PICT110

Introduction to Security Studies

S1 External 2017

Department of Security Studies and Criminology

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Senior Lecturer
Michael Cohen
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241
by appointment

Credit points
3

Prerequisites

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit introduces students to security studies and contemporary security challenges. Using real-world examples, it provides students with the theoretical and conceptual knowledge to analyse security, instability and armed conflict in the modern international system. It addresses the role of the international system, states and leaders in complex conflict scenarios and teaches students to critically assess the relative importance of each. The unit covers a variety of pressing security issues, including interstate and intrastate war, coercive use of military power, alliances, nuclear weapons, humanitarian intervention, terrorism and counterinsurgency. It also examines how these threats and challenges can be managed. The unit provides an introduction to the field of security studies.

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:

Identify key security challenges in the contemporary national and international security field utilising a systematic theoretical and conceptual apparatus.

Classify security issues as risks, threats or vulnerabilities using key national security concepts.

Identify key stakeholders and actors in the field of security studies, such as states, inter-

governmental and non-governmental organisations, non-state actors, commercial entities, media outlets and individuals.

Evaluate contemporary debates about main national and international security issues.

Differentiate between traditional and emergent threats

General Assessment Information

All assignments are submitted online via iLearn. Quizzes are completed entirely online via iLearn.

Extensions of up to 1 week can be granted by the unit convenor with good reason, prior notice and supporting documentation. Any longer extension must be approved through the Faculty Disruption to Studies process.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Online Quizzes (x4)	20%	No	TBA: see ilearn
Issue Briefing (Vodcast)	10%	No	TBA: see ilearn
Risk Report	40%	No	TBA: see ilearn
Take Home Exam	30%	No	TBA: see ilearn

Online Quizzes (x4)

Due: **TBA: see ilearn**
Weighting: **20%**

Four multiple choice quizzes to be completed online via iLearn.

Due dates: Week 3 (March 18th), Week 6 (April 8th), Week 11 (May 26th) and Week 13 (June 10th) at 6pm

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify key security challenges in the contemporary national and international security field utilising a systematic theoretical and conceptual apparatus.
- Identify key stakeholders and actors in the field of security studies, such as states, inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations, non-state actors, commercial entities, media outlets and individuals.

Issue Briefing (Vodcast)

Due: **TBA: see ilearn**
Weighting: **10%**

5 minute video briefing on a contemporary security issue.

Due dates: Friday April 8

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Identify key security challenges in the contemporary national and international security field utilising a systematic theoretical and conceptual apparatus.
- Identify key stakeholders and actors in the field of security studies, such as states, inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations, non-state actors, commercial entities, media outlets and individuals.
- Evaluate contemporary debates about main national and international security issues.
- Differentiate between traditional and emergent threats

Risk Report

Due: **TBA: see ilearn**
Weighting: **40%**

2,000 word report on a selected security issue.

Due date: Wednesday, Week 13 (June 7th) at 11:59pm

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Classify security issues as risks, threats or vulnerabilities using key national security concepts.
- Differentiate between traditional and emergent threats

Take Home Exam

Due: **TBA: see ilearn**
Weighting: **30%**

1,000 word take-home examination. The take-home exam requires short written answers to any four questions from the list provided.

Questions posted Wednesday June 14, due Thursday June 15th at midnight

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Evaluate contemporary debates about main national and international security issues.
- Differentiate between traditional and emergent threats

Delivery and Resources

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.

REQUIRED READINGS

- The citations for all the required readings for this unit are available to enrolled students through the unit iLearn site, and at Macquarie University's Library EReserve site. Electronic copies of required readings may be accessed at the EReserve site.

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 he awarded mark for every 100 words over the word limit. If a paper is 300 words over, for instance, it will lose 3 x 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.

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.

Learning and Teaching Activities

Video Lectures

Weekly video lectures will be provided on the unit iLearn site.

Workshops

Weekly workshops will be facilitate for internal and external students. Workshops focus on practical activities which build analytical and technical skills. Each workshops focuses on one or more structured analytical techniques. Some will include using software platforms which allow users to manipulate information to assist analysis. Internal students will attend a one hour face-to-face session. External students will complete the same activities online with forum and chat support.

Weekly Chat Sessions

Weekly live chat sessions with the unit convenor and/or tutors will allow internal and external students to engage in real-time discussion of course content.

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

Assessment Policy http://mq.edu.au/policy/docs/assessment/policy_2016.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 (in effect until Dec 4th, 2017): http://www.mq.edu.au/policy/docs/disruption_studies/policy.html

Special Consideration Policy (in effect from Dec 4th, 2017): https://staff.mq.edu.au/work/strategy-planning-and-governance/university-policies-and-procedures/policies/special-consideration

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

Creative and Innovative

Our graduates will also be capable of creative thinking and of creating knowledge. They will be imaginative and open to experience and capable of innovation at work and in the community. We want them to be engaged in applying their critical, creative thinking.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Identify key security challenges in the contemporary national and international security field utilising a systematic theoretical and conceptual apparatus.
- Classify security issues as risks, threats or vulnerabilities using key national security concepts.
- Identify key stakeholders and actors in the field of security studies, such as states, inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations, non-state actors, commercial entities, media outlets and individuals.
- Evaluate contemporary debates about main national and international security issues.
- Differentiate between traditional and emergent threats

Assessment tasks

- Online Quizzes (x4)
- Issue Briefing (Vodcast)
- Risk Report
- Take Home Exam

Capable of Professional and Personal Judgement and Initiative

We want our graduates to have emotional intelligence and sound interpersonal skills and to demonstrate discernment and common sense in their professional and personal judgement. They will exercise initiative as needed. They will be capable of risk assessment, and be able to handle ambiguity and complexity, enabling them to be adaptable in diverse and changing environments.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Identify key security challenges in the contemporary national and international security field utilising a systematic theoretical and conceptual apparatus.
- Differentiate between traditional and emergent threats

Assessment tasks

- Online Quizzes (x4)
- Issue Briefing (Vodcast)
- Risk Report

Commitment to Continuous Learning

Our graduates will have enquiring minds and a literate curiosity which will lead them to pursue

knowledge for its own sake. They will continue to pursue learning in their careers and as they participate in the world. They will be capable of reflecting on their experiences and relationships with others and the environment, learning from them, and growing - personally, professionally and socially.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- Differentiate between traditional and emergent threats

Discipline Specific Knowledge and Skills

Our graduates will take with them the intellectual development, depth and breadth of knowledge, scholarly understanding, and specific subject content in their chosen fields to make them competent and confident in their subject or profession. They will be able to demonstrate, where relevant, professional technical competence and meet professional standards. They will be able to articulate the structure of knowledge of their discipline, be able to adapt discipline-specific knowledge to novel situations, and be able to contribute from their discipline to inter-disciplinary solutions to problems.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Identify key security challenges in the contemporary national and international security field utilising a systematic theoretical and conceptual apparatus.
- Classify security issues as risks, threats or vulnerabilities using key national security concepts.
- Identify key stakeholders and actors in the field of security studies, such as states, inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations, non-state actors, commercial entities, media outlets and individuals.
- Evaluate contemporary debates about main national and international security issues.
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Assessment tasks

- Online Quizzes (x4)
- Issue Briefing (Vodcast)
- Risk Report
- Take Home Exam

Critical, Analytical and Integrative Thinking

We want our graduates to be capable of reasoning, questioning and analysing, and to integrate and synthesise learning and knowledge from a range of sources and environments; to be able to critique constraints, assumptions and limitations; to be able to think independently and

systemically in relation to scholarly activity, in the workplace, and in the world. We want them to have a level of scientific and information technology literacy.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Identify key security challenges in the contemporary national and international security field utilising a systematic theoretical and conceptual apparatus.
- Classify security issues as risks, threats or vulnerabilities using key national security concepts.
- Identify key stakeholders and actors in the field of security studies, such as states, inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations, non-state actors, commercial entities, media outlets and individuals.
- Evaluate contemporary debates about main national and international security issues.
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Assessment tasks

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Problem Solving and Research Capability

Our graduates should be capable of researching; of analysing, and interpreting and assessing data and information in various forms; of drawing connections across fields of knowledge; and they should be able to relate their knowledge to complex situations at work or in the world, in order to diagnose and solve problems. We want them to have the confidence to take the initiative in doing so, within an awareness of their own limitations.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Identify key security challenges in the contemporary national and international security field utilising a systematic theoretical and conceptual apparatus.
- Classify security issues as risks, threats or vulnerabilities using key national security concepts.
- Identify key stakeholders and actors in the field of security studies, such as states, inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations, non-state actors, commercial entities, media outlets and individuals.
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- Issue Briefing (Vodcast)
- Risk Report
- Take Home Exam

Effective Communication

We want to develop in our students the ability to communicate and convey their views in forms effective with different audiences. We want our graduates to take with them the capability to read, listen, question, gather and evaluate information resources in a variety of formats, assess, write clearly, speak effectively, and to use visual communication and communication technologies as appropriate.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Identify key security challenges in the contemporary national and international security field utilising a systematic theoretical and conceptual apparatus.
- Evaluate contemporary debates about main national and international security issues.

Assessment tasks

- Issue Briefing (Vodcast)
- Risk Report
- Take Home Exam

Engaged and Ethical Local and Global citizens

As local citizens our graduates will be aware of indigenous perspectives and of the nation's historical context. They will be engaged with the challenges of contemporary society and with knowledge and ideas. We want our graduates to have respect for diversity, to be open-minded, sensitive to others and inclusive, and to be open to other cultures and perspectives: they should have a level of cultural literacy. Our graduates should be aware of disadvantage and social justice, and be willing to participate to help create a wiser and better society.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcomes

- Identify key security challenges in the contemporary national and international security field utilising a systematic theoretical and conceptual apparatus.
- Identify key stakeholders and actors in the field of security studies, such as states, inter-governmental and non-governmental organisations, non-state actors, commercial

entities, media outlets and individuals.

- Differentiate between traditional and emergent threats

Socially and Environmentally Active and Responsible

We want our graduates to be aware of and have respect for self and others; to be able to work with others as a leader and a team player; to have a sense of connectedness with others and country; and to have a sense of mutual obligation. Our graduates should be informed and active participants in moving society towards sustainability.

This graduate capability is supported by:

Learning outcome

- Identify key security challenges in the contemporary national and international security field utilising a systematic theoretical and conceptual apparatus.

Changes from Previous Offering

N/A

Changes since First Published

Date	Description
01/03/2017	assessment dates modified to reflect updated assessment dates on ilearn