

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

NOTE: ANY CHANGES TO A CSD MUST GO THROUGH ALL OF THE RELEVANT APPROVAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING LTPC.

Academic School/Department: Communications, Arts and Social Sciences

Programme: International Relations

FHEQ Level: 5

Course Title: Security Studies

Course Code: INR5205

Course Leader: Dr Mike Keating

Student Engagement Hours: **120**

Lectures: 22.5

Seminar / Tutorials: 22.5

Independent / Guided Learning : 75

Semester: FALL and/or SPRING and/or SUMMER

Credits: 12 UK CATS credits
6 ECTS credits
3 US credits

Course Description:

This course examines enduring and contemporary questions of security and insecurity in the international system. Security has traditionally been defined in terms of strategic state politics and the use of military force to counter external military threats. The end of the Cold War and the ensuing conflicts of the late-20th century raised questions about the continued relevance of traditional theories of security. New security threats have been defined both in the academic literature and by state security strategies. This course critically evaluates these developments using IR and security studies theories, supplemented by practical case-studies. Students investigate the definition of the term security and threats to security, questions about the referent object of security, the root causes of insecurity and the methods of eliminating or lessening such threats. The course evaluates traditional and contemporary security concepts such as national security, conventional weapons systems, nuclear non-proliferation, human security, responsibility to protect, the poverty-security nexus in a post-Westphalian context.

Pre-requisites: INR 4100

Aims and Objectives:

- To acquaint students with key concepts in the field of security studies
- To examine the question of security from the vantage point of different theories of IR
- To develop an understanding of the changing nature of security threats
- To position new security threats in the context of international relations theories

Programme Outcomes:

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following programme outcomes.

5A(iii); 5B(ii); 5B(iii); 5C(i); 5C(ii); 5C(iii); 5D(i); 5D(ii)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the Departmental/Schools page of the portal.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following learning outcomes.

- Demonstrates a critical engagement with major thinkers and intellectual paradigms in security studies
- Demonstrates a critical and theoretical engagement with core problems and issues in security studies, at the domestic, regional and global levels
- Demonstrates a detailed understanding of the continuities and transformations evident in the core thematic debates of security studies
- Completes assigned work with a degree of clarity, technical competence and critical thinking, and a degree of independence and capacity for self-evaluation, appropriate for a 5000-level course

Indicative Content:

- Traditional theories of security
- National security and the state
- Conventional weapons and weapons of mass destruction
- Changing nature of conflict and humanitarian interventions
- Critical Security Studies
- Human security
- Responsibility to protect
- The poverty-security nexus

Assessment:

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Council on June 28, 2012.

Teaching Methodology:

This course will be taught through a combination of lectures and seminar-type activities, including group work, sub-group activities, classroom discussion, and the showing of documentaries. The general approach to classes is informal, and discussion is viewed as an essential part of an interactive and participatory learning program. Audio-visual aids, study materials and electronic learning resources will be used as appropriate.

