



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

Term:	Winter 2022-2023	CPs:	6 ECTS
Schedule:	Tuesday, 14:00–16:00	Room:	F21/03.80
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 policy 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 written assignments necessary to pass 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

Introductory Topics

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|---|------------|--|
| 1 | 18/10/2022 | Course Overview & 'What is Security Studies?' |
| 2 | 25/10/2022 | Military Security, Strategic Studies & Its Critics |
| 3 | 01/11/2022 | <i>All Saint's Day – no session</i> |
| 4 | 08/11/2022 | Securitization Theory: How Issues Become an Object of Security |

War & Conflict

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| 5 | 15/11/2022 | Structural Causes of Inter-State War |
| 6 | 22/11/2022 | The 'New Wars': A Return to the Premodern Past? |

Nuclear Weapons

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| 7 | 29/11/2022 | Nuclear Weapons: Why Do States Want Them? |
| 8 | 06/12/2022 | Security Regimes & the Non-Proliferation Regime |
| 9 | 13/12/2022 | The Nuclear Taboo & Other Norms in International Security |

Culture & Security

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| 10 | 20/12/2022 | Strategic Culture & Russia's Great Power Ambitions |
| <i>24/12/2022–06/01/2023 Winter Holiday</i> | | |
| 11 | 10/01/2023 | Germany's <i>Zeitenwende</i> : Cheap Talk or Paradigm Shift? |

Regional and Global Security

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| 12 | 17/01/2023 | Security Communities: Is NATO More Than an Alliance? |
| 13 | 24/01/2022 | The UN and Collective Security |
| 14 | 31/01/2022 | Private Military and Security Companies: Mercenaries or Samaritans? |
| 15 | 07/02/2023 | Closing Session |