

ARTS2813

International Security

Term 3, 2022



Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

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Acknowledgement of Country

UNSW Arts, Design and Architecture Kensington and Paddington campuses are built on Aboriginal Lands. We pay our respects to the Bidjigal and Gadigal peoples who are the Custodians of these lands. We acknowledge the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, the First Australians, whose lands, winds and waters we all now share, and pay respect to their unique values, and their continuing and enduring cultures which deepen and enrich the life of our nation and communities.



Image courtesy of the Office of the Pro Vice-Chancellor Indigenous [UNSW's Indigenous strategy](#)

Course Details

Units of Credit 6

Summary of the Course

International Security has traditionally been analysed through (neo)realist theoretical frameworks that focus exclusively on the state as the referent of security, and investigate issues as the causes of war and armed conflict, alliances, strategy, arms control and deterrence. At the same time, International Relations scholars have argued that these narrow, state-centric and military-centric approaches to security – and the concepts and discourses they rely on – are deeply implicated in the ‘imperial-racial origins of IR’ and unable to engage with contemporary security concerns related to issues such as climate justice, environmental security, food security, the Black Lives Matter movement, disinformation, ethnic strife, the evolution of terrorism, the corollaries of intervention, and the securitisation of migrants and refugees, amongst others. This course provides a critical evaluation of the traditional security studies scholarship, and introduces students to critical approaches to security, including feminist, postcolonial, poststructuralist, and emancipatory theoretical frameworks that extend beyond warfare and examine diverse modern security issues. We will analyse different sets of critical theoretical approaches and explore their analytical utility (as well as any biases/ blind spots) by investigating relevant case studies and contemporary security dilemmas. Overall, the course will enable you to recognise core differences between critical security scholarship and traditional security studies; identify and evaluate critical theories of security, and apply them to contemporary events and issues in global politics.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Distinguish major theoretical perspectives on security and compare their value for the analysis of specific problems of security as well as their basic assumptions and the worldviews they generate.
2. Explain key theoretical and conceptual debates about security, particularly from critical security perspectives
3. Analyse specific issues or cases relevant to security studies from a theoretically grounded point of view.
4. Identify and explore a contemporary issue in security studies, and communicate this in a short-writing piece.

Teaching Strategies

This course adopts a blended learning approach to encourage and facilitate diversity of learning activities and also diversity in assessment. It consists of lectures, face-to-face classes plus additional online learning activities.

This course assumes no prior knowledge of the discipline of International Relations (IR) but, upon its successful completion, all students who engage fully with the course (including content, activities and assessments) will be able to participate in debates about the study and practice of contemporary IR with specific reference to the sub-field of security studies.

I see UNSW student learners as participants in the production of knowledge and I pursue the implementation of a curriculum responsive to each student’s individual needs. I am strongly motivated to

facilitate the development of transferable skills and this course is designed to encourage student preparedness upon graduation for the pursuit of future career goals. I bring my research expertise to bear on the design of this course, meaning that the course is intrinsically research-led, but more importantly this course prioritises learning-by-doing and aims to foster a spirit of critical thought and active enquiry in all student learners.

Blended learning encourages diversity of learning activities and also diversity in assessment. This course consists of weekly large-group lectures, weekly seminars, and online learning activities relating to different weekly topics. The weekly lectures are highly interactive and may include the presentation of video clips, small-group activities, reading groups, Q&A sessions and pair-work. The lectures are designed to supplement independent study on the course that begins (but should not end) with close engagement with the weekly required readings.

Weekly tutorials allow students to discuss questions, themes and issues arising from their independent study, as well as providing the opportunity to engage in productive discussion with their peers and to participate in a range of structured learning activities, including group/pair/individual analytical work, formal and informal debates, and mini-projects.

Online, in most weeks, you are required to complete specific online learning activities (OLAs) as indicated on Moodle, before you attend the seminars for those weeks. There is also a range of online resources specific to each week's topic to enhance independent learning. I also provide a number of resources related to study skills and research literacy.

Assessment

More details will be made available on Moodle.

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Course Learning Outcomes Assessed
1. Media article/blog	45%	14/10/2022 11:59 PM	4
2. Take Home Examination	55%	TBC	1, 2, 3

Assessment 1: Media article/blog

Assessment length: 1,000 words

Due date: 14/10/2022 11:59 PM

Students submit a media article/blog that identifies and explores a contemporary security issue, modelled on the style of a media outlet or blog of their choice. Students will receive written feedback, a marked rubric, and a numerical grade within 2 weeks of submission. The rubric will be available at the start of term to allow students to work towards clearly communicated standards (1000-words).

This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students can see Turnitin similarity reports.

Additional details

The aim of this exercise is to begin thinking about different forms of writing, and to practice writing short, succinct commentaries on contemporary in/security issues. You should familiarize yourself with the kinds of media outlets and blogs that IR folks write for, e.g. UNSW Politik magazine, the opinion sections of *The Guardian*, SMH, Australian etc and blogs such as *The Disorder of Things*, *Duck of Minerva*, *Lawyers*, *Guns and Money*, and *The Monkeycage*.

Your submission should explicitly target one of these outlets, and address a contemporary global issue in a format that might be published on your platform of choice. You have free choice of topic, as long as it relates to any of the themes of the course. **You must note at the top of the page which outlet you are targeting.** Your argument should be referenced, but with **hyperlinks** instead of footnotes/in-text references, and must be written in simple, accessible, but above all engaging language.

You must submit your media article/blog to Turnitin in Moodle by Fri 14 Oct by 23:59. I will not accept submissions by email.

The Faculty late penalty is 5% of the total possible marks for the task for each day or part day that the work is late. Lateness includes weekends and public holidays.

The media article/blog will be marked /100 and will constitute 45% of your grade for this course.

Assessment 2: Take Home Examination

Start date: TBC

Assessment length: TBC

Due date: TBC

The Take Home Examination will assess course material, and be evaluated on the basis of a rubric. The rubric will be available at the start of term to allow students to work towards clear standards. Students will receive a numerical grade within 2 weeks of submission.

Additional details

Details will be provided on Moodle.

Attendance Requirements

Students are strongly encouraged to attend all classes and review lecture recordings.

Course Schedule

[View class timetable](#)

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 12 September - 16 September	Lecture	Introducing Security Studies
	Tutorial	Introducing Security Studies
Week 2: 19 September - 23 September	Lecture	Gender and Violence (Feminist Approaches to International Security)
	Tutorial	Gender and Violence (Feminist Approaches to International Security)
	Online Activity	Details will be posted on Moodle in Week 1
Week 3: 26 September - 30 September	Lecture	Imperial Security (Postcolonial Approaches to International Security)
	Tutorial	Imperial Security (Postcolonial Approaches to International Security)
	Online Activity	Details will be posted on Moodle in Week 2
Week 4: 3 October - 7 October	Lecture	National Security (Realist Approaches to International Security) <i>NOTE: Mon 3 Oct is a public holiday. There will be no live/ in-person lecture on this day. A pre-recorded lecture will be uploaded for you to view ahead of the tutorials for this week.</i>
	Tutorial	National Security (Realist Approaches to International Security)
	Online Activity	Details will be posted on Moodle in Week 3
Week 5: 10 October - 14 October	Lecture	Human Security (Liberal Approaches to International Security)
	Tutorial	Human Security (Liberal Approaches to International Security)
	Online Activity	Details will be posted on Moodle in Week 4

	Assessment	Media article/blog
Week 6: 17 October - 21 October	Lecture	No Lecture
	Tutorial	No Lecture
Week 7: 24 October - 28 October	Lecture	Structural Violence (Emancipatory Approaches to International Security)
	Tutorial	Structural Violence (Emancipatory Approaches to International Security)
	Online Activity	Details will be posted on Moodle in Week 6
Week 8: 31 October - 4 November	Lecture	Representing (In)Security I (Securitisation Theory)
	Tutorial	Representing (In)Security I (Securitization Theory)
	Online Activity	Details will be posted on Moodle in Week 7
Week 9: 7 November - 11 November	Lecture	Representing (In)Security II (Poststructural Approaches to International Security)
	Tutorial	Representing (In)Security II (Poststructural Approaches to International Security)
	Online Activity	Details will be posted on Moodle in Week 8
Week 10: 14 November - 18 November	Lecture	TBC
	Online Activity	TBC
	Online Activity	Details will be posted on Moodle in Week 9

Resources

Prescribed Resources

*****Please check Moodle regularly for updates on all aspects of the course.***** This course outline should not be your source for the most up to date information related to the course.

Williams, Paul D. & Matt McDonald (eds.) 2018. *Security Studies: An Introduction*, 3rd edition, London: Routledge.

This book is available in both hard copy and e-version through the UNSW Library.

You are advised to have access to e-copies of relevant chapters from the book and/or any other readings as listed for each week to tutorials and be prepared to discuss the readings in detail each week.

All relevant course information is available on the Moodle site for this course. Students are expected to regularly check the Moodle course site and their UNSW email for updates, announcements and other relevant course-related information.

Other overview texts on security that you might find useful include:

- Shepherd LJ, (ed.) (2013), *Critical approaches to security: An introduction to theories and methods*, London: Taylor and Francis
- Burgess, J. Peter (ed.) (2010) *The Routledge Handbook of New Security Studies*, London: Routledge.
- Fierke, K. (2007) *Critical Approaches to International Security*, Cambridge: Polity.
- Krause, K. and M. Williams (1997) *Critical Security Studies: Concepts and Cases*, London: Routledge.
- Peoples, C. and N. Vaughan-Williams (2010) *Critical Security Studies: An Introduction* London: Routledge

You will benefit from becoming familiar with GoogleScholar (<http://scholar.google.com>) as a key search engine for academic publications and reports. You can set up the preferences to link to the UNSW Library even when you are not on campus.

Go to Google Scholar> settings> library links, and enter 'University of New South Wales' in the box for "Library":

You can sign up for Table of Contents (TOC) Alerts from the homepages of relevant journals, to receive an email whenever new articles are published in that journal. Journal websites will often carry information on the most viewed and most cited articles; these are likely to be interesting and often influential contributions. Google Scholar will also point you to articles that have cited a particular article and hence will be related to the topic.

Recommended Resources

See Moodle for weekly required and suggested readings.

Course Evaluation and Development

Student evaluative feedback is gathered periodically using, among other means, the University's My Experience process. Informal feedback and feedback specific to a particular tutorial topic will be welcomed and encouraged during the term. Student feedback is taken seriously and continual enhancements are made to learning and teaching activities on the basis of student feedback.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au

Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin, you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support, you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone, you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, alternative submission details will be stated on your course's Moodle site. For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle:

<https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle>

Late Submission Penalty

UNSW has a standard late submission penalty of:

- 5% per calendar day,
- for all assessments where a penalty applies,
- capped at five calendar days (120 hours) from the assessment deadline, after which a student cannot submit an assessment, and
- no permitted variation.

Students are expected to manage their time to meet deadlines and to request [Special Consideration](#) as early as possible before the deadline. Support with [Time Management is available here](#).

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

- Copying: Using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This includes copying materials, ideas or concepts from a book, article, report or other written document, presentation, composition, artwork, design, drawing, circuitry, computer program or software, website, internet, other electronic resource, or another person's assignment without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original information, structure and/or progression of ideas of the original without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.
- Collusion: Working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student for the purpose of them plagiarising, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.
- Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.
- Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): Submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

The UNSW Academic Skills support offers resources and individual consultations. Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study. One of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items. UNSW Library has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW, but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time
- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Academic Information

Due to evolving advice by NSW Health, students must check for updated information regarding online learning for all Arts, Design and Architecture courses this term (via Moodle or course information provided).

Please see: <https://www.unsw.edu.au/arts-design-architecture/student-life/resources-support/protocols-guidelines> for essential student information relating to:

- UNSW and Faculty policies and procedures;
- Student Support Services;
- Dean's List;
- review of results;
- credit transfer;
- cross-institutional study and exchange;
- examination information;
- enrolment information;
- Special Consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;

And other essential academic information.

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