

International Security

Code: 104475
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2503778 International Relations	OB	2	1

The proposed teaching and assessment methodology that appear in the guide may be subject to changes as a result of the restrictions to face-to-face class attendance imposed by the health authorities.

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, 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 five parts, and an introductory session. The first part, "Analytical framework", includes the following topics: thinking about international security and defining security. Part II, "Theorizing about international security: 'classical' approaches", reviews key traditional ways to approach international security matters: Realism, Liberalism, Structuralism and Peace studies. In Part III, "Theorizing about international security: 'contemporary' approaches", the students will examine more recent ways to study and analyze international security matters through Social constructivism, Securitization studies, Human security, Critical

theory and Feminisms approaches to security. Part IV reviews the evolution of different traditional and non-traditional international security issues. Depending on the evolution of the course, at least two of the following topics will be reviewed in detail: the evolution of war and different forms of inter-state violence; the impact of transnational organized crime; climate change, the environment and international security; or the international security implications of cyberspace and technology. Finally, the fifth part of the program includes the 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 used to analyze international security issues.

Course objectives

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

Course structure

Introduction. Thinking about international security

General introduction. Brief presentation of the objectives, contents and assessment of the course.

Part I. Analytical framework

1. Thinking about international security studies
2. Defining security.

Part II. Theorizing about international security: "classical" approaches

3. Realism
4. Liberalism and Liberal Internationalism

5. Structuralism and historical materialism

6. Peace studies

Part III. Theorizing about international security: "contemporary" approaches

7. Social constructivism and securitization studies

8. Human security and development

9. Critical theory and Feminist approaches to security.

Part IV. Traditional and non- traditional international security issues

10. Depending on the evolution of the course, at least two of the following topics will be reviewed in detail.

- The evolution of war and different forms of inter-state violence
- The impact of transnational organized crime
- Climate change, the environment and international security
- Cyberspace and technology: international security implications

Part V. Student's presentations and Conclusions

11. Student's presentations on key security issues in different regions of the world.

- 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

Conclusion: the challenges for the future of international security

Methodology

The work load 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. 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	4	0.16	9, 4, 19, 6, 15
Type: Supervised			
Tutorships for the preparation of essays, exams and group projects	4	0.16	4, 10, 13, 17, 15
Type: Autonomous			
Autonomous studying hours, preparation of essays, seminars, exams	90	3.6	2, 9, 4, 10, 18, 7, 6, 8, 14, 13, 11, 12, 15, 5

Assessment

Evaluation

The evaluation includes the following parts:

1. Participation in debates and other activities (10% of the grade).
2. Individual essay (20% of the grade).
3. Midterm Exam including topics 1 to 6 (40% of the grade).
4. Group project/presentation (30% of the grade).

Group Project. The group project consists of an eight- or ten-page explanatory and advocacy brochure or policy paper on contemporary security issues, 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 contemporary security issues. If circumstances allow it, 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 not sufficient, to obtain a grade of at least 5,0 in the midterm exam. Once this minimum grade of 5 is attained, 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 to 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 written exam 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 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 from 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
Group project	30%	2	0.08	2, 1, 9, 19, 10, 6, 13, 11, 12, 17, 15
Individual essay	20%	2	0.08	1, 3, 9, 4, 16, 10, 7, 6, 8, 14, 13, 15, 5
Midterm exam	40%	2	0.08	2, 3, 9, 18, 6, 8, 14, 15
Participation in debates and other activities	10%	1	0.04	2, 10, 6, 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 highly 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, P. (2013). Understanding global security. 3rd edition. Routledge. Alternatively, other editions can be consulted.

Online books available at the UAB library website (list updated July 2020)

Gamba, S. L. (2019). Approaches to International Peace and Security and Its Prospects. Lambert Academic Publishing. *Online book available at the UAB library website*

Jordán, J. (2013). Manual de estudios estratégicos y seguridad internacional. Madrid: Editorial Plaza y Valdés. *Online books available at the UAB library website.*

Lundestad, G. (Ed.). (2012). International Relations since the end of the Cold War: New and old dimensions. OUP Oxford. *Online book available at the UAB library website.*

Martínez Capdevila, C., Abad Castelos, M., & Casado Raigón, R. (2017). Las amenazas a la seguridad internacional hoy. Tirant lo Blanch. *Online book available at the UAB library website*

McCarthy, S. (2013). International handbook of war, torture, and terrorism. K. Malley-Morrison, & D. Hines (Eds.). New York: Springer. *Online book available at the UAB library website.*

Tickner, J. A. (2014). A feminist voyage through international relations. Oxford University Press. *Online book available at the UAB library website.*

Toje, A. (Ed.). (2018). Will China's Rise be Peaceful? The Rise of a Great Power in Theory, History, Politics, and the Future. Oxford University Press. *Online book available at the UAB library website*

General bibliography on international security

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Baylis, J., Wirtz, J., & Gray, C. (Eds.). (2002, 2007, 2012, 2018). *Strategy in the contemporary world*. Oxford and New York: Oxford University Press.

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Brodie, B. (1978). The development of nuclear strategy. *International Security*, 2(4), 65-83.

Bull, Hedley (1977). *The Anarchical Society: A study of Order in World Politics* (New York: Columbia University Press).

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Buzan, B (2015). "The English School: A neglected approach to international security studies", *Security Dialogue*, Vol. 46, núm. 2, pp. 126-143;

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Jakobi, A.P, y Wolf, K. (eds.) (2013). The transnational governance of violence and crime: Non-state actors in security, Londres, Palgrave.

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Oneal, John and Bruce Russett (1999)., "The Kantian Peace: The Pacific Benefits of Democracy, Interdependence, and International Organizations, 1885-1992," *World Politics*, Vol. 52, No. 1, pp. 1-37;

Owen, John M. (1994). "How Liberalism Produces the Democratic Peace," *International Security*, Vol. 19, No. 2, pp. 87-125;

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- Walzer, M. (2017). The triumph of just war theory (and the dangers of success). In *Empowering Our Military Conscience* (pp. 27-44). Routledge.
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- Weitsman, P. A. (2014). *Waging war: alliances, coalitions, and institutions of interstate violence*. Stanford, California: Stanford University Press.

Recommended academic journals on international security and international relations

- American Political Science Review
- Anuario Internacional CIDOB
- British Journal of Political Science
- British Journal of Politics & International Relations
- Bulletin of Latin American Research
- China Quarterly
- Chinese Journal of International 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 Strategic Studies
- Latin American Politics and Society

- Mediterranean Politics
- Nueva Sociedad
- Pacific Review
- Política Exterior
- 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