically analyze, evaluate and write security policy.

Competences

- Analyse cases and phenomena in the international sphere and interpret different political texts using contemporary political theories.
- Analyse the behaviour of international actors, both state and non-state.
- Analyse the challenges to international security including the conditions that promote peace and generate conflicts and the evolutionary of international security architecture.
- Analyse the production and implementation of public policies related to the international sphere, in particular foreign policy and security and defence policy.
- Analyse the structure and operation of international institutions and organisations (political, economic, military and security, environmental, development and emergency aid) both in the universal and regional spheres, with particular emphasis on the European Union, from either real or simulated cases.
- Apply quantitative and qualitative analysis techniques in research processes.
- Identify data sources and carry out rigorous bibliographical and documentary searches.
- Identify the main theories of international relations and their different fields (international theory, conflicts and security, international politics, etc.) to apply them in professional practice.
- Produce and prepare the presentation of intervention reports and/or proposals.
- Students must be capable of applying their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional way and they should have building arguments and problem resolution skills within their area of study.
- Students must be capable of collecting and interpreting relevant data (usually within their area of study) in order to make statements that reflect social, scientific or ethical relevant issues.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Students must have and understand knowledge of an area of study built on the basis of general secondary education, and while it relies on some advanced textbooks it also includes some aspects coming from the forefront of its field of study.
- Use English to receive and communicate analyses and proposals.
- Use metatheoretical data to argue and establish plausible relation of causality and establish ways of validating or rejecting them.

Learning Outcomes

1. Analyse public policies in specific countries, in particular foreign policies, and understand the traits of continuity and change in historical perspective.
2. Analyse the behaviour of different actors in the main topics and problems related to international security, international conflicts and the promotion of peace.
3. Apply different theories and focuses to the analysis of the main problems related to security, foreign policy and armed conflict and the promotion of peace.
4. Apply quantitative and qualitative analysis techniques in research processes.
5. Evaluate the conditions that lead to international peace and those which make it more difficult.
6. Identify and analyse some of the key challenges in international security and international conflicts from a multidimensional perspective.
7. Identify data sources and carry out rigorous bibliographical and documentary searches.
8. Identify the main institutions with competences and working in international security, international conflicts and the promotion of peace and analyse the specific importance of these.
9. Make a reasoned application of different contemporary political theories to phenomena related to international security, international conflicts, foreign policies of the main states and the promotion of peace.
10. Produce and prepare the presentation of intervention reports and/or proposals.
11. Students must be capable of applying their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional way and they should have building arguments and problem resolution skills within their area of study.
12. Students must be capable of collecting and interpreting relevant data (usually within their area of study) in order to make statements that reflect social, scientific or ethical relevant issues.
13. Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
14. Students must have and understand knowledge of an area of study built on the basis of general secondary education, and while it relies on some advanced textbooks it also includes some aspects coming from the forefront of its field of study.
15. Use English to receive and communicate analyses and proposals.
16. Use metatheoretical data to argue and establish plausible relation of causality and establish ways of validating or rejecting them.
17. Use tools for the analysis of foreign policies and apply them to real and simulated case studies.
18. describe the evolution of international security.

Content

<u>Course structure</u>

Introduction. Thinking about international security

- General introduction

- Brief presentation of the objectives and contents

- Description of assessment activities

- Sources of scholarly analysis and news on contemporary international security issues.

Part I. Analytical framework

1. Thinking about international security

- What is security studies? What is security? Whose security? How can security be achieved?

- Security studies, strategic studies and peace studies: similarities and differences

- General map of the theoretical approaches (schools of thought) in the field of security studies.

- The academic and the policy worlds in security studies

2. Defining security.

- Analyze and compare different approaches for defining security

- Identify and distinguish between referent-based and issue-based approaches to security

- Case study of a contemporary security problem from different approaches: analytical and practical/policy implications

3. Theorizing about international security: "classical" approaches

- Realisms

- Liberalisms and Liberal Internationalism

- Structuralism and historical materialism

- Peace studies

4. Theorizing about international security: "contemporary" approaches

- Social constructivism and securitization studies

- Human security and development

- Critical theory

- Feminisms and security.

Part II. Traditional international security issues

5. Inter-sate conflict and the meaning of war

- Inter-sate conflict and the meaning of war

- Problematization and evaluation of different explanations of the causes of war and the conditions of peace.

- Ethical and normative dimensions of war: Just war theory. Identify the basic concepts in just war theorizing

6. The evolution of war and different forms of inter-sate violence

- Contemporary military security: understanding military conflict and insecurity

- The means of war: the role of technology in the evolution of war

- Apply some of the different explanations of war on a contemporary case

7. Alliances, and international and regional security institutions

- Key approaches and concepts

- Security and defense alliances

- The United Nations, collective security and peace operations

- Apply some of the different concepts to a contemporary case

8. Proliferation of Weapons of MassDestruction

- Key approaches and concepts

- Nuclear proliferation

- Disarmament

- Apply some of the different concepts and approaches to a contemporary case

9. The debate on "old wars" vs. "new wars", and humanitarian intervention

- "Old wars" and "new wars": key propositions

- The problem of failed and weak states

- The challenges of humanitarian intervention and the responsibility to protect.

- Apply these insights to a contemporary conflict

Part III. Broadening the international security agenda

10. Terrorism and counterterrorism in international security

- Key concepts and scholarly approaches

- Policy challenges

- Analysis of a contemporary case

11. The impact of transnational organized crime

- Key concepts and scholarly approaches

- Policy challenges

- Analysis of a contemporary case

12. Climate change, the environment and international security

- Key concepts and scholarly approaches

- Policy challenges

- Analysis of a contemporary case

13. Cyberspace and technology: international security implications

- Key concepts and scholarlyapproaches

- Policy challenges

- Analysis of a contemporary case

Part IV. Student presentations and Conclusions

14. Student's presentations on key security issues in different regions.

- Africa: Mediterranean and sub-Saharan Africa

- Europe: Western and Eastern Europe

- Asia: Central Asia, East Asia, Southeast Asia

- Americas: North, Central, South and the Caribbean

15. Conclusion: the challenges for the future of international security

- Security studies: regional, international, global?

Methodology

The dedication of the student for this course is divided into different types of activities, each of them with a specific number of working hours.

- Directed activities in the classroom. These are activities done under the direction of the instructor and include: lectures (with the support of information and communications technologies, and with debates during class); and, seminars and practical sessions in small groups to discuss different case studies and the diverse empirical examples included in the program.

- Supervised activities. These activities are carried out by each student outside the classroom and according to a work schedule designed, supervised and evaluated by the instructor. These activities include tutorships for the preparation of essays, exams and group projects.

- Autonomous activities. These are all the activities performed by the students on their own and according to the requirements for successfully passing the course, such as autonomous studying hours, and preparation of essays, seminars, and exams.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Directed activities in the classroom with the support of ICT	45	1.8	2, 1, 3, 18, 6, 8, 14, 15, 5
Seminars and practical sessions in small groups	5	0.2	1, 6, 17, 15
Type: Supervised			
Tutorships for the preparation of essays, exams and group projects	4	0.16	10, 13, 17, 15
Type: Autonomous			
Autonomous studying hours, preparation of essays, seminars, exams	88	3.52	2, 3, 9, 4, 16, 10, 18, 7, 6, 8, 14, 13, 11, 12, 15, 5

Assessment

<u>Evaluation</u>

The evaluation includes the following parts:

1. Discussion, participation and other in-class activities (10 % of the grade).
2. Individual essay (800-1000 words) (15% of the grade).
3. Midterm Exam including topics 1 to 4 (25% of the grade).
4. Final Exam including topics 5 to 9 (25% of the grade).
5. Group project/presentation (25% of the grade).

Group Project. The group project consists of and eight- or ten-page explanatory and advocacy brochure or policy paper on a contemporary security issue, and using the analytical tools learned during the course. The objective is to explain and propose a preliminary solution to, and/or provide a deeper understanding of a particular contemporary security issue. The main conclusions/recommendations of the paper will be presented to the whole group.

Important considerations

In order to pass the course, it will be necessary, but no sufficient, to obtain a grade of at least 5,0 in each of the two written examinations (a midterm exam and a final exam). Once this minimum grade of 5 is attained in both exams, the final grade of the course will be the result of adding the grades obtained in the other activities.

Once the final grade of the course is equal or above 5,0 the student will receive a passing grade. If the student completes more than 50% of the activities to be evaluated, this cancels the possibility of receiving a grade of "NOT PRESENTED" (*NO PRESENTANT - NO PRESENTADO*).

The date of all evaluable activities will be announced with enough time in advance. This will allow the students to prepare and complete all the assigned tasks.

The students that had not pass the two written examinations will have the opportunity to re-take (re-sit) them at the end of the semester, on the day specified by the Faculty for the compensatory evaluation. The individual essay, the final group project and other in-class activities cannot be re-taken or re-submitted on a different date from the one originally established by the lecturer.

Plagiarism and cheating. Plagiarism and cheating are *very* serious offenses. These could result in a grade of zero for the assigned task/exercise.

Please review: Facultat de Ciències Polítiques i de Sociologia, "Guia sobre Com Citar i Com Evitar el Plagi" (in Catalan): https://www.uab.cat/doc/GuiaCitesiPlagiEstudiants

Also check the guide form the Libraries Services of the UAB (Servei de Biblioteques):

- Guide for "Citations and Bibliography", available at:
https://www.uab.cat/web/study-and-research/citations-and-bibliography-1345738248581.html

- In Catalan: "Citacions i Bibliografia":
https://www.uab.cat/web/estudia-i-investiga/citacions-i-bibliografia-1345708785665.html

- In Spanish: "Citaciones y Bibliografía":
https://www.uab.cat/web/estudia-e-investiga/citaciones-y-bibliografia-1345733232823.html

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Final exam	25%	3	0.12	2, 3, 9, 6, 8, 14, 15, 5
Group project	25%	2	0.08	2, 1, 9, 19, 10, 6, 13, 11, 12, 15
Individual essay	15%	1	0.04	1, 3, 9, 4, 16, 10, 7, 6, 13, 17, 15, 5
Midterm exam	25%	2	0.08	2, 3, 9, 18, 14, 15
Participation, debates and other in-class activities	10%	0	0	13, 12, 15

Bibliography

The key texts for this course are:

- Baylis, J., Wirtz, J., & Gray, C. (Eds.). (2016). *Strategy in the contemporary world*. 6th edition. Oxford University Press. Alternatively, other editions can be consulted

- Williams, Paul D. (2013). *Security Studies: An Introduction*. Routledge. 2nd edition. Alternatively, other editions can be consulted.

Other strongly recommended readings:

- Browning, C. S. (2013). *International security: a very short introduction*. OUP Oxford.

- Collins, Alan (Ed.) (2019). *Contemporary Security Studies*. Oxford University Press. 5th edition. Alternatively, other editions can be consulted.

- Dannreuther, R. (2013). *International Security: The Contemporary Agenda*. Polity press. 2nd edition. Alternatively, other editions can be consulted.

- Hough, Peter (2013). *Understanding global security*. 3rd edition. Routledge.

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Recommended academic journals on international security and international relations

- American Political Science Review

- AnuarioInternacional CIDOB

- British Journal of Political Science

- British Journal of Politics & International Relations

- Bulletin of Latin American Research

- China Quarterly

- Chinese JournalofInternational Politics

- Civil War

- Comparative European Politics

- Conflict Management and Peace Science

- Cooperation and Conflict

- European Journal of International Relations

- European Journal of Political Research

- European Political Science Review

- Foreign Affairs

- Foreign Affairs Latinoamérica

- Foreign Policy Analysis

- Geopolitics

- Global Society

- International Affairs

- International Feminist Journal of Politics

- International Organization

- International Political Science Review

- International Security

- International Studies Quarterly

- International Studies Review

- Journal of Conflict Resolution

- Journal of International Relations and Development

- Journal of Modern African Studies

- Journal of Peace Research

- Journal of Peace Research

- Journal of Strategic Studies

- Latin American Politics and Society

- Le MondeDiplamatique

- Mediterranean Politics

- Nueva Sociedad

- Pacific Review

- Política Exterior

- Political Quarterly

- Political Science & Politics

- Political Studies

- Political Theory

- Review of International Studies

- Revista Brasileira de Política Internacional

- Revista CIDOB d'Afers Internacionals

- *Revista* Española de Derecho Internacional (*REDI*)

- Security Dialogue

- Security Studies

- Terrorism and Political Violence

- The Political Quarterly

- World Policy Journal

- World Politics