

Course Code: SS 829

New Title: National Security

Credit Hours: 3

Course Objectives

The course aims to undertake and encourage critical engagements with the concept of security in general and the notion of national security in Strategic Studies in particular. It does so by examining the concept of national security from historical, theoretical, and critical perspectives, even as it engages the various contemporary issues of the international system and the politics therein. This combination of historical-theoretical analysis and contemporary discourses on security will enable the students to gain a comprehensive understanding of the subject. Threat perception, its identification, analysis, misperception, and the relationship of threat with national security will be thoroughly discussed. Towards the terminal part of the course, case studies with special emphasis on Pakistan's security milieu shall be undertaken.

Learning Outcomes

- A general familiarization with the concept of National Security.
- A critical understanding of theoretical aspects related to National Security.
- A competent knowledge of how Threat Perception defines the geopolitics, conflicts, and security framework globally.
- An understanding of the impact of dynamics of threat on transient world system.
- A reasonable prediction of the future trends in the study of National Security and Threat Perception, based on the analyses of historical and current dynamics.

Course Contents

Week 1: Introduction to National Security

- Overview of National Security
- Key concepts and terms associated with National Security
- Defining National Security in the context of modern geopolitical challenges

Week 2: Conceptual Aspects of National Security

- Theories and frameworks for understanding National Security
- Understanding the relationship between National Security and other domains (economic, political, social)
- Key concepts like sovereignty, state security, and societal security

Week 3: Evolution of National Security – Historical Analysis

- The historical development of National Security
- The evolution of the concept over time
- Major milestones in National Security theory and practice

Week 4: Traditional Security Paradigm

- The traditional view of National Security
- Military power and territorial defense
- The role of state sovereignty and borders in National Security

Week 5: Comprehensive Security Paradigm

- The shift from traditional to comprehensive security
- Non-military threats (e.g., environmental, economic, health)
- Human security, societal security, and cultural security

Week 6: National Security and International Relations Theories

- Realism, Liberalism, and Constructivism in the context of National Security
- The role of power dynamics in shaping National Security
- Application of IR theories to real-world security situations

Week 7: Understanding Threat Perception

- What is threat perception?
- Psychological and political factors shaping threat perception
- The role of intelligence and information in assessing threats

Week 8: Applying Threat Perception – Case Studies

- Case studies of different threat perceptions in global security
- Comparing threat perception in various regions (e.g., the Middle East, South Asia, Europe)
- The influence of threat perception on national security policy

Week 9: Global Security Challenges

- Major global security threats (e.g., terrorism, cyber threats, pandemics)
- Non-traditional threats and challenges to National Security
- Global organizations and their role in addressing these challenges

Week 10: Linkages between Global Security and National Security

- How global security dynamics influence national security policies
- The role of international alliances and organizations in shaping national security
- The impact of globalization on National Security

Week 11: The Role of Technology in National Security

- The impact of technological advancements on National Security
- Cybersecurity, information warfare, and surveillance
- Emerging technologies and their implications for national defence

Week 12: The Future of National Security – Emerging Threats

- The rise of new threats (e.g., cyber-attacks, climate change, biotechnology)
- How National Security concepts must evolve to address future challenges
- Predicting the future of global and national security

Week 13: National Security and Ethics

- Ethical considerations in National Security policies
- Human rights vs. state security
- The ethics of surveillance, data privacy, and counterterrorism measures

Week 14: The Political Economy of National Security

- The role of economic factors in shaping National Security
- Resource management, economic sanctions, and the relationship between security and economic stability
- The role of defense spending and military-industrial complex in national security

Week 15: National Security in South Asia

- Regional security dynamics in South Asia
- Key national security issues in South Asian countries (e.g., Pakistan, India, Afghanistan)
- The impact of historical conflicts and regional rivalries on National Security

Week 16: Final Review and Exam Preparation

Nature of Assessment

| Nature of Examination | Duration | Frequency | Weighting (%age) |
|---|-----------------|------------------|-------------------------|
| End semester examination | 3 hours | 1 | 30 – 50 |
| Mid Term | 2 hours | 1 | 15 – 25 |
| Quizzes | - | Minimum: 3 | 05 – 15 |
| Class Participation | - | - | 0 – 5* |
| Assignments / Project(s) / Case Studies | Own time | - | 10 – 40 |

*Shall be allocated only if there are no case studies.

Reference Material:

- Buzan, Barry. *People, States and Fear: An Agenda for International Security Studies in the Post-Cold War Era*. 1st edition 1981, 2nd Edition. Hertfordshire: Harvester Wheatsheaf, 1991 and 2008 with a new preface from the author.
- Mohammed Ayoob, "Subaltern Realism: International Relations Theory Meets the Third World", in Stephanie G. Neuman (ed), *International Relations and the Third World*, St. Martin's Press, 1998.
- Ole Weaver, "Securitization and Desecuritization" in Barry Buzan, Ole Weaver and J. de Wilde, *Security: a New Framework for Analysis*, (Boulder: Lynne Rienner).
- Matt McDonald, "Securitization and the Construction of Security", *European Journal of International Relations*, Vol. 14(4): 563–587, 2008.
- Ken Booth, *Theory of World Security*, Cambridge University Press, 2007, (Chap. 3).
- E. H. Carr, *The Twenty Years' Crisis, 1919-1939: An Introduction to the Study of International Relations*, Macmillan, London, 1939.
- Robert Jervis, "Realism, Neoliberalism, and Cooperation: Understanding the Debate", *International Security*, Vol.24, No.1: 42-63.
- John Mearsheimer, *The Tragedy of Great Power Politics*, W.W. Norton, New York, 2001 (Chapters 1-2).
- R.B.J. Walker, "Security, sovereignty, and the challenge of world politics" *Alternatives* 15(1990), pp. 3–27.