POLS5130

International Peace and Security

Term One // 2021

Course Overview

Staff Contact Details

Convenors

Name	Email	Availability	Location	Phone
Alexander Korolev	a.korolev@unsw.edu.au	Monday 15:30-17:30	Morven Brown 114	+61 2 9385 1384

School Contact Information

School of Social Sciences

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Course Details

Credit Points 6

Summary of the Course

This course conceptualises and contextualises international security and peace through the lens of the academic discipline of International Relations. The goal is to equip you with the knowledge of different approaches, competing paradigms, and theoretical debates relevant to understanding the real-world security issues unfolding in the contemporary international politics. The first part of the course explores the traditional approaches to international security and examines such pivotal international issues as the rise of China and the transformation of the global power structure, Russia's foreign policy resurgence and implications for the trans-Atlantic security, the spread of nuclear weapons and the North Korean nuclear crisis, the geopolitical dynamics surrounding the South China Sea dispute, the survival of small and middle powers amongst great power confrontation, and other issues. The second part of the course shifts the focus to the non-traditional/human security threats in the 21st century with special emphasis on ethnic and civil conflicts, terrorism, environmental degradation and climate change, cyber-security, and other issues falling under the category of non-traditional security.

Course Learning Outcomes

1. Recognise, compare, and apply different theoretical paradigms, approaches, and concepts to analyse and explain various global and regional security challenges
2. Appreciate the strengths and limits of the existing theoretical frameworks in explaining key issues in global and international security affairs
3. Analyse and appraise the international security challenges covered in the course as well as the stakes, approaches, policies, dilemmas, and behaviour patterns of the involved players

Teaching Strategies

As a Masters level course, POLS5130 is intended both to supplement existing knowledge and experience and also to develop expertise in the analysis of the key issues in Australian foreign policy. The course is based on the assumption that students have an active role to play in the learning process and are active participants in the production of knowledge, whether they have prior knowledge or experience of these issues or not. Thus, the course actively engages student involvement through independent reading, class participation and the preparation and presentation of written work.

This course seeks to develop your critical analysis and communication skills and provide structured learning so that you may apply the knowledge gained directly to present and future careers in business, the public sector and the non-government sector. The course is designed to contribute to an inclusive curriculum in the study of International Relations.

POLS5130 is designed as a seminar (with additional online learning activities) in order to meet the learning outcomes identified above. A seminar can be defined as a class conducted though active student discussions as opposed to a lecture in which the lecturer alone usually conducts the discussion. For each seminar I will provide a brief presentation to introduce the week's topic and main themes and to frame the readings and discussion for that topic. The seminar discussions will provide a structured environment in which you can explore your opinions, challenge current beliefs and develop new conceptual tools and understandings.

An emphasis will be placed on student-led learning and discussion, and it is expected that all students will actively contribute to group and class discussions. You will also be expected to engage in independent study, using the reading lists provided, and have prepared prior to each seminar by completing the required readings and as many of the recommended readings as possible.

Assessment

As relatively few articles are assigned each week, you are required to read all of them carefully before coming to class. Active and informed discussions are vital to the life of the course. Every student is expected to actively contribute to the scholarly exchange throughout the course. Regular contributions will help you to succeed in the seminar and will enhance the learning experience of all participants (including mine).

Assessment Tasks

Assessment task	Weight	Due Date	Student Learning Outcomes Assessed
Class Facilitation	20%	Not Applicable	2
Short Essay	20%	19/03/2020 11:00 PM	1
Final Essay	60%	03/05/2020 11:00 PM	1, 2, 3

Assessment Details

Assessment 1: Class Facilitation

Start date: Not Applicable

Details:

15-20 min class facilitation based on assigned readings in groups of 3 or 4 students.

All students will receive the same mark. You will recieve written feedback within 10 working days of your facilitation.

Additional details:

This assessment requires you to serve as "chief discussants" of the readings in the seminar at least once during the course. Depending on the size of the class, each week one to four students will work as a team and lead off the discussion. The presenters must make a 15-20 min presentation of the week's readings and facilitate discussion. **Rather than simply summarizing the readings under question (presumably all will have read it), the discussion facilitators should critically engage with the material and tease out specific questions or problems that appear worthy of attention and can be a basis for discussion**. The marking rubric is available from the course Moodle page. All students in a group delegated with the responsibility to lead the discussion will receive the same mark.

Turnitin setting: This is not a Turnitin assignment

Assessment 2: Short Essay

Start date: Not Applicable

Details:

1500 word essay based on course readings.

You will recieve written feedback within 10 working days.

Additional details:

You are required to prepare a short essay – a "reaction piece" – of 1500 words, which should present your response to, and critique of, the major arguments from a week's readings. You can select the week of your interest to reflect on, but your selection should be different from the week of your class facilitation (Assignment 1). This essay is due on March 22. Marking rubric is available on the course Moodle page. You will receive written feedback within 10 working days.

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Assessment 3: Final Essay

Start date: Not Applicable

Details:

3500 word essay based on content of the course.

You will recieve written feedback within 10 working days. This is the final assessment for the course.

Additional details:

You are required to write a final essay of about 3500 words on a topic of your interest but based on or related to the content of the course. This essay is the final assessment for the course. Throughout the term, you should think about a topic of your interest and how it can be analyzed. In the essay, you should demonstrate an in-depth understanding of key theoretical concepts related to international security debate and analyze the specific issue(s) or case(s) relevant to security studies from a theoretically grounded perspective. You will receive written feedback within 10 working days. The final essay process has two steps:

- The first step is a 1-2 page essay proposal, including a few key references. The essay proposal needs to be discussed with the instructor during the office hours or via email by **April 6**.
- The final essay is due on **May 3**. Late papers are penalized unless an application for Special Consideration has been provided and approved

Turnitin setting: This assignment is submitted through Turnitin and students do not see Turnitin similarity reports.

Attendance Requirements

A student is expected to attend all class contact hours for a face-to-face (F2F) or blended course and complete all activities for a blended or fully online course.

A student who arrives more than 15 minutes late may be penalised for non-attendance. If such a penalty is imposed, the student must be informed verbally at the end of class and advised in writing within 24 hours.

If a student experiences illness, misadventure or other occurrence that makes absence from a class/activity unavoidable, or expects to be absent from a forthcoming class/activity, they should seek permission from the Course Authority, and where applicable, their request should be accompanied by an original or certified copy of a medical certificate or other form of appropriate evidence.

For more information about the attendance protocols in the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences: https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/

For essential student information relating to: requests for extension; review of marks; occupational health and safety; examination procedures; special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure; student equity and disability; and other essential academic information, see https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/

Course Schedule

View class timetable

Timetable

Date	Type	Content
Week 1: 15 February - 19 February	Seminar	**Overview & Logistics of Course** What is international security? Why do states engage in wars? How can states live (or can they at all) in peace with each other? Is it human nature, the political systems of states, or international anarchy that causes interstate conflicts?
Week 2: 22 February - 26 February	Seminar	**Theoretical Approaches to the Studies of International Peace and Security** What is a theory? Why do we need a theory? How to use theories to better understand the real-world events? What is "the best" theory for your research?
Week 3: 1 March - 5 March	Seminar	**Persistent Rise of China and the Great Power Conflict** Is peaceful power transition between the United States and China possible or is the world sliding into the Thucydides trap? What are the implications of China's continuous rise to the world peace? What is the impact of COVID-19 global pandemic

		on the rise of China?
Week 4: 8 March - 12 March	Seminar	**Russia's Foreign Policy Resurgence and International Security** Who, if anyone, is to blame for the deterioration of Russia-West relations – Russia, the West, or both? What are the driving forces behind and the implications of Russia's growing resurgence?
Week 5: 15 March - 19 March	Seminar	**The Spread of Nuclear Weapons and the North Korean Nuclear Crisis** Why do states what to obtain nuclear weapons? What are the ramifications of nuclear proliferation? Are new nuclear weapons states likely to use their arsenals in crises or by accident or is the power of nuclear deterrence so strong that peace will prevail despite fears to the contrary?
Week 6: 22 March - 26 March	Reading	Non-teaching week. Students are working on the finalization of the topic for the final essay.
Week 7: 29 March - 2 April	Seminar	**Small States Amidst Great Power Competition and the South China Sea Dispute** In contrast to great powers, small and middle powers are in different 'weight class' which implies a different set of strategic options in the international arena. How can small and middle powers survive and secure their national interests amidst intensifying great power rivalry? What are the origins and the nature of the South China Sea Disputes? What are the major parties involved and what are the main driving forces? Is there a danger of direct military confrontation and what theoretical frameworks offer a most convincing explanation of the dispute?
Week 8: 5 April - 9 April	Seminar	**Environmental Degradation and International Security** What is environmental security? How to integrate the environment and climate change issues into international security debates so that governments across the world pay more attention to environmental degradation? What is the impact of climate change on international relations and security?
Week 9: 12 April - 16 April	Seminar	**Cyber Security and International Relations** What is cyber security? Is cyber war between states going to happen? How to conceptualize cyber threats and what are the implications for international peace and security?
Week 10: 19 April - 23	Seminar	**Global pandemics and International Security**

April		What is the impact of COVID-19 on international peace and security? What is its impact on globalization and interdependence between states? What is the nature of the COVID-19's impact and how to understand and conceptualize it? Can we say that states became more prone to conflict in the post-COVID-19 word? On the contrary, can we say that global pandemics, such as COVID-19 opens new avenues for international cooperation and, hence, peace and security? Has the global pandemic changed the nature of interstate relations or has it simply exacerbated the already existing problems and trends?

Resources

Prescribed Resources

All relevant course information and required readings are available on the Moodle site for this course. Please regularly check for updates, announcements, and other relevant course related information on Moodle.

Recommended Resources

Information about additional readings and resources is also made available on the Moodle site for this course.

Course Evaluation and Development

Student feedback, both formal and informal, is welcome and valued, and will be considered seriously for the continued improvement of this course. Students will be asked to give formal feedback towards the end of the semester through UNSW's MyExperience survey process. Students are also strongly encouraged to give feedback (formal or informal) on learning and teaching activities throughout the course.

Submission of Assessment Tasks

Turnitin Submission

If you encounter a problem when attempting to submit your assignment through Turnitin, please telephone External Support on 9385 3331 or email them on externalteltsupport@unsw.edu.au . Support hours are 8:00am – 10:00pm on weekdays and 9:00am – 5:00pm on weekends (365 days a year). If you are unable to submit your assignment due to a fault with Turnitin you may apply for an extension, but you must retain your ticket number from External Support (along with any other relevant documents) to include as evidence to support your extension application. If you email External Support you will automatically receive a ticket number, but if you telephone you will need to specifically ask for one. Turnitin also provides updates on their system status on Twitter.

Generally, assessment tasks must be submitted electronically via either Turnitin or a Moodle assignment. In instances where this is not possible, it will be stated on your course's Moodle site with alternative submission details.

For information on how to submit assignments online via Moodle: https://student.unsw.edu.au/how-submit-assignment-moodle

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism

Plagiarism is using the words or ideas of others and presenting them as your own. It can take many forms, from deliberate cheating to accidentally copying from a source without acknowledgement.

UNSW groups plagiarism into the following categories:

Copying: using the same or very similar words to the original text or idea without acknowledging the source or using quotation marks. This also applies to images, art and design projects, as well as presentations where someone presents another's ideas or words without credit.

Inappropriate paraphrasing: Changing a few words and phrases while mostly retaining the original structure and/or progression of ideas of the original, and information without acknowledgement. This also applies in presentations where someone paraphrases another's ideas or words without credit and to piecing together quotes and paraphrases into a new whole, without appropriate referencing.

Collusion: working with others but passing off the work as a person's individual work. Collusion also includes providing your work to another student before the due date, or for the purpose of them plagiarising at any time, paying another person to perform an academic task, stealing or acquiring another person's academic work and copying it, offering to complete another person's work or seeking payment for completing academic work.

Inappropriate citation: Citing sources which have not been read, without acknowledging the "secondary" source from which knowledge of them has been obtained.

Duplication ("self-plagiarism"): submitting your own work, in whole or in part, where it has previously been prepared or submitted for another assessment or course at UNSW or another university.

Correct referencing practices:

- Paraphrasing, summarising, essay writing and time management
- Appropriate use of and attribution for a range of materials including text, images, formulae and concepts.

Individual assistance is available on request from The Learning Centre (http://www.lc.unsw.edu.au/). Students are also reminded that careful time management is an important part of study and one of the identified causes of plagiarism is poor time management. Students should allow sufficient time for research, drafting and proper referencing of sources in preparing all assessment items.

UNSW Library also has the ELISE tool available to assist you with your study at UNSW. ELISE is designed to introduce new students to studying at UNSW but it can also be a great refresher during your study.

Completing the ELISE tutorial and quiz will enable you to:

- analyse topics, plan responses and organise research for academic writing and other assessment tasks
- effectively and efficiently find appropriate information sources and evaluate relevance to your needs
- use and manage information effectively to accomplish a specific purpose
- better manage your time

- understand your rights and responsibilities as a student at UNSW
- be aware of plagiarism, copyright, UNSW Student Code of Conduct and Acceptable Use of UNSW ICT Resources Policy
- be aware of the standards of behaviour expected of everyone in the UNSW community
- locate services and information about UNSW and UNSW Library

Some of these areas will be familiar to you, others will be new. Gaining a solid understanding of all the related aspects of ELISE will help you make the most of your studies at UNSW.
http://subjectguides.library.unsw.edu.au/elise/aboutelise

Academic Information

For essential student information relating to:

- requests for extension;
- late submissions guidelines;
- review of marks;
- UNSW Health and Safety policies;
- examination procedures;
- special consideration in the event of illness or misadventure;
- student equity and disability;
- and other essential academic information, see

https://www.arts.unsw.edu.au/current-students/academic-information/protocols-guidelines/

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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Bedegal people who are the traditional custodians of the lands on which UNSW Kensington campus is located.