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:	Winter 2022-2023	**CPs**:	6 ECTS
Schedule:	Thursday, 14:00–16:00	**Room:**	FMA/00.08

Lecturer:	Christopher Kearney, M.Sc.		
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Office Hours:	By appointment	**Office:**	F21/3.31

Course Description

The question of how, for whom and by what means security can be achieved is one of the most fundamental questions of social science, and international security is therefore one of the core concerns of International Relations (IR). Security, by its very nature, touches on the existential dimensions of humanity and has accordingly always been at the forefront of global politics, as few issues carry the same potential for conflict and cooperation. The sub-field of IR that deals with security issues is now often referred to as security studies.

Security permeates our lives; it undoubtedly has enormous political implications. But what is security? While it remains 'essentially contested', i.e. its scope remains open to political and academic debate, most IR scholars tend to agree that it involves the protection of, or the mitigation of threats to, cherished values. While traditionally state-centric and focused on issues of military security, the field has grown tremendously over the past 40 years. Today, to the chagrin of some and the delight of others, a wide range of issues are considered to fall within the purview of security. This unit aims to provide students with an initial understanding of security policy and some of the issues involved.

Prerequisites
1. The instruction and working language of this course is English. Classes will be held in English and all coursework required to complete this seminar must be submitted in English. An appropriate level of English is therefore prerequisite to participate and succeed.

2. Prior knowledge of the fundamentals of International Relations theory is assumed. **This seminar assumes *basic familiarity* with realist, liberal and constructivist theory**. ***Proficiency* in these theories is not required, however**. If you have neither successfully completed the introductory Lecture on International Politics or the Proseminar Introduction to International and European Politics, you will have to do significant catch-up reading in these three theory traditions. It is therefore recommended that you have completed one or both courses.

Brief Unit Overview

Introductory Topics

1	20/04/2022	Course Overview & 'What is Security Studies?'

Military Security & Traditional Issues

2	27/04/2022	Military Security, Strategic Studies & the National Interest
3	04/05/2022	Structural Causes of Inter-State War
4	11/05/2022	Nuclear Weapons
	18/05/2023	*Public holiday (Ascension Day) – no class*
5	25/05/2022	Security Regimes & the Non-Proliferation Regime

Culture & Security

6	01/06/2022	Security Communities: Is NATO More Than an Alliance?
	08/06/2023	*Public holiday (Corpus Christi) – no class*
7	15/06/2022	Strategic Culture & Russia's Great Power Ambitions

Security Governance, Non-State Actors, and Global Security

8	22/06/2022	Security Governance and NGOs
9	29/06/2022	The UN and Peace Operations
10	06/07/2022	Private Military and Security Companies

Beyond Traditional Security

11	13/07/2023	Securitization Theory: How Issues Become an Object of Security
12	20/07/2023	Environmental and Planetary Security

Course Details

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 to achieve a satisfactory learning outcome. Each seminar will proceed with the expectation that you have completed that week's reading. Without adequate participation and preparation, learning outcomes will be severely compromised.

Enrolment is limited. Student registration via FlexNow! is *mandatory*. Late registration requires compelling reason and is only possible in consultation with the lecturer. If you have any questions about 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 available for download on the *Virtual Campus* platform. Additional readings are listed in this syllabus as a starting point for your term papers. In addition, most sessions have assigned presentation readings and associated questions listed. These readings are to be read *in addition* to your ordinary assignments. Some sessions have references to revision texts, should you need them.

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 must:

- Give a presentation of approximately 20 mins (*formative – not marked*)
- Submit a summative essay of approximately 5,000 words. The submission deadline is 30/09/2023 (at 23:59 CEST)

Completion of *both* the presentation *and* the term paper are necessary to pass.

Nota bene: The presentation must be handed in before the date it is due.

Presentation

Each participant will give a presentation of approximately 20 minutes in English. The presentation is part of your preparation for the term paper.

Your main objective as a presenter is to provide input to your audience on a given topic. This input will serve as the basis for discussion during the session. Most weeks there will be a presentation question for you to answer, although you may also arrange with the lecturer to work on another question instead. The presentation should be based on the required and assigned presentation readings but should not simply be a summary of them. Note that a presentation is not intended to explore a topic in its entirety; limit the scope of your topic and focus on the most important points.

It is compulsory to submit your presentation in advance. Failure to do so, unless otherwise agreed with the lecturer, will be a missed presentation, which means a failure of the seminar as a whole.

Term Paper
The essay can be written on any topic covered in the seminar. You may build on your presentation topic, but this is not compulsory. You should discuss the research question(s), hypotheses, structure and possible literature for your essay with your lecturer well in advance. The submission deadline is 30/09/2023 (at 23:59 CEST).

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. Any kind of plagiarism or academic misconduct will result in failing the course!

Term papers are automatically and algorithmically checked for plagiarism by the university's TurnItIn system and further checked by the lecturer should it flag any parts of a paper submitted by a student. By submitting your work for assessment, you explicitly consent to your submission being automatically checked for plagiarism.

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