

# PO966-40 Concepts and Theories of International Security

20/21

**Department**

Politics & International Studies

**Level**

Taught Postgraduate Level

**Module leader**

Oz Hassan

**Credit value**

40

**Module duration**

20 weeks

**Assessment**

100% coursework

**Study location**

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

---

## Description

### Introductory description

This module provides students with an introduction to theories of security in international relations. While most work on security in international relations begins from the traditional assumption that security means the preservation of state sovereignty and territorial integrity, this module introduces students to a range of different ways of conceptualising security in international relations and points to the importance of recognising that security is highly contested and contestable. The first half of the module begins by outlining some of the key debates about security in international relations before exploring traditional theoretical approaches and conceptual frameworks. The second half of the module outlines critical theoretical approaches and conceptual frameworks of security, and outlines several core 'images' of security in international relations.

[Module web page](#)

### Module aims

To provide an overview of debates regarding security in international relations.

To offer a thorough grounding in different theoretical approaches to the study and practice of security in international relations.

To provide an outline of different images of security in international relations that have affected contemporary security practices.

To enable students to engage the theoretical and conceptual frameworks developed in this module in relation to particular empirical security issues/ cases in international relations.

## **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.

Week 1: Introduction to the Module

Security: An Introduction

Week 2: Security: The Concept

Week 3: Traditional v Critical Approaches to Security

Week 4: The Security Debate in IR: Broadening and Deepening

Traditional Theories and Conceptual Frameworks

Week 5: Realism/ Neorealism

Week 6: READING WEEK- no classes

Week 7: Strategic Studies I: Warfare

Week 8: Strategic Studies II: The threat and use of force

Week 9: Liberalism and Neoconservatism

Week 10: English School

END OF AUTUMN TERM

Critical Theories and Conceptual Frameworks

Week 11: Constructivism

Week 12: Securitization and the Copenhagen School

Week 13: Gender and Feminist Approaches

Week 14: Critical Theory and the Welsh School

Week 15: Post-structuralism and the Paris School

Week 16: READING WEEK- no classes

Images of International Security

Week 17: Identity: 'The Clash of Civilisations'

Week 18: Geopolitics: 'The Coming Anarchy'

Week 19: Uncertainty: 'Risk Society'

Week 20: Conclusion: The Future of Security in Theory and Practice

## **Learning outcomes**

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

- To understand the significance of examining fundamental questions of security in international relations: whose security (referent); who provides security; from what threats;

and by what means?

- To examine the implications of debates about security theory for contemporary security practices in international relations.
- To evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the various theoretical approaches to security introduced in the module.
- To evaluate the impact as well as strengths and weaknesses of the images of security introduced in the module.
- To enable students to analyse critically complex ideas, both orally and in writing, in relation to issues influencing contemporary debates about security.
- To encourage students to develop the ability to work both independently and as part of group.
- To allow students to develop library and IT-based research skills through independent research and preparation for class.

## Indicative reading list

### Highly Recommended Texts:

- Williams, Paul, D. and McDonald, Matt, (eds.), *Security Studies: An Introduction*, 3rd ed. Routledge, 2018.
- Peoples, Columba and Vaughan-Williams, Nick, *Critical Security Studies: An Introduction*, 2nd ed. Routledge, 2014.
- Dunn Cavelty, Myriam and Balzacq, Thierry *The Routledge Handbook of Security Studies*, 2nd ed. Routledge, 2018.

### Recommended Texts:

- Baylis, John et al., *Strategy in the Contemporary World: Introduction to Strategic Studies*, 6th ed. Oxford UP, 2018.
- Bilger, P. *The International in Security, Security in the International*, Routledge, 2016.
- Booth, Ken, *Theory of World Security*, Cambridge UP, 2007.
- Booth, Ken (ed.) *Critical Security Studies and World Politics*, Lynne Rienner, 2005.
- Browning, Christopher *International Security: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford, 2013.
- Buzan, Barry et al., *Security: A New Framework for Analysis*, Lynne Rienner, 1998.
- Buzan, Barry, *People, States and Fear: An Agenda for International Security*, 2nd ed. Harvester Wheatsheaf, 1991.
- Buzan, Barry and Lene Hansen, *The Evolution of International Security Studies*, Cambridge 2009.
- Buzan, Barry and Ole Waever, *Regions and Powers: The Structure of International Security*, Cambridge, 2003
- Collins, Allan (ed.), *Contemporary Security Studies*, 5th ed. Oxford, 2019.
- Danreuther, Roland, *International Security: The Contemporary Agenda*, 2nd ed. Polity, 2013.
- Fierke, Karin, *Critical Approaches to International Security*, 2nd ed. Polity, 2015.
- Fry, Greg and Jacinta O'Hagan (eds.) *Contending Images of World Politics*, Palgrave, 2001.
- Hough, Peter et al (eds.) *International Security Studies: Theory and Practice*, Routledge, 2015.
- Hough, Peter, *Understanding Global Security*, 4th ed., Routledge, 2018.

- Huysmans, Jef, Security Unbound: Enacting Democratic Limits, Routledge, 2014.
- Jarvis, Lee and Holland, Jack Security: A Critical Introduction, Palgrave, 2015.
- Kay, Sean, Global Security in the Twenty-First Century; the quest for power and the search for peace, 2nd ed. Roman and Littlefield, 2011.
- Krause, Keith and Michael C. Williams (eds.), Critical Security Studies, UCL Press, 1997.
- Salter, Mark and Mutlu, Can (eds) Research Methods in Critical Security Studies, Routledge, 2013.
- Sheehan, Michael, International Security: An Analytical Survey, Lynne Rienner, 2005
- Shepherd, L. Critical Approaches to Security: An Introduction to Theories and Methods Routledge, 2013
- Snyder, Craig, Contemporary Security and Strategy, 3rd ed. Palgrave, 2012.
- Terriff, Terry et al. Security Studies Today, Blackwell, 1999.

[View reading list on Talis Aspire](#)

## Subject specific skills

Knowledge of key debates in IR and IS

## Transferable skills

Analytical skills  
 Essay writing skills  
 Presentations skills

## Study

### Study time

Type	Required
Seminars	18 sessions of 2 hours (9%)
Private study	364 hours (91%)
Total	400 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.

### Assessment group A2

	<b>Weighting</b>	<b>Study time</b>	<b>Eligible for self-certification</b>
First 5000 word essay	50%		Yes (extension)
Second 5000 word essay	50%		Yes (extension)

### Feedback on assessment

Written feedback on submitted essays

---

## Availability

### Courses

This module is Core optional for:

- TPOS-M9PX Double MA in Global Governance (with University of Waterloo, Canada)
  - Year 1 of M9PX Global Governance Double MA (with University of Waterloo)
  - Year 1 of M96G International Security (Double Degree - Waterloo)
  - Year 2 of M9PX Global Governance Double MA (with University of Waterloo)
- TPOS-M9PV Double MA in Journalism, Politics and International Studies (with Monash University)
  - Year 1 of M9PV Journalism, Politics and International Studies Double Degree (with Monash University)
  - Year 1 of M94G Journalism, Politics and International Studies: International Security (Double Degree - Monash)
  - Year 2 of M9PV Journalism, Politics and International Studies Double Degree (with Monash University)
- TPOS-M9PW Double MA in Politics and International Service (with American University, Washington DC)
  - Year 1 of M9PW Politics and International Service Double MA (with American University)
  - Year 1 of M95G Politics and International Service: International Security (Double Degree - AU)
  - Year 2 of M9PW Politics and International Service Double MA (with American University)
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9PE Double MA in Politics and International Studies (with NTU Singapore)
- TPOS-M9PR Double MA in Politics and International Studies (with Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona)

- Year 1 of M93G International Security (Double Degree - Barcelona)
- Year 2 of M93H Public Policy (Double Degree - Barcelona)
- TPOS-M9PP Double MA in Politics and International Studies (with Universität Konstanz, Germany)
  - Year 1 of M92G International Security (Double Degree - Konstanz)
  - Year 2 of M92G International Security (Double Degree - Konstanz)
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9PC Postgraduate Taught International Security

This module is Optional for:

- Year 2 of TPOS-M9PX Double MA in Global Governance (with University of Waterloo, Canada)
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9PT MA in International Development
- Year 1 of TPOS-M1PA MA in International Politics and Europe
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9Q1 Postgraduate Politics, Big Data and Quantitative Methods
- Year 1 of TPOS-M1P3 Postgraduate Taught International Political Economy
- Year 1 of TPOS-M1P8 Postgraduate Taught International Politics and East Asia
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9P9 Postgraduate Taught International Relations
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9PS Postgraduate Taught Political and Legal Theory
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9PF Postgraduate Taught Public Policy
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9PQ Postgraduate Taught United States Foreign Policy

This module is Core option list A for:

- Year 1 of TPOS-M9PE Double MA in Politics and International Studies (with NTU Singapore)

This module is Option list A for:

- Year 2 of TPOS-M9PV Double MA in Journalism, Politics and International Studies (with Monash University)
- Year 2 of TPOS-M9PW Double MA in Politics and International Service (with American University, Washington DC)
- TPOS-M9PE Double MA in Politics and International Studies (with NTU Singapore)
  - Year 1 of M91F Globalisation and Development (Double Degree - NTU)
  - Year 1 of M91L International Development (Double Degree - NTU)
  - Year 1 of M91B International Political Economy (Double Degree - NTU)
  - Year 1 of M91C International Politics and East Asia (Double Degree - NTU)
  - Year 1 of M91D International Politics and Europe (Double Degree - NTU)
  - Year 2 of M91L International Development (Double Degree - NTU)
  - Year 2 of M91B International Political Economy (Double Degree - NTU)
  - Year 2 of M91C International Politics and East Asia (Double Degree - NTU)
- TPOS-M9PR Double MA in Politics and International Studies (with Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona)
  - Year 1 of M93B International Political Economy (Double Degree - Barcelona)
  - Year 1 of M93H Public Policy (Double Degree - Barcelona)
  - Year 2 of M93B International Political Economy (Double Degree - Barcelona)
  - Year 2 of M93H Public Policy (Double Degree - Barcelona)
- TPOS-M9PP Double MA in Politics and International Studies (with Universität Konstanz,

Germany)

- Year 1 of M92L International Development (Double Degree - Konstanz)
- Year 1 of M92D International Politics and Europe (Double Degree - Konstanz)
- Year 1 of M92K Political and Legal Theory (Double Degree - Konstanz)
- Year 1 of M92J United States Foreign Policy (Double Degree - Konstanz)
- Year 2 of M92B International Political Economy (Double Degree - Konstanz)
- Year 2 of M92C International Politics and East Asia (Double Degree - Konstanz)
- Year 2 of M92D International Politics and Europe (Double Degree - Konstanz)
- Year 2 of M92E International Relations (Double Degree - Konstanz)
- Year 2 of M92K Political and Legal Theory (Double Degree - Konstanz)
- Year 2 of M92H Public Policy (Double Degree - Konstanz)
- Year 2 of TPOS-M9PT MA in International Development
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9Q1 Postgraduate Politics, Big Data and Quantitative Methods
- Year 2 of TPOS-M1P8 Postgraduate Taught International Politics and East Asia
- Year 2 of TPOS-M9PS Postgraduate Taught Political and Legal Theory
- Year 2 of TPOS-M9PQ Postgraduate Taught United States Foreign Policy

This module is Option list B for:

- TPOS-M9PE Double MA in Politics and International Studies (with NTU Singapore)
  - Year 1 of M91K Political and Legal Theory (Double Degree - NTU)
  - Year 1 of M91J United States Foreign Policy (Double Degree - NTU)
- TPOS-M9PP Double MA in Politics and International Studies (with Universität Konstanz, Germany)
  - Year 1 of M92B International Political Economy (Double Degree - Konstanz)
  - Year 1 of M92C International Politics and East Asia (Double Degree - Konstanz)
  - Year 1 of M92E International Relations (Double Degree - Konstanz)
  - Year 1 of M92H Public Policy (Double Degree - Konstanz)
- Year 1 of TIMA-L981 Postgraduate Social Science Research

This module is Option list D for:

- Year 1 of TPOS-M9P9 Postgraduate Taught International Relations
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9PS Postgraduate Taught Political and Legal Theory
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9PQ Postgraduate Taught United States Foreign Policy