

PO9C7-20 New Issues in International Security

24/25

Department

Politics & International Studies

Level

Taught Postgraduate Level

Module leader

Christopher Browning

Credit value

20

Module duration

10 weeks

Assessment

100% coursework

Study location

University of Warwick main campus, Coventry

Description

Introductory description

Since the end of the Cold War the security agenda of international politics has expanded dramatically. Traditional concerns with the balance of power, narrowly defined conceptions of the national interest and a focus on strategic issues of war and peace have been complemented with a much wider range of concerns also increasingly seen as fundamental for maintaining international peace and security.

This module provides an introduction to the development of security debates on a range of these so-called 'new security challenges', central to which increasingly is a shift away from narrower concerns of state security towards broader conceptions of societal security. However, the 'security-ness' of issues such as migration, climate change, resources, culture and borders, health and development, or various aspects of the global commons is often highly contested, deeply political and raise considerable ethical concerns for how security is understood and sought in the contemporary environment.

Module aims

This module provides students with an understanding of a range of issues that are frequently

depicted as part of a new and broadening security agenda. The module emphasises security as a politically contested concept and category and encourages students to critically assess the nature of security claims being made on a range of issues – in particular to consider how security and threat are being defined, which objects of security are being prioritised, which agents are deemed most appropriate for dealing with different security challenges and which policy options are being favoured.

The module is divided into three parts. Part one provides a theoretical introduction to security. Part two focuses on tensions between state vs human security in a range of security issues. Part three focuses on security challenges raised by various contested sites of 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.

Week 1: What is security?

Week 2: Migration and security

Week 3: Development and security

Week 4: Health and security

Week 5: Energy security and resource conflict

Week 6: Reading Week

Week 7: The Global Commons I: The Environment and Global Climate Change

Week 8: The Global Commons II: Outer Space, the High Seas and Antarctica

Week 9: Borders and Global Cultural Heritage

Week 10: Cyber security

Learning outcomes

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

- Appreciate the politically contested nature of the concept of security.
- Identify core debates about the changing nature of security in the contemporary age, the processes that underpin them, and their potential implications.
- Interrogate those claims with a particular emphasis on their political and ethical dimensions and with respect to how debates about security are inherently politicised.
- Engage with policy debates about pertinent approaches to tackling a range of diverse security issues.
- Effectively communicate and debate arguments about the contemporary broadened international security agenda.

Indicative reading list

Booth, K. (ed.) (2005) *Critical Security Studies and World Politics* (Lynne Rienner).

Bourne, M. (2014) *Understanding Security* (Palgrave Macmillan)

Browning, C. S. (2013) *International Security: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press).

Buzan, B. et al., (1998) *Security: A New Framework for Analysis* (Lynne Rienner).

- Buzan, B. and L. Hansen (2009) *The Evolution of International Security Studies* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press)
- Collins, A. (ed.) (2010) *Contemporary Security Studies* (Oxford: Oxford University Press) Second Edition.
- Dannreuther, R. (2007) *International Security: The Contemporary Agenda* (Cambridge: Polity).
- Fierke, K. (2007) *Approaches to International Security* (Cambridge: Polity).
- Hough, P. (2004) *Understanding Global Security* (London: Routledge).
- Hough, P. et al (2015) *International Security Studies: Theory and Practice* (London: Routledge).
- Jarvis, L. and J. Holland (2015) *Security: A Critical Introduction* (Palgrave).
- Kay, S. (2006) *Global Security in the Twenty-First Century; the quest for power and the search for peace* (Roman and Littlefield).
- Mabee, B. (2009) *The Globalization of Security* (Palgrave).
- Peoples, C. and N Vaughan-Williams (2010) *Critical Security Studies: An Introduction* (London: Routledge)
- Sheehan, M. (2005) *International Security: An Analytical Survey* (Lynne Rienner).
- Terriff, T.; S. Croft, L. James and P. Morgan (1999) *Security Studies Today* (Cambridge: Polity).
- Williams, Paul (ed.) (2013) *Security Studies: An Introduction* (London: Routledge).

[View reading list on Talis Aspire](#)

Subject specific skills

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

- Appreciate the politically contested nature of the concept of security.
- Identify core debates about the changing nature of security in the contemporary age, the processes that underpin them, and their potential implications.
- Interrogate those claims with a particular emphasis on their political and ethical dimensions and with respect to how debates about security are inherently politicised.
- Engage with policy debates about pertinent approaches to tackling a range of diverse security issues.
- Effectively communicate and debate arguments about the contemporary broadened international security agenda.

Transferable skills

Critical analysis

Presentation and communication

Argument and debate

Study

Study time

Type	Required
Seminars	9 sessions of 2 hours (9%)
Private study	182 hours (91%)
Total	200 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
5000 word Research Essay	100%		Yes (extension)
5000 word Essay			

Feedback on assessment

feedback form via Tabula, optional verbal consultation

Availability

Courses

This module is Optional for:

- 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-M9PC Postgraduate Taught International Security
- 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 Option list B for:

- Year 1 of TPOS-M9PE Double MA in Politics and International Studies (with NTU Singapore)
- Year 1 of TPOS-M9PP Double MA in Politics and International Studies (with Universität Konstanz, Germany)
- Year 1 of TIMA-L981 Postgraduate Social Science Research
- Year 1 of TPOS-M1PD Postgraduate Taught the Politics of Climate Change