University of Bamberg
Faculty of Social Sciences, Economics and Business Administration
Chair of International Relations (Prof. Dr. Gehring)

PWB-IE-S Foreign Policy:
Introduction to Security Studies

Term:	Summer 2022	**CPs**:	6 ECTS
Schedule:	Mondays, 12:00–14:00	**Room:**	F21/03.03

Lecturer:	Christopher Kearney, M.Sc.		
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Office Hours:	By appointment	**Office:**	F21/3.51b

Course Description

The question of how to achieve security, for whom and by which means is one of the most fundamental ones of social science, and *international* security consequently one of the core concerns of International Relations (IR). Security inherently concerns existential dimensions of humankind, and it thus has always been on the forefront of global politics, as few issues carry the same potential for conflict and cooperation alike. The subbranch of IR that deals with questions of security is nowadays frequently called Security Studies.

Security permeates our lives; it indubitably has enormous political effects. But what is security? While it remains 'essentially contested', that is, the scope of it remains open to political and academic debate, most IR scholars tend to agree that it involves protecting prized values or mitigating threats against them. Whilst traditionally, state-centric and focused on questions of military security, the field has burgeoned tremendously in the last 40 years. Nowadays a broad range of issues are seen to be under the purview of security – to the chagrin of some and delight of others. This unit is designed to equip students with a first understanding of *Security Studies* and some of its issues.

Prerequisites

1. The instruction and working language of this course is English. Classes will be held in English and all coursework must be completed in English also. Corresponding proficiency in English is therefore required. The summative assignment ('Hausarbeit') may be submitted in either English or German.

2. Prior knowledge of fundamentals of International Relations theory is assumed. In particular, **this seminar presumes *basic familiarity* with realist, liberal and constructivist theory**. *Proficiency* **is not required**. However, if you have neither successfully completed the lecture on international politics nor the 'Proseminar' 'Introduction to International and European Politics', you will have to engage in significant catch-up reading on those three theory traditions. It is therefore recommended you have completed either or both of those courses.

Brief Unit Overview

1	25/04/2022	Course Overview & 'What is Security Studies?'

Military Security & Traditional Issues

2	02/05/2022	Military Security, Strategic Studies & Its Critics
3	09/05/2022	Causes of Inter-State War
4	16/05/2022	Nuclear Weapons: Is More Less or More?
5	23/05/2022	The UN and Collective Security: Just the League of Nations 2.0?
6	30/05/2022	Security Regimes: Can Non-Proliferation Succeed?
7	06/06/2022	*Pentecost – no session*
8	13/06/2022	Security Communities: Is NATO More Than an Alliance?

Issues Beyond Military Security

9	20/06/2022	Whose Security Anyway? Broadening and Deepening Security
10	27/06/2022	Securitization Theory: How Issues Become an Object of Security
11	04/07/2022	Environmental and Planetary Security
12	11/07/2022	The 'New Wars': A Return to the Premodern Past?
13	18/07/2022	Private Military and Security Companies
14	25/07/2022	Closing Session

Course Details and Assessment

Teaching Arrangements and Registration

The unit is delivered via weekly seminars. In contrast to lectures, seminars take place in smaller groups and aim to be much more interactive. Your active participation is therefore expected and necessary for reaching a sufficient learning outcome. Each seminar will proceed with the expectation of you having completed that week's reading. Without proper participation and preparation, learning outcomes will be hampered severely.

The number of participants is limited. Student registration via FlexNow! is *mandatory*. The registration period runs from **04 April to 08 May 2022**. Late registration requires compelling reason and is only possible in consultation with the lecturer. If you have any questions regarding examination, enrolment, and unenrolment, please contact the secretary of the chair, Ms Claudia Genslein (claudia.genslein@uni-bamberg.de).

Literature & Assigned Readings

The required reading for each session is provided for download on the *virtual campus* platform. Additional readings are listed in this syllabus as a starting point for your term papers. Additionally, most sessions have dedicated presentation readings and associated questions listed. Some sessions have pointers for revision text, should you require to engage in that.

If you wish to purchase a textbook to aid you in your studies, recommended volumes include:

Collins, Alan (2022) (ed.), *Contemporary Security Studies* (6 edn., Oxford: Oxford University Press).

Williams, Paul D and Matt McDonald (2018) (eds.), *Security Studies. An Introduction* (3 edn., London: Routledge).

More advanced students who already have a firmer grasp on the core theories of IR (e.g., by having taken both the proseminar *and* the introductory lecture), or already know that they possess a greater interest in Security Studies, particularly beyond military issues, may wish to acquire the following volume instead.

Peoples, Columba and Nick Vaughan-Williams (2021), *Critical Security Studies. An Introduction* (3 edn., London: Routledge).

Note that none of these are required materials to pass the class. All mandatory readings will be provided.

Assessment

To pass, students need to:

- Give a presentation in class (about 20 mins) (*formative*)
- Submit a term paper on a topic of their choice (*summative*)

Both assignments are necessary to pass. The presentation **must** be handed in **before** the date it is due. The term paper, comprising about 5,000 words, contributes 100% to your result and is **due on 30/09/2022, 23:59 CEST**.

Presentation

Each participant will give a presentation of approx. 20 minutes in English. The presentation is part of your preparation for the term paper. The presentation is to be supplemented with digital slides. The slides and the handout should accompany and support your oral presentation, not replace it.

Your main goal as a presenter is to provide your audience with input to a given topic. This input serves as the basis for discussion during the session. To that extent, most weeks will have a presentation question that you are supposed to answer, although you may also arrange with the lecturer to work on a different question instead. The presentation should be based on the required and assigned presentation readings but should not merely summarize them. Note that a presentation is not meant to explore a topic in its entirety. Limit the scope of your topic and focus on the most salient points.

It is mandatory to send in your presentation in advance. Failure to do so without contrary arrangements with the lecturer will be counted as a failure to give the presentation.

Term Paper
The term paper ideally builds on their presentation topic but does not have to. You should speak with your lecturer about your paper's research question(s), hypotheses, structure, and possible literature well in advance. The term paper submission deadline is 30/09/2022. Please note that you will have to submit your paper electronically using the University of Bamberg online learning platform, *virtual campus*. Please upload a *pdf* file.

Note on Academic Misconduct
Students expected to adhere to the University of Bamberg standards on academic conduct. In recent years, plagiarizing work from either printed or online sources has increased dramatically. Any kind of plagiarism or academic misconduct will result in failing the course!

Term papers will be automatically algorithmically checked for plagiarism by the university's TurnItIn system, and further examined by the lecturer should it flag any parts of a student-submitted paper.

Estimated Workload for This Course (6 ECTS):

Course attendance:	28 hours
Required readings:	32 hours
Preparation of the presentation:	35 hours
Term paper	85 hours
Total:	180 hours