Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg
Faculty of Social Sciences, Economics and Business Administration
Chair of International Relations

Lecturer: **Laura Weimer, M.A.**
Laura.Weimer@uni-bamberg.de
Office Hours: By appointment (Office: F21/03.33)

Summer Term 2024

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

Credits: 6 ECTS
Schedule: Monday, 10:00 - 12:00 (c.t.)
Room: F21/03.01

Course Description

The topic of how, for whom, and by what means security can be achieved represents one of the most fundamental questions of social science. International security is therefore a central concern of International Relations (IR). Security, being inherent to human existence, has accordingly always occupied a prominent position in global politics, as few issues carry the same potential for both conflict and cooperation. The sub-field of IR that focuses on security issues is now commonly known as Security Studies.

Security permeates our lives, undoubtedly carrying significant political implications. But what exactly is security? While it remains 'essentially contested', i.e. remaining a subject of ongoing debate in both political and academic circles, 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 primarily concerned with military security, the field has significantly expanded over the past decades. Today, to the chagrin of some and the delight of others, security encompasses a wide range of issues. This unit aims to provide students with an initial understanding of security policy and some of the issues involved.

Prerequisites

▪ The instruction and working language of this course is **English**. Therefore, all course-work necessary to pass this seminar must be submitted in English. A proficient level of English is a prerequisite for participation and successful completion.

▪ Prior participation in the **introductory lecture** (Einführungsvorlesung) and in the corresponding **tutorial** (Proseminar) is recommended.

Assessment

The completion of *both* a presentation *and* a term paper are necessary to pass:

▪ Give a **presentation** of approximately 20 mins (*formative – not marked!*)

▪ Submit an **essay** of approximately 5,000 words
The submission deadline is **30/09/2024** (at 23:59 CEST)!

Brief Unit Overview

INTRODUCTORY TOPICS

1. 15/04/2024 Course Overview

2 22/04/2024 What is Security Studies?

PART I: THEORETICAL APPROACHES TO SECURITY

Traditional Approaches

3. 29/04/2024 Realism

4. 06/05/2024 Liberalism

5. 13/05/2024 Constructivism

   20/05/2024 Pentecost

Critical Approaches

6. 27/05/2024 Critical Theory

7. 03/06/2024 Securitization

PART II: INSTITUTIONS & SECURITY

Global and Regional Security Cooperation

8. 10/06/2024 Security Regimes and the Non-Proliferation Regime

9. 17/06/2024 Security Alliances and NATO

10. 24/06/2024 Peace Operations and the UN

Part III: SECURITY CHALLENGES

Continuity and Change in Security Issues

11. 01/07/2024 Traditional Wars, Contemporary Conflicts

12. 08/07/2024 Environmental and Planetary Security

13. 15/07/2024 Private Military and Security Companies

Essay Submission: 30/09/2024

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**. **Please note:** Enrolment is limited. Student registration via **FlexNow (02/04/2024-28/04/2024)** 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, Mrs. Claudia Genslein (Claudia.Genslein@uni-bamberg.de).

Literature and Assigned Readings

The required reading for each session is available for download on the **Virtual Campus** (VC) platform. Additional readings are listed in the syllabus as a starting point for your term papers. Furthermore, the sessions have assigned presentation readings and associated questions listed for the presenters.

Assessment

Presentation

Each participant will give a presentation of approximately **20 minutes in English**.

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

Please note that you will have to submit your paper electronically using the **VC**. Please upload a **pdf file**. The **submission deadline** is **30/09/2024** (at 23:59 CEST).

Note on Academic Conduct: Students are 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. By submitting your work for assessment, you explicitly consent to your submission being automatically checked for plagiarism.