

Department: International Relations

Faculty: Social Sciences

Course Title: Security Studies (MA, Compulsory)

Number of Credits: Four

Course Objectives:

The course aims at introducing students to the dynamic field of security studies. It seeks to combine a comprehensive overview of the major theoretical debates in the field with an in depth understanding of the key issue areas that impinge upon the notion of security. The course provides a critical evaluation of the contemporary security studies discourse and examines the manner in which the field has responded to transformations in world politics. It will further familiarize students with debates on certain core concerns that have compelled policy makers and researchers to widen the conceptual parameters of security.

Course Structure:

Unit I: Theorising Security

The topic provides a conceptual overview of the notion of security and looks at the theoretical underpinnings that inform the security studies debate today. The signposts that mark off the realist and liberal approaches to security in terms of issues and actors would be covered, as would the post-positivist turn in security studies. It offers a critique of 'traditional security studies', and evaluates a range of approaches that fall under the rubric of critical security studies.

Week 1: Understanding Security

Week 2: Realist and liberal approaches to security

Week 3: Critical Security Studies

Week 4: Securitisation Theory

Week 5: Non-Western Perspectives on Security

Unit II: Analysing Security at Three Levels

The topic focuses on the predominant conceptualisations of the security problematique that take the sovereign state as its frame of analysis. The topic analyses the factors and processes that merit a regional perspective of security concerns. This topic examines the evolution of global security policies since early twentieth century – from the principle of collective security to more recent notions of human security and the responsibility to protect.

Week 6: National Security

Week 7: Regional Security

Week 8: Global Security

Unit III: Understanding Major Security Concerns

The unit offers an assessment of new developments in the arena of war and the implications they hold for accepted methods of armed conflict and the norms regulating the conduct of warfare. It also highlights the key arguments for and against the significance of nuclear weapons for international security, focusing also on issues relating to regional security in South Asia. Further, the unit familiarizes students with contemporary security practices that regulate migration and also examines resource conflicts that make the environment-development interface rife with contestations.

Week 9: Changing Nature of War

Week 10: Nuclear Security

Week 11: Migration and Statelessness

Week 12: Environment and Development

Reading Suggestions:

Williams, Paul (ed.) (2008), *Security Studies: An Introduction*, Abingdon: Routledge.
Dunn Caveltly, Myriam and Victor Mauer (eds.), *The Routledge Handbook of Security Studies*, Abingdon: Routledge.

Krause, Keith and Michael Williams (eds.) (1997), *Critical Security Studies: Concepts and Cases*, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Booth, Ken (ed.) (2005), *Critical Security Studies and World Politics*, Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner.

Peoples, Columba and Nick Vaughan-Williams (2010), 'Securitisation Theory', *Critical Security Studies: An Introduction*, Oxon: Routledge.

Clark, Ian (2003), 'The Security State', in David Held and Anthony McGrew (eds.), *The Global Transformations Reader: An Introduction to the Globalisation Debate*, second edition, Cambridge: Polity Press

Jolly, Richard, Louis Emmerij, and Thomas G. Weiss (2009), *UN Ideas That Changed the World*, Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press.

Sagan, Scott D. (1996), 'Why do states build nuclear weapons?: Three models in search of a bomb', *International Security* 21(3): 54-86.

Huysmans, Jef and Vicki Squire (2010), 'Migration and Security', in Myriam Dunn Caveltly and Victor Mauer (eds.), *The Routledge Handbook of Security Studies*, Abingdon: Routledge.

Leander, Anna (2010), 'The Privatisation of International Security', in Myriam Dunn Caveltly and Victor Mauer (eds.), *The Routledge Handbook of Security Studies*, Abingdon: Routledge.