



London

THE NEW SECURITY AGENDA

Introduction

This course is an introduction to Security Studies, a branch of the discipline of International Relations. It aims to familiarise students with the key concepts and debates of Security Studies for a better understanding of the contemporary security environment.

After a broad introduction to both mainstream and critical approaches in Security Studies, the course examines the most pressing contemporary security issues. It moves from the traditional concerns of state and military security, such as interstate war, nuclear weapons, civil wars, mass atrocities, and transnational terrorism, towards the progressive widening of the security agenda across the economic, health, environmental, and technological domains. Throughout, the course introduces students to a range of analytical perspectives to advance understanding of complex contemporary security issues.

Topics

1. Studying Security: Concepts and Approaches
2. Critical Approaches to Security Studies
3. Interstate Wars
4. Civil Wars
5. Mass Atrocities and the Responsibility to Protect (R2P)
6. Terrorism and the “War on Terror”
7. Economic Security
8. Health and Environmental Security
9. The Present and the Future of Security: Cyber Security, Cyberwarfare, and AI
10. Course Review

Course Assessment

1. Critical Literature Analysis

Summary: Students will analyse two contrasting scholarly articles on a security studies topic.

Word Count: 1,500 words – there is **no 10% leeway**, and anything over this word count will not be marked!

Worth 40% of the module grade.

2. Policy Analysis Paper

Summary: Students will produce an analysis of a contemporary security issue covered in the course (**note: it must be different from what you choose for the previous assessment**).

Word Count: 1,500 words

Worth: 60% of module grade.

Marking Criteria

- Articulate a logical argument throughout and be clearly written
- Show clear engagement with relevant primary and secondary source literature
- Demonstrate understanding of relevant debates and concepts
- Use empirical evidence (both scholarly and real-world policy-relevant evidence) to support the paper central argument; support claims with evidence; support the policy evaluation with both scholarly and policy evidence
- Be professionally formatted and properly referenced