

# PO135-15 Nine Ideas in International Security

**20/21**

**Department**

Politics & International Studies

**Level**

Undergraduate Level 1

**Module leader**

Julia Welland

**Credit value**

15

**Module duration**

10 weeks

**Assessment**

100% coursework

**Study location**

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

---

## Description

### Introductory description

N/A

### Module aims

We intend that this module will elucidate major ideas and showcase the variety of PAIS provision across international security in years two and three. It will be an idea driven and theoretically informed module but it will not be a theory module. It will avoid replicating what is already very general and broad brush IR/IS provision within the existing first year curriculum. Accordingly it will be about the impact of "big ideas" and "big books" on international security more than a survey of theories of international security. Each lecture will be delivered either by a single person or by two people as adversaries. The module will reflect the research interest of staff and will have a unique quality. It will offer discussion of some of the latest developments. It will not attempt to offer a broad survey since this is only a 15 CATS module. We wish to offer a distinctive optional module that is fully complementary to other PAIS modules at this level. By displaying the expertise in the field in PAIS this module aims to offer the first step on a departmental pathway to other more specialised

modules in IR/IS at FHEQ level 5 and above. At PGT level the module is a on pathway to at least six of the 40 CATS and seven of the 20 CATS modules currently available across the MA courses including the MA in International Security.

## Outline syllabus

This is an indicative module outline only to give an indication of the sort of topics that may be covered. Actual sessions held may differ.

Nine topics from the following list (the selection may vary in any one year in line with individual staff availabilities). Colleagues' initials are indicative: all have been consulted. Some lectures may be delivered in the style of a debating forum with more than one presenter. The focus will be on one big book - or several related books

1. Why IS? The added value of studying international security: the questions that only comparative politics poses, can address and provides compelling answers to. Also a brief introduction to approaches or methods in the study of IS (RA).
2. Ideas of Feminism - Cynthia Enloe's *Bananas, Beaches, and Bases* [TH]
3. Ideas of Economy - PW Singer *Corporate Warriors* and J Kirshner, *Appeasing Bankers* [AH]
4. Ideas of Sovereignty - Stephen Krasner on Sovereignty. [MK]
5. Ideas of Foreign Policy - Joseph Nye "soft power" and US foreign policy [TM]
6. Ideas of Geopolitics - Halford Mackinder's 'The Geopolitical Pivot', George Kennan's 'The sources of Soviet Conduct', Huntington's 'Clash of Civilisations'. [CB]
7. Ideas of Refuge - Peter Nyers 'Rethinking refugees'/Emma Haddad's 'Refugees in international society'. [VS]
8. Ideas of Power — focused on Foucault: readings might be Mitchell Dean's 'Governmentality' and Steven Lukes' 'Power: A Radical View' [JN]
9. Ideas of Civilisation - Samuel Huntington's 'clash' from the perspective of Middle East studies (de-constructing monolithic conceptions of 'civilizational' blocs). [NP]
10. Ideas of Religion - Juergensmeyer's *Terror in the Mind of God* [RC]
11. Ideas of the Internet - John Perry Barlow, Jaron Lanier, Lawrence Lessig [RA]
12. Ideas of Conspiracy - Richard Hofstadter and the paranoid style [CM]

## Learning outcomes

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

- Demonstrate a basic understanding of how international relations and international security (IR/IS) contributes to the study of politics as a whole.
- Demonstrate a basic knowledge of different approaches to the study of IR/IS, including a critical awareness of ideational approaches and the role of ideas in global society.
- Be able to relate scholarly literature theorising IR/IS and actual contemporary political developments including very topical events.
- Be able to make informed comparisons of various strengths and weaknesses of different IR/IS approaches.

## Indicative reading list

## Subject specific skills

TBC

## Transferable skills

Written communication skills

Oral communication skills

Problem-solving skills

Skills in the use of information technology

Skills of interpretation and the critical analysis of primary and secondary sources

Awareness and sensitivity to diversity (in terms of people, cultures) and the ability to understand unfamiliar ideas and ways of thinking

the ability to digest, retain and apply complex information and ideas

Ability to conduct research and reference their work appropriately

Time management skills and the ability to meet deadlines

The ability to reflect critically on the extent and limitations of how and what they have learned, discovered and understood

---

## Study

### Study time

Type	Required
Lectures	9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Seminars	9 sessions of 1 hour (6%)
Private study	132 hours (88%)
Total	150 hours

### Private study description

TBC

## Costs

No further costs have been identified for this module.

---

## Assessment

You must pass all assessment components to pass the module.

Students can register for this module without taking any assessment.

## Assessment group A1

	Weighting	Study time	Eligible for self-certification
Assessment component			
Assessed Essay	100%		Yes (extension)
A 2,500-word essay.			
Reassessment component is the same			

## Feedback on assessment

Essay feedback will be returned within 20 working days of essay submission  
Formative and summative feedback will be provided in accordance with standard PAIS practice.

---

## Availability

### Courses

This module is Optional for:

- UECA-3 Undergraduate Economics 3 Year Variants
  - Year 1 of L100 Economics
  - Year 1 of L116 Economics and Industrial Organization
- Year 1 of UECA-LM1D Undergraduate Economics, Politics and International Studies
- Year 1 of UPHA-V7ML Undergraduate Philosophy, Politics and Economics
- Year 1 of UPOA-M162 Undergraduate Politics, International Studies and Quantitative Methods

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 1 of UPOA-M100 Undergraduate Politics
- Year 1 of UPOA-M16A Undergraduate Politics and International Studies

This module is Option list B for:

- USOA-L301 BA in Sociology
  - Year 1 of L305 Sociology with Specialism in Cultural Studies
  - Year 1 of L303 Sociology with Specialism in Gender Studies
  - Year 1 of L304 Sociology with Specialism in Research Methods
  - Year 1 of L302 Sociology with Specialism in Social Policy