



POIR8310

Security in World Politics

Session 2, Online-flexible 2023

Macquarie School of Social Sciences

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Convenor and Lecturer

Umut Ozguc

umut.ozguc@mq.edu.au

25 Wallys Walk - Level 2 Office 255

For appointments please send an email

Credit points

10

Prerequisites

Admission to MIntRel or MSecStrategicStud or MCrim or MIntell or MCyberSecAnalysis or MCTerrorism or MPPP or MPASR or GradCertPP or PGDiplIntRel or GradDiplIntRel or MIntPubDip.

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description

The scope and the practice of international security has changed dramatically over the past few decades, with the rise of non-state actors, new technologies and new types of conflict. Subsequently, state-centric understandings of security have been challenged. This unit introduces students to both traditional and non-traditional approaches to security and seeks to deepen and broaden understandings of what 'security' means. The unit examines how different actors, including the state, international organisations, and NGOs, frame, address or manage international security crises and encourages students to critically reflect on key assumptions about international security in order to assess and interpret evidence that shapes policy decisions. The unit first explores the theoretical terrain of security studies to investigate the link between knowledge production and policy practices. It then examines the changing nature of conflict and the new political economy of war by focusing on current issues and emerging actors. Finally, it considers 'non-traditional' security issues in global politics, such as borders, poverty, food, health, and climate change. Overall, students will gain an in-depth understanding of security issues in world politics and knowledge about how to address these problems.

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:

ULO1: Explain and differentiate between both traditional and non-traditional theoretical approaches to international security.

ULO2: Independently analyse and critically evaluate the assumptions, arguments, concepts and historical context that underlie both traditional and non-traditional theoretical approaches to international security.

ULO3: Apply theoretical concepts to analyse contemporary security issues.

ULO4: Formulate and defend policy recommendations on important contemporary international security issues

ULO5: Communicate effectively in both written work and oral presentations. This involves being able to identify and organise relevant knowledge in the field and to be able to formulate persuasive, coherent, and critical arguments.

ULO6: Work collaboratively with peers on common projects.

General Assessment Information

For the details of all assessment items including grading criteria and rubric, see [Ilearn](#).

Academic Integrity & Plagiarism

See the University's Academic Honesty Policy ([link below](#)) for an in-depth explanation of what constitutes plagiarism. Plagiarism is taken very seriously by the Convenor and the Department generally and will result in a range of penalties, including a zero grade for an assessment task. Serious instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Faculty Discipline Committee.

Late Assessment Policy and Special Consideration

Unless a Special Consideration request has been submitted and approved, **a 5% penalty (of the total possible mark) will be applied each day a written assessment is not submitted, up until the 7th day (including weekends). After the 7th day, a mark of '0' (zero) will be awarded even if the assessment is submitted. Submission time for all written assessments is set at 11.55pm.** A 1-hour grace period is provided to students who experience a technical issue. This late penalty will apply to non-timed sensitive assessment (incl essays, reports, posters, portfolios, journals, recordings etc). Late submission of time sensitive tasks (such as tests/exams, performance assessments/presentations, scheduled practical assessments/labs etc) will only be addressed by the unit convenor in a Special consideration application. Special Consideration outcome may result in a new question or topic. Special consideration requests are made through ask.mq.edu.au.

Turnitin

All written work in this unit is required to be uploaded using the Turnitin link provided on the ilearn website for this unit. Turnitin is a type of anti-plagiarism software used by the university. Work that is not uploaded using the Turnitin link on ilearn will not be graded and will receive a mark of zero.

Research Essay (50%)

Format: **A 2500-word research essay (the word length excludes the bibliography and footnotes)**

For extensions you need to apply special considerations. <https://students.mq.edu.au/study/assessment-exams/special-consideration>

A minimum of TWELVE academic sources (academic books and journals articles, excluding websites) must be referenced in your essay.

You cannot use blog writings, wikipedia, and opinion pieces written by academics in your essays.

Essays should be written using 1.5 or double space and Times New Roman 12

Essay Questions (you need to write your essay on one of the following questions)

1. Why is security a contested concept?
2. What does 'security as emancipation' mean? Can it be a useful policy tool or is it simply a wishful thinking?
3. What are the benefits of securitising or desecuritising an issue? Discuss your answer in reference to one of the following issues: climate change or refugees.
4. Does the 'Responsibility to Protect' violate the principles of state sovereignty and non-interference?
5. Do you think the traditional UN collective security system is fully equipped to address contemporary security issues in global politics?
6. What are the consequences of privatization of security and military?
7. Do you think Private Military and Security Contractors (PMSC) pose a threat to states' monopoly over use of force? Do you think we need a new definition of state?
8. What can be done to ensure the safety of women in post-conflict situations?
9. What are the key feminist critiques of security?
10. What does the study of the experiences of children add to our understanding of conflicts?

Policy Brief (40%)

Format: 2000-word brief (excluding the referencing list and/or footnotes)

This assignment tasks you with developing a 2000-word policy brief which identifies a specific global security problem and recommends a course of action of how the UN can help implement this course of actions.

This assessment item involves 2000-word policy brief on one of the following issues by the following UN bodies:

1. The development of fully automated weapons – a policy brief by The UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA)
2. Global health insecurity and growing inequality among nations in accessing public health sources – a policy brief by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs
3. The impact of environmental insecurity in ongoing violent conflicts – a policy brief by the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs
4. Human Security – policy brief by the UN Trust Fund for Human Security

Your policy brief should emulate language used by international organisations, specifically the UN.

Who are you?

You are a policy analyst working on the relevant body. For example, if you choose to write your policy brief on human security, you are a policy analyst working in a research team at the UN Trust Fund for Human Security.

Who is the audience?

Public, national, and regional policymakers, international organisations, regional organisations, and other bodies and organs of the UN, and civil society organisations.

In your policy brief:

1. First, define the problem and the causes of the problem.
2. Second, identify the challenges (what are the limitations of the current and/or previous programs addressing that particular problems?)
3. Third, outline your policy recommendations (What are your policy recommendations? How can the UN help to address this particular issue? What sources do you need to mobilise?)

Sources & Referencing

- Your policy-briefs should be fully referenced. You need to either use footnote system (with the full details of the sources) or in-text referencing.
- You must use at least TWELVE academic sources and published official reports. Websites and news articles are not included in twelve sources.
- Do not use Wikipedia, opinion pieces, blog pieces, random webpages and random academic sources.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due
Research Essay	50%	No	Week 8 29/09/2023
Policy Brief	40%	No	Week 13 01/11/2023
Discussion Board Participation	10%	No	Ongoing

Research Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Essay

Indicative Time on Task ²: 47 hours

Due: **Week 8 29/09/2023**

Weighting: **50%**

Research essay on a global security issue

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Explain and differentiate between both traditional and non-traditional theoretical approaches to international security.
- Independently analyse and critically evaluate the assumptions, arguments, concepts and historical context that underlie both traditional and non-traditional theoretical approaches to international security.
- Apply theoretical concepts to analyse contemporary security issues.
- Formulate and defend policy recommendations on important contemporary international security issues
- Communicate effectively in both written work and oral presentations. This involves being able to identify and organise relevant knowledge in the field and to be able to formulate persuasive, coherent, and critical arguments.

Policy Brief

Assessment Type ¹: Professional writing

Indicative Time on Task ²: 31 hours

Due: **Week 13 01/11/2023**

Weighting: **40%**

A policy brief related to a specific global security problem

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Formulate and defend policy recommendations on important contemporary international security issues
- Communicate effectively in both written work and oral presentations. This involves being able to identify and organise relevant knowledge in the field and to be able to formulate persuasive, coherent, and critical arguments.

Discussion Board Participation

Assessment Type ¹: Participatory task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 36 hours

Due: **Ongoing**

Weighting: **10%**

Online Discussion Board Participation

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Communicate effectively in both written work and oral presentations. This involves being able to identify and organise relevant knowledge in the field and to be able to formulate persuasive, coherent, and critical arguments.
- Work collaboratively with peers on common projects.

¹ If you need help with your assignment, please contact:

- the academic teaching staff in your unit for guidance in understanding or completing this type of assessment
- the [Writing Centre](#) for academic skills support.

² Indicative time-on-task is an estimate of the time required for completion of the assessment task and is subject to individual variation

Delivery and Resources

This unit has an online presence in ilearn. Lectures will be recorded and can be found on ECHO.

There is no text book for this unit. All required and recommended readings are on Leganto.

Unit Schedule

Week 1	Security for whom and from what? 'Widening' and 'deepening' security in the 21 st Century
PART 1: THEORIES OF SECURITY	
Week 2	Traditional Approaches to Security: Realism and Liberalism
Week 3	Critical Security Studies and Securitisation Theory
PART 2: CHANGING NATURE OF WAR AND PEACE IN THE 21st CENTURY	
Week 4	New wars and the Responsibility to Protect (R2P)
Week 5	Rethinking the agency: Women and Children in Conflicts
Week 6	Artificial intelligence and 'killer robots': towards new ways of war-making?
Week 7	The privatization of war: Private military contractors and the new economy of war
PART 3: THE 'NEW' LANDSCAPES OF SECURITY	
Week 8	Human Security
Week 9	No Lectures and tutorials this week (Public Holiday)
Week 10	Rethinking the UN and Collective Security in the 21st century
Week 11	Border Security and Mobility Governance
Week 12	Environmental security and climate change: Revisiting security and vulnerability in the age of Anthropocene
Week 13	Health (In)Security and Conclusions

Policies and Procedures

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

- [Academic Appeals Policy](#)
- [Academic Integrity Policy](#)
- [Academic Progression Policy](#)
- [Assessment Policy](#)
- [Fitness to Practice Procedure](#)
- [Assessment Procedure](#)
- [Complaints Resolution Procedure for Students and Members of the Public](#)
- [Special Consideration Policy](#)

Students seeking more policy resources can visit [Student Policies \(https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies\)](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/study/policies). It is your one-stop-shop for the key policies you need to know about throughout your undergraduate student journey.

To find other policies relating to Teaching and Learning, visit [Policy Central \(https://policies.mq.edu.au\)](https://policies.mq.edu.au) and use the [search tool](#).

Student Code of Conduct

Macquarie University students have a responsibility to be familiar with the Student Code of Conduct: <https://students.mq.edu.au/admin/other-resources/student-conduct>

Results

Results published on platform other than [eStudent](#), (eg. iLearn, Coursera etc.) 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 or if you are a Global MBA student contact globalmba.support@mq.edu.au

Academic Integrity

At Macquarie, we believe [academic integrity](#) – honesty, respect, trust, responsibility, fairness and courage – is at the core of learning, teaching and research. We recognise that meeting the expectations required to complete your assessments can be challenging. So, we offer you a range of resources and services to help you reach your potential, including free [online writing and maths support](#), [academic skills development](#) and [wellbeing consultations](#).

Student Support

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

The Writing Centre

The [Writing Centre](#) provides resources to develop your English language proficiency, academic writing, and communication skills.

- [Workshops](#)
- [Chat with a WriteWISE peer writing leader](#)
- [Access StudyWISE](#)
- [Upload an assignment to Studiosity](#)
- [Complete the Academic Integrity Module](#)

The Library provides online and face to face support to help you find and use relevant information resources.

- [Subject and Research Guides](#)
- [Ask a Librarian](#)

Student Services and Support

Macquarie University offers a range of [Student Support Services](#) including:

- [IT Support](#)
- [Accessibility and disability support](#) with study
- Mental health [support](#)
- [Safety support](#) to respond to bullying, harassment, sexual harassment and sexual assault
- [Social support including information about finances, tenancy and legal issues](#)
- [Student Advocacy](#) provides independent advice on MQ policies, procedures, and processes

Student Enquiries

Got a question? Ask us via [AskMQ](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

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.