

International Politics

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II semester

6 credits

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Objective

The aim of the course is to present and discuss the main issues of International Politics and, in particular, Security Studies.

The sub-discipline of Security Studies is moving from a purely state-centric focus anchored in the military instrument to one considering transnational issues with global implications, implying collaborative effort to face these issues. Transnational security issues include war, terrorism, conflicts, crime, population movements, famine, disease and natural disasters.

The course examines the main theoretical approaches in Security Studies, the most important security challenges at the transnational level, and some measures needed to counter these threats.

Course structure

a) Introduction: What is Security Studies?, "Broadening and deepening Security Studies" from Military Security to Human Security;

b) Main Approaches: Realism, Liberalism, Constructivism and Securitisation theory, Critical turn;

c) Contemporary Security Challenges, including: Wars (Old and “New”), Weapons of Mass Destruction, Ethnic Conflicts, Terrorism, Transnational Organised Crime, Migration, Environmental Change and Natural Disasters, Health, Poverty.

Suggested reading

Alan Collins (ed.), *Contemporary Security Studies*, 4th edition, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2016