IR 616
Individual, National and Global Security
Spring 2009

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⏰ Tuesday 10:30-12:00, Thursday 16:30-18:00
and by appointment

Aims
Despite the prevalence of state-based (‘national security’) approaches to security during the Cold War, alternative ways of thinking about security—focusing on the individual and society—also developed during this time period. In the post-Cold War era the primacy of state in considerations of security has come under increasing challenge from a variety of perspectives. This course is designed to provide a critical overview of (1) state-based approaches to security in an increasingly globalised world; (2) alternative approaches to security that focus on individual, societal and/or global security. The strengths and weaknesses of these approaches will be highlighted through considering various cases.

Objectives
The objectives of this course are both subject-specific and general. General objectives include the development of oral, written and research skills as the course requires students to become able to read, absorb and critically assess a significant amount of complex (and at times contradictory) material. The subject-specific objectives include developing students’

- understanding of contending approaches to the study of security;
- knowledge and understanding of the key literature in the discipline;
- knowledge and understanding of Security Studies beyond their immediate area of interest;
- ability to analyse contemporary security policies and practices from a conceptual perspective;
- ability to assess the implications of adopting critical approaches for the study and practices of security around the world.
Teaching

Since the course is taught as a post-graduate level seminar, the onus is on you to read widely around the topics. The seminars on occasions may include mini lectures designed to introduce and/or contextualise that week’s topic, but you will be doing most of the work. My role will be to provide a basic overview of that week’s topic, offer you contending perspectives on the issues concerned, and seek to generate a discussion structured around a set of questions. The aim is to encourage you to think independently and critically whilst remaining firmly grounded in the knowledge provided by the readings.

The following list is by no means exhaustive. It should rather be viewed as a representative sample of the existing literature. In the pages that follow, you will find a list of required and recommended readings for each week. Our discussions will be based mostly on the required readings. The lists of recommended texts are there to provide a broader context as well as more detail, which may be useful as a starting point and reference for written assignments or future studies. You are advised to do your readings in the order they are presented.¹

What you should remember at all times is that **good discussions depend on serious preparation by students**. You are strongly encouraged to read the texts carefully and prepare written answers to the questions to ensure thorough preparation especially in the first few weeks of the course when you are less experienced in participating in seminars. **It is critical that you do all your readings and come in ready to take active part in class discussions.** This is critical not only for your own intellectual development but also because participation counts towards 40% of your overall grade.

Please be reminded that you will only be in a position to do well in your assignments if you have attended the classes and read the literature (all of the required texts plus some of the recommended ones). Coming to the classes prepared is necessary not only because this constitutes a part of your assessment, but also because this will help you understand the course material much better so that you would be in a very strong position to do well in your exams/assignments.

You are required to attend all the classes (in accordance with the University regulations). If you cannot attend please let me know beforehand, or contact me (immediately) afterwards to provide a ‘legitimate’ excuse for your absence. Attendance will be taken and absences will be noted.

¹ Please note that this does not apply to the recommended texts.
Assessment

30% of your assessment will be based on in-class participation. This will take the form of participating in class discussions, which will be structured around questions that will be provided in advance (i.e. questions that you will have time to prepare for). You will be expected to demonstrate evidence of having read and thought about that week's topic.

70% of your assessment will be based on a research project. In this assignment, you are expected to choose one country and analyse conception(s) of security that exist in that country from the perspective of various actors (individuals and social groups as well as the state). The country of your choice, which cannot be your country of origin, has to be approved by me before you start the research process. When analysing your country of choice, you are expected to make use of the conceptual tools covered in class. Put differently, presenting a purely descriptive or historical analysis of the case (however insightful that may be) is not acceptable so far as the purposes of this course are concerned. When grading your paper, I will be looking for evidence of grasp of the literature covered in class as well as case study material.

In order to be able to provide maximum guidance to you throughout the research process, I have broken down the project into three steps:

1. An annotated bibliography (10% of the overall grade). In this assignment, you are expected to provide short (maximum one paragraph) descriptions of the sources that you are planning to use in your project (including encyclopaedia articles, reference books, bibliographies, books, academic articles, book chapters, policy articles, popular magazines, web pages as well as official documents). DUE MARCH 23, 2009, 17:30.

2. An annotated outline (10% of the overall grade). In this assignment, you are expected to prepare an outline of your research project (preliminary argument, sub-arguments, etc.) annotated with the sources you are planning to use to support those arguments. DUE APRIL 24, 2009, 17:30.

3. The research paper itself (50% of the overall grade). Word limit: 2500 words. Over-length papers will be penalised. DUE MAY 25, 2009, 17:30.
## In-class discussions

What I am looking for

- Evidence of active listening
- Evidence of reading and independent thinking
- Gradual development of seminar skills

I will be using the following criteria to assess your performance

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<tr>
<th>Evidence of having read the required material</th>
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<td>Relevant contribution</td>
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<td>Concern not to dominate the discussion</td>
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<td>Avoidance of anecdotal / irrelevant accounts</td>
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<td>Encouragement / enablement of others’ contributions</td>
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<td>Respectful treatment of others’ beliefs, values and opinions</td>
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<td>Evidence of ability to identify and evaluate different theoretical positions, bias, and orientation</td>
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<td>Confident handling of critical concepts and analytical terms</td>
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<td>Ability to respond effectively to constructive feedback</td>
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WEEK I
Introduction

WEEK II
The Politics of Security?

Required reading
WEEK III
National Security: Concept and Policies

Required reading

Recommended readings


Hedley Bull, 'Strategic Studies and Its Critics,' *World Politics* 20:4 (July 1968) 593-605.


WEEK IV
Dilemmas of National Security

Required readings

Recommended readings


WEEK V
Individual and/or National Security?

Required readings


Recommended readings


WEEK VI

Securitization in theory and practice

Required readings


Recommended readings


WEEK VII

Societal Security: a new concept

Required readings


Recommended readings


WEEK VIII

Security in the Developing World

Required readings


Recommended readings


WEEK IX

Regional in/security

Required readings


Recommended readings


Pınar Bilgin, 'Alternative Futures for the Middle East,' *Futures* 33 (2001) 423-436.


WEEK IX
Cultures of in/security

Required readings

Recommended readings
WEEK X
Ontological in/security

Required readings

Recommended readings


WEEK XI

A New Twenty Years’ Crisis?

Required reading

Recommended readings
Barry Buzan, 'Will the ‘Global War on Terrorism’ Be the New Cold War?'. *International Affairs* 82, no. 6 (2006): 1101-1+.  
WEEK XII
Security, Emancipation, Community

Required reading

Recommended Readings


WEEK XIII

Critical Theory of World Security

Required reading

Recommended readings


WEEK XIV
Critical Theory in World Politics

Required reading

Recommended readings


WEEK XV
Averting a New Twenty Years’ Crisis?

Required reading

Recommended readings

