



PICT705

Understanding Foundations of Security Studies

S1 Evening 2016

Dept of Policing, Intelligence & Counter-Terrorism

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

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Credit points

4

Prerequisites

Admission to MRes

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

This unit exposes students to significant issues relating to security studies in one of five identified areas. These five areas - policing, intelligence, counter terrorism, cybersecurity and international security - are central to an understanding of security within a rapidly changing global context. The unit challenges students to test the limits of research in a selected area of study and identify effective research methodologies relevant to this area.

Important Academic Dates

Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at <https://www.mq.edu.au/study/calendar-of-dates>

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Advanced research skills with enhanced capacity to critically evaluate, integrate and associate academic works into broader debates and discussions in the field of Security Studies.
2. Produce sophisticated academic research of both a theoretical and empirical nature.
3. Master key concepts and theories in the field of Security Studies and align them with sub-field's dominant paradigms and key scholars.
4. Apply the acquired concepts and theories to the analysis of past and contemporary problems, issues and events in Security Studies.
5. Gain insight into the value of deductive thinking, empirical testing and the origins of policy prescriptions.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Due
Research Proposal	10%	25 March 2016
Major Essay	50%	3 June 2016
Online Quizzes	30%	29 April and 10 June 2016
Participation	10%	Ongoing

Research Proposal

Due: **25 March 2016**

Weighting: **10%**

Students will write a 1,000 word research proposal. It is intended that students use this assignment to receive early feedback on their progress towards submitting the major essay.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- 1. Advanced research skills with enhanced capacity to critically evaluate, integrate and associate academic works into broader debates and discussions in the field of Security Studies.
- 2. Produce sophisticated academic research of both a theoretical and empirical nature.
- 3. Master key concepts and theories in the field of Security Studies and align them with sub-field's dominant paradigms and key scholars.
- 4. Apply the acquired concepts and theories to the analysis of past and contemporary problems, issues and events in Security Studies.
- 5. Gain insight into the value of deductive thinking, empirical testing and the origins of policy prescriptions.

Major Essay

Due: **3 June 2016**

Weighting: **50%**

Students will submit a 3,000 word research essay.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- 1. Advanced research skills with enhanced capacity to critically evaluate, integrate and associate academic works into broader debates and discussions in the field of Security Studies.

- 2. Produce sophisticated academic research of both a theoretical and empirical nature.
- 3. Master key concepts and theories in the field of Security Studies and align them with sub-field's dominant paradigms and key scholars.
- 4. Apply the acquired concepts and theories to the analysis of past and contemporary problems, issues and events in Security Studies.
- 5. Gain insight into the value of deductive thinking, empirical testing and the origins of policy prescriptions.

Online Quizzes

Due: **29 April and 10 June 2016**

Weighting: **30%**

Students will complete two multiple-choice online quizzes. They are worth 15% each. They will consist of 30 questions each (0.5 mark per question). The first quiz will test students' knowledge and understanding of the lectures and readings in the first half of the unit. The second quiz will test students' knowledge and understanding of the lectures and readings in the second half of the unit.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- 1. Advanced research skills with enhanced capacity to critically evaluate, integrate and associate academic works into broader debates and discussions in the field of Security Studies.
- 3. Master key concepts and theories in the field of Security Studies and align them with sub-field's dominant paradigms and key scholars.
- 5. Gain insight into the value of deductive thinking, empirical testing and the origins of policy prescriptions.

Participation

Due: **Ongoing**

Weighting: **10%**

Students will be expected to actively participate in the unit. Internal students will be expected to attend seminars and actively engage in class discussions. External students will be expected to contribute to the online discussions forums.

On successful completion you will be able to:

- 1. Advanced research skills with enhanced capacity to critically evaluate, integrate and associate academic works into broader debates and discussions in the field of Security Studies.
- 3. Master key concepts and theories in the field of Security Studies and align them with

sub-field's dominant paradigms and key scholars.

- 4. Apply the acquired concepts and theories to the analysis of past and contemporary problems, issues and events in Security Studies.
- 5. Gain insight into the value of deductive thinking, empirical testing and the origins of policy prescriptions.

Delivery and Resources

The compulsory textbooks are:

Paul D. Williams, (ed.), *Security Studies: An Introduction*, (London: Routledge, 2013).

Margot Northey, Lorne Tepperman and Patrizia Albanese, *Making Sense of Social Science: A Student's Guide to Research and Writing*, (Ontario: OUP, 2015).

Students can purchase either a physical or electronic copy online directly from Routledge (www.routledge.com) or from Amazon (www.amazon.com) or the Book Depository (www.bookdepository.com). Copies are also available from the Macquarie University Co-op bookshop.

Students not wishing to purchase the texts will find copies available in the Special Reserve in Macquarie University library.

All other materials are available through the Macquarie University library.

FURTHER DELIVERY AND RESOURCES

UNIT REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

- You should spend an average of at least 12 hours per week on this unit. This includes listening to pre-recorded lectures prior to seminar discussions and reading weekly required readings detailed in iLearn.
- Internal students are expected to attend all seminar sessions and external students are expected to contribute to on-line discussions.
- Students are required to submit all major assessment tasks in order to pass the unit.

TECHNOLOGY USED AND REQUIRED

- Personal PC and internet access are essential for this unit. Basic computer skills and skills in word processing are also a requirement.
- This unit has an online presence. Login is via: <https://ilearn.mq.edu.au/>
- Students are required to have regular access to a computer and the internet. Mobile

devices alone are not sufficient.

- For technical support go to: http://mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/informatics/help
- For student quick guides on the use of iLearn go to: http://mq.edu.au/iLearn/student_info/guides.htm

SUBMITTING ASSESSMENT TASKS

- All assessment tasks are to be submitted, marked and returned electronically. This will only happen through the unit iLearn site.
- Assessment tasks must be submitted either as a PDF or MS word document by the due date.
- Most assessment tasks will be subject to a 'Turnitin' review as an automatic part of the submission process.
- The granting of extensions of up to one week are at the discretion of the unit convener. Any requests for extensions must be made in writing before the due date for the submission of the assessment task. Extensions beyond one week are subject to the university's Disruptions Policy (http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html#purpose).

LATE SUBMISSION OF ASSESSMENT TASKS

- If an assignment is submitted late, 5% of the available mark will be deducted for each day (including weekends) the paper is late.
- For example, if a paper is worth 20 marks, 1 mark will be deducted from the grade given for each day that it is late (i.e. a student given 15/20 who submitted 4 days late will lose 4 marks = 11/20).
- The same principle applies if an extension is granted and the assignment is submitted later than the amended date.

WORD LIMITS FOR ASSESSMENT TASKS

- Stated word limits do not include references, bibliography, or title page.
- Word limits can generally deviate by 10% either over or under the stated figure.
- If the number of words exceeds the limit by more than 10%, then penalties will apply.

These penalties are 5% of the awarded mark for every 100 words over the word limit. If a paper is 300 words over, for instance, it will lose $3 \times 5\% = 15\%$ of the total mark awarded for the assignment. This percentage is taken off the total mark, i.e. if a paper was graded at a credit (65%) and was 300 words over, it would be reduced by 15 marks to a pass (50%).

- The application of this penalty is at the discretion of the course convener.
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REASSESSMENT OF ASSIGNMENTS DURING THE SEMESTER

- Macquarie University operates a Grade Appeal Policy in cases where students feel their work was graded inappropriately (<http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>). This process involves all assignments submitted for that unit being reassessed. However, in exceptional cases students may request that a single piece of work is reassessed.

Unit Schedule

Big Question 1: What am I doing here?

Week 1 - What is Security Studies?

Week 2 - Essay Writing

Week 3 - Academic Research

Big Question 2: Is the state the greatest threat to, or best guarantor of, one's security?

Week 4 - State, Society and Nationalism

Week 5 - The State: Too strong or too weak?

Big Question 3: Will the United States and China go to war in our lifetime?

Week 6 - Competing IR paradigms: Realism and Liberalism

Week 7 - Game Theory

Week 8 - Deterrence and Coercive Diplomacy

Big Question 4: Why does the sole remaining superpower keep losing?

Week 9 - Civil Wars and Insurgencies

Week 10 - Intervention and Counterinsurgency

Week 11 - Polarity and US Decline

Big Question 5: What are the greatest threats to humanity?

Week 12 - Nuclear Weapons, Infectious Disease and Climate Change

Week 13 - The Future of Security Studies

Policies and Procedures

Macquarie University policies and procedures are accessible from [Policy Central](#). Students should be aware of the following policies in particular with regard to Learning and Teaching:

Academic Honesty Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/academic_honesty/policy.html

New Assessment Policy in effect from Session 2 2016 http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy_2016.html. For more information visit http://students.mq.edu.au/events/2016/07/19/new_assessment_policy_in_place_from_session_2/

Assessment Policy prior to Session 2 2016 <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy.html>

Grading Policy prior to Session 2 2016 <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/grading/policy.html>

Grade Appeal Policy <http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/gradeappeal/policy.html>

Complaint Management Procedure for Students and Members of the Public http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/complaint_management/procedure.html

Disruption to Studies Policy http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html *The Disruption to Studies Policy is effective from March 3 2014 and replaces the Special Consideration Policy.*

In addition, a number of other policies can be found in the [Learning and Teaching Category](#) of Policy Central.

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/

Results

Results shown in *iLearn*, or released directly by your Unit Convenor, are not confirmed as they are subject to final approval by the University. Once approved, final results will be sent to your student email address and will be made available in [eStudent](#). For more information visit ask.mq.edu.au.

Student Support

Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit <http://students.mq.edu.au/support/>

Learning Skills

Learning Skills (mq.edu.au/learningskills) provides academic writing resources and study strategies to improve your marks and take control of your study.

- [Workshops](#)
- [StudyWise](#)
- [Academic Integrity Module for Students](#)

- [Ask a Learning Adviser](#)

Student Services and Support

Students with a disability are encouraged to contact the [Disability Service](#) who can provide appropriate help with any issues that arise during their studies.

Student Enquiries

For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at ask.mq.edu.au

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/offices_and_units/information_technology/help/.

When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the [Acceptable Use of IT Resources Policy](#). The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

Graduate Capabilities

PG - Capable of Professional and Personal Judgment and Initiative

Our postgraduates will demonstrate a high standard of discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgment. They will have the ability to make informed choices and decisions that reflect both the nature of their professional work and their personal perspectives.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- 1. Advanced research skills with enhanced capacity to critically evaluate, integrate and associate academic works into broader debates and discussions in the field of Security Studies.
- 2. Produce sophisticated academic research of both a theoretical and empirical nature.
- 3. Master key concepts and theories in the field of Security Studies and align them with sub-field's dominant paradigms and key scholars.
- 4. Apply the acquired concepts and theories to the analysis of past and contemporary problems, issues and events in Security Studies.
- 5. Gain insight into the value of deductive thinking, empirical testing and the origins of policy prescriptions.

Assessment tasks

- Research Proposal
- Major Essay
- Online Quizzes

- Participation

PG - Discipline Knowledge and Skills

Our postgraduates will be able to demonstrate a significantly enhanced depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content knowledge in their chosen fields.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- 1. Advanced research skills with enhanced capacity to critically evaluate, integrate and associate academic works into broader debates and discussions in the field of Security Studies.
- 2. Produce sophisticated academic research of both a theoretical and empirical nature.
- 3. Master key concepts and theories in the field of Security Studies and align them with sub-field's dominant paradigms and key scholars.
- 4. Apply the acquired concepts and theories to the analysis of past and contemporary problems, issues and events in Security Studies.
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Assessment tasks

- Research Proposal
- Major Essay
- Online Quizzes
- Participation

PG - Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

Our postgraduates will be capable of utilising and reflecting on prior knowledge and experience, of applying higher level critical thinking skills, and of integrating and synthesising learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments. A characteristic of this form of thinking is the generation of new, professionally oriented knowledge through personal or group-based critique of practice and theory.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- 1. Advanced research skills with enhanced capacity to critically evaluate, integrate and associate academic works into broader debates and discussions in the field of Security Studies.
- 2. Produce sophisticated academic research of both a theoretical and empirical nature.

- 3. Master key concepts and theories in the field of Security Studies and align them with sub-field's dominant paradigms and key scholars.
- 4. Apply the acquired concepts and theories to the analysis of past and contemporary problems, issues and events in Security Studies.
- 5. Gain insight into the value of deductive thinking, empirical testing and the origins of policy prescriptions.

Assessment tasks

- Research Proposal
- Major Essay
- Participation

PG - Research and Problem Solving Capability

Our postgraduates will be capable of systematic enquiry; able to use research skills to create new knowledge that can be applied to real world issues, or contribute to a field of study or practice to enhance society. They will be capable of creative questioning, problem finding and problem solving.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- 1. Advanced research skills with enhanced capacity to critically evaluate, integrate and associate academic works into broader debates and discussions in the field of Security Studies.
- 2. Produce sophisticated academic research of both a theoretical and empirical nature.
- 3. Master key concepts and theories in the field of Security Studies and align them with sub-field's dominant paradigms and key scholars.
- 4. Apply the acquired concepts and theories to the analysis of past and contemporary problems, issues and events in Security Studies.
- 5. Gain insight into the value of deductive thinking, empirical testing and the origins of policy prescriptions.

Assessment tasks

- Research Proposal
- Major Essay
- Participation

PG - Effective Communication

Our postgraduates will be able to communicate effectively and convey their views to different

social, cultural, and professional audiences. They will be able to use a variety of technologically supported media to communicate with empathy using a range of written, spoken or visual formats.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- 1. Advanced research skills with enhanced capacity to critically evaluate, integrate and associate academic works into broader debates and discussions in the field of Security Studies.
- 2. Produce sophisticated academic research of both a theoretical and empirical nature.
- 3. Master key concepts and theories in the field of Security Studies and align them with sub-field's dominant paradigms and key scholars.
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- 5. Gain insight into the value of deductive thinking, empirical testing and the origins of policy prescriptions.

Assessment tasks

- Research Proposal
- Major Essay
- Participation

PG - Engaged and Responsible, Active and Ethical Citizens

Our postgraduates will be ethically aware and capable of confident transformative action in relation to their professional responsibilities and the wider community. They will have a sense of connectedness with others and country and have a sense of mutual obligation. They will be able to appreciate the impact of their professional roles for social justice and inclusion related to national and global issues

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- 1. Advanced research skills with enhanced capacity to critically evaluate, integrate and associate academic works into broader debates and discussions in the field of Security Studies.
- 2. Produce sophisticated academic research of both a theoretical and empirical nature.
- 3. Master key concepts and theories in the field of Security Studies and align them with sub-field's dominant paradigms and key scholars.
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Assessment tasks

- Research Proposal
- Major Essay
- Participation