



POIR8310

Security in World Politics

Session 2, Online-flexible 2026

School of International Studies

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff

Umut Ozguc

umut.ozguc@mq.edu.au

Consuelo Martinez Reyes

consuelo.martinezreyes@mq.edu.au

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: Illustrate and differentiate traditional and non-traditional theoretical approaches to security.

ULO2: Interpret and critically evaluate the assumptions, arguments, concepts and historical context that underlie security theories, practices and institutions.

ULO3: Apply theoretical concepts to analyse contemporary security issues.

ULO4: Formulate and defend policy recommendations on important security issues in global politics.

ULO5: Demonstrate critical, creative and collaborative thinking including identifying and organising relevant information to formulate persuasive, coherent and credible arguments

General Assessment Information

All details can be found on the Ilearn site of this unit.

Assessment Tasks

Name	Weighting	Hurdle	Due	Groupwork/Individual	Short Extension	AI Approach
Research Essay	50%	No	18/09/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Policy Brief	40%	No	04/11/2026	Individual	Yes	Open
Discussion Board	10%	No	05/11/2026	Individual	Yes	Open

Research Essay

Assessment Type ¹: Written Submission

Indicative Time on Task ²: 47 hours

Due: **18/09/2026**

Weighting: **50%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

Research essay

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Illustrate and differentiate traditional and non-traditional theoretical approaches to security.
- Interpret and critically evaluate the assumptions, arguments, concepts and historical context that underlie security theories, practices and institutions.
- Apply theoretical concepts to analyse contemporary security issues.
- Demonstrate critical, creative and collaborative thinking including identifying and organising relevant information to formulate persuasive, coherent and credible arguments

Policy Brief

Assessment Type ¹: Professional task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 31 hours

Due: **04/11/2026**

Weighting: **40%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

A policy brief related to a specific global security problem

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Illustrate and differentiate traditional and non-traditional theoretical approaches to security.
- Interpret and critically evaluate the assumptions, arguments, concepts and historical context that underlie security theories, practices and institutions.
- Formulate and defend policy recommendations on important security issues in global politics.
- Demonstrate critical, creative and collaborative thinking including identifying and organising relevant information to formulate persuasive, coherent and credible arguments

Discussion Board

Assessment Type ¹: Reflection task

Indicative Time on Task ²: 36 hours

Due: **05/11/2026**

Weighting: **10%**

Groupwork/Individual: Individual

Short extension ³: Yes

AI Approach: Open

Online forum

On successful completion you will be able to:

- Illustrate and differentiate traditional and non-traditional theoretical approaches to security.
- Interpret and critically evaluate the assumptions, arguments, concepts and historical context that underlie security theories, practices and institutions.
- Apply theoretical concepts to analyse contemporary security issues.
- Demonstrate critical, creative and collaborative thinking including identifying and organising relevant information to formulate persuasive, coherent and credible arguments

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
- [Academic Success](#) 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.

³ An automatic short extension is available for some assessments. Apply through the [Service Connect Portal](#).

Delivery and Resources

All resources can be found on Ilearn site of this unit. Lectures are recorded on ECHO.

Unit Schedule

	Security for Whom and from What? 'Widening' and 'deepening' security in the 21st Century
	Traditional Approaches to Security <i>Realism and Liberalism</i>
	Critical Approaches to Security <i>Securitisation Theory</i>
	From Responsibility to Protect to Peacebuilding
	Rethinking Agency: Women and Children in Conflicts

	Artificial Intelligence and 'Killer Robots' & Essay Writing
	The Privatisation of War
	Human Security in the 21st Century
	Rethinking the UN and Collective Security
	Border Security and Mobility Governance
	Health Insecurity
	Environmental Security and Energy Security

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 connect.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/>

Academic Success

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

- [Ask a Study Coach](#)
- [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 the [Service Connect Portal](#), or contact [Service Connect](#).

IT Help

For help with University computer systems and technology, visit <https://students.mq.edu.au/support/technology/service-desk>.

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.

Unit information based on version 2026.03 of the [Handbook](#)