

## **Contemporary Security Issues**

- a. Credit Hours 3-0
- b. Course Code:SS-818
- c. Course Title

### **Contemporary Security Issues**

- d. **Course Description**

This course provides an overview of current and future challenges in international security. The course covers current, relevant security concepts, including inter-state conflict, ethnic conflict, nuclear deterrence, arms control, WMD proliferation, terrorism collective security/alliances, human security, biosecurity, cyber security, and environmental changes that have come to the fore in global politics. The lectures evaluate critically the core concepts and theories in the discipline and are designed to give students a 'head start' for understanding the readings. Although not everyone's interest in studying international politics is theoretical, one of the central messages of the course is that different theoretical approaches generate different images of the world that build on particular assumptions. Therefore, the course will help them understand the worldview they bring to studying global politics and global security analysis. It will evolve and strengthen critical thinking, writing, research, and public speaking skills in a classroom environment that is cooperative and respectful and facilitates, as much as possible, the participation and inclusion of everyone's voice with respect for diversity of opinion.

- e. **Courses Outcomes**

By the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a good understanding of key concepts and perspectives used to discuss and theorize security and be familiar with critical debates in contemporary security studies.
- Develop a critical understanding of the relationship between security theory and practice and how different theoretical approaches to security frame our ways of understanding contemporary issues differently, as well as revealing assumptions and normative values

(implicit or explicit) about the nature of politics, who the legitimate political actors are, and prioritize specific issues over others.

- Understand the role of theory as not just explanatory but also as constitutive of policy and the perceived policy options available.
- Be familiar with several key contemporary issues and debates prominent within the field of security studies

f. **Course Objectives**

Primary goals of the course include increasing understanding of the transnational and emerging threats and opportunities in international security as well as future trends in security paradigms to help them develop a rational and cognitive understanding of the global security environment with a futuristic approach and its implications for contemporary international relations. This course aims to alert students to other ways of seeing things. This should allow students to make a more confident decision about their stance towards particular issues and analyze them more thoroughly.

g. **Course Contents**

**Week 1:** Course Introduction; Familiarization with Security

**Week 2:** Power, Politics and Human nature in International Security: Origins of wars, introduction of national and International Security

**Week 3:** Paradigm Shift in Concept of Security: Extended and Broadened Concepts of Security

**Week 4:** Comprehensive Discussion on Critical Security Studies

**Week 5:** Cold War threats to security: Balance of Power, Deterrence, Containment, and Nuclear Rivalry views international security from the prism of bipolar rivalry

**Week 6:** Post-Cold War threats to national/international security; New Wars, terrorism, internal conflicts

**Week 7:** Resolving transnational threats: self-help or collective security approaches?

**Week 8:** Ethnic-based Conflict and Humanitarian Intervention: "Soft Security"

**Week 9:      *Mid-Term Exam***

**Week 10:**   Intelligence and Coercive Diplomacy in Security

**Week 11:**    Nuclear Security

**Week 12:**    Terrorism, Unconventional Warfare, Transnational Crime and Security

**Week 13:**    Cyber security

**Week 14:**    Biosecurity

**Week 15**     Space Security

**Week 16:**    *Final Exam*

***h.      Recommended Readings***

- Lupton, D. L. (2024). Threat Construction and Coercive Credibility. *Security Studies*, 1–32.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/09636412.2024.2307058>
- Jarvis, L., & Legrand, T. (2023). National Submissions to the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee as Constructions of National Identity: Cameroon, Kenya and Nigeria. *African Security*, 16(2–3), 151–175.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/19392206.2023.2243111>
- Gruszczak, Artur, And Mateusz Kolaszyński. “Understanding Contemporary Security: A Prolegomenon to the Interplay Between Technology, Innovation and Policy Responses.” *Politeja*, No. 79 (2022): 5–16, <https://www.jstor.org/stable/27193565>
- Alan Collins (ed.) *Contemporary Security Studies* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2020).
- Bove V., Ruffa, C., and Ruggeri A. (2020), Composing peace. Mission composition in UN peacekeeping”, Oxford University Press.
- O'Neill, Kate. “Introduction.” In *The Environment and International Relations*. 2nd edition. Cambridge University Press, 2017.
- Fierke, Karin M., *Critical Approaches to International Security*, 2nd ed., Jon Wiley & Sons, 2015
- Peoples, Columba and Nick Vaughan-Williams. “Introduction: Mapping Critical Security Studies and Travelling Without Maps” In *Critical Security Studies: An Introduction*, edited by Columba Peoples and Nick Vaughan-Williams. New York: Routledge, 2015.

- Peoples, Columba and Nick Vaughan-Williams. "Chapter 10: Human Security and Development." In *Critical Security Studies: An Introduction*, edited by Columba Peoples and Nick Vaughan-Williams. New York: Routledge, 2015.
- Peoples, Columba and Nick Vaughan-Williams. "Chapter 11: Migration and Border Security." In *Critical Security Studies: An Introduction*, edited by Columba Peoples and Nick Vaughan-Williams. New York: Routledge, 2015
- Hough, Peter, *Understanding Global Security*, Routledge, 2014
- Williams, Paul D. (ed), *Security Studies: An Introduction*, 2nd edition, Routledge, 2012
- Burgess, J. Peter (ed), *The Routledge Handbook of New Security Studies*, Routledge, 2012.
- "Introduction," in Baylis, John, James J. Wirtz, and Colin S Gray. *Strategy in the Contemporary World: An Introduction to Strategic Studies*. 3rd ed. Oxford; New York: Oxford University Press, 2010.
- Christie, Ryerson. "Critical Voices and Human Security: To Endure, to Engage or to Critique?." *Security Dialogue* 41, no. 2 (2010): 169-190.
- Krause, Keith and Williams, Michael C., *Critical Security Studies: Concepts and Strategies*, Routledge, 2002.
- Buzan, Barry; Waever, Ole and Wilde, Jaap De, *Security: A New Framework for Analysis*, Lynne Reinner, 1997