IRPG831
International Security
S2 External 2014
Dept of Modern History, Politics & International Relations

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General Information

Unit convenor and teaching staff
Lecturer: Department of Modern History, Politics and International Relations
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431 W6A
Monday 10.30 am to 12 pm

Glenn Diesen
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Credit points
4

Prerequisites
Admission to MIntRel or PGDipIntRel or PGCertIntRel or MIntCommMIntRel or MIntBusMIntRel or MIntRelMIntTrdeComLaw or MTransInterMIntRel or MDevCult or PGDipDevCult or PGCertResPrep(Arts)

Corequisites

Co-badged status

Unit description
This unit introduces students to traditional security studies as well as non-traditional approaches which have sought to deepen and broaden our understanding of what 'security' means. We consider threats to the state including attempts to control the spread of nuclear weapons, the adequacy of strategic concepts such as deterrence to the new security threats posed by international terrorism and rogue states, and the challenge of irregular warfare. We then consider broader conceptions of security, including the idea of societal security (ethno-national conflicts, UN peacekeeping and peace-building) and human security (resource scarcity, climate change, and pandemics such as HIV/AIDS).

Important Academic Dates
Information about important academic dates including deadlines for withdrawing from units are available at https://students.mq.edu.au/important-dates

Learning Outcomes

1. The ability to explain and differentiate between both traditional and non-traditional theoretical approaches to international security.
2. The ability to independently analyse and critically evaluate the assumptions, arguments and concepts that underlie both traditional and non-traditional theoretical approaches to international security.

3. The capacity to apply theoretical concepts to analyse contemporary security issues.

4. The capacity to formulate and defend policy recommendations on important contemporary international security issues.

5. An ability to communicate effectively in written work. This involves being able to identify and organise relevant knowledge in the field and to be able to formulate persuasive, coherent, and critical arguments.

6. The ability to work collaboratively with one’s peers on common projects.

General Assessment Information

Plagiarism

Plagiarism has become an increasing problem in universities. The convenor of this course finds plagiarism in all its forms offensive and will pursue any plagiarism committed by students in this course and will apply appropriate penalties. Plagiarism is essentially a form of cheating, which provides those students with an unfair advantage to the rest of the student body, and devalues the MIR degree. The Department and the Faculty take plagiarism very seriously, with penalties escalating from mark deductions, zero grades for particular assignments, zero grades for the course as a whole, and in serious cases, expulsion from the degree and the university.

Both the research essay and final examination paper will be automatically screened through Turnitin (anti-plagiarism software).

Extensions

Any student seeking an extension of time to submit their research paper must, except in extraordinary circumstances, submit to the Convenor (or have submitted on their behalf) a request in writing and supportive documentary evidence prior to the due date. Extensions will not be given other than in exceptional cases of illness. In such cases, a certificate signed by a medical practitioner must be submitted as supportive documentary evidence.

In extraordinary circumstances where a written request for an extension cannot be submitted, an application for an extension can be sought verbally. However, in such cases, any extension granted will be subject to the student subsequently submitting such documentary evidence as is deemed appropriate by the Convenor. If an extension is sought due to the death of a family member, proof must be provided in the form of a death certificate.

Extensions beyond one week are subject to special consideration. The policy for this is detailed under Policy and Procedures under ‘Disruption to Studies Policy’.

Whilst we do understand that many or most students support themselves through paid employment, extensions cannot be granted on this basis alone. Students must manage their time and workloads accordingly. Essay topics will be given to students by the second week of semester leaving ample time for essay preparation. Meeting deadlines for assignments is an important skill, and is expected in most
Assessment Tasks

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion Board Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<td>Role Plays</td>
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<td>Weeks 5 &amp; 8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Essay</td>
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Discussion Board Participation

Due: Ongoing
Weighting: 10%

A discussion board will be set up on iLearn as a forum to facilitate online discussion of the course material, week by week. Students should prepare to participate on the discussion board by listening to lecture recordings and reading the required readings. These will be listed on the IRPG831 iLearn site. Discussion will focus on questions that will be uploaded by the Convenor on a weekly basis. To encourage regular participation, contributions made to a particular discussion thread will not be assessed unless they are made within a two-week period after the relevant lecture.

Students will be assessed on the quality of their contributions rather than the quantity of these contributions, however students are required post in a minimum of six times over the course of the semester (in addition to the role plays) to avoid a mark penalty for this component of the course.

The quality of your contributions will be significantly enhanced by the amount of preparation you do each week. It is also important that your contributions acknowledge other students' points of view and provide constructive follow-on comments. That is, there should be an attempt to respond to the comments previously made on a topic. Participants should avoid making unconnected statements, unless they wish to start a new thread (raise a new issue).

Posts made after week 13 will not be assessed.

Penalties for Late Submission

Any research paper that is submitted after the due date and without having obtained an extension will be penalized at a rate of 3% per day. For example:

- a 9% penalty will be applied to an assignment that is 3 days late. If the paper receives an original mark of 70/100, after a 9% penalty is applied, the final mark for the essay would be 64/100

Any paper that is submitted 10 days after the due date will not be marked and the student submitting such a paper will be deemed not to have completed and submitted the paper.
This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- The ability to explain and differentiate between both traditional and non-traditional theoretical approaches to international security.
- The ability to independently analyse and critically evaluate the assumptions, arguments and concepts that underlie both traditional and non-traditional theoretical approaches to international security.
- The capacity to apply theoretical concepts to analyse contemporary security issues.
- The capacity to formulate and defend policy recommendations on important contemporary international security issues.
- An ability to communicate effectively in written work. This involves being able to identify and organise relevant knowledge in the field and to be able to formulate persuasive, coherent, and critical arguments.
- The ability to work collaboratively with one's peers on common projects.

Role Plays

Due: **Weeks 5 & 8**

Weighting: **10%**

In week 2, students will be allocated roles in two case studies for which they will need to do additional research. Students are required to construct a policy position from the point of view of the 'actor' they represent in a particular case study and to negotiate this policy with the other 'actors' in their allocated week.

The role plays will take place online on the discussion board in the week the topic is discussed in lectures. It is therefore essential that students **contribute to the discussion board in their allocated week**. Each student will post a **one page statement** (equivalent to one page of a Word doc. in 12 point font) of their position and then negotiations will be opened to the group as whole in the online discussion forum. Further details on the role play scenarios will be provided in week 2.

**Assessment criteria**

Your tutor will assess your contribution to the role play using the following criteria:

- level of preparation (evidence of research and understanding of the likely position of the 'actor' represented based on their interests)
- written expression (clarity of explanation)
- ability to keep within the word limit (in relation to the one page position statement - this does not apply to the negotiation phase)
- ability of the student to analyse and respond appropriately (given the interests of the actor they are representing) to the policy positions of other actors.
This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- The capacity to apply theoretical concepts to analyse contemporary security issues.
- The capacity to formulate and defend policy recommendations on important contemporary international security issues.
- An ability to communicate effectively in written work. This involves being able to identify and organise relevant knowledge in the field and to be able to formulate persuasive, coherent, and critical arguments.
- The ability to work collaboratively with one's peers on common projects.

**Research Essay**

**Due:** 1 October 2014  
**Weighting:** 40%

This 3000 word research essay is intended to develop students' core disciplinary knowledge, enhance independent research skills, written (academic) communication skills and demonstrate students' ability to develop original, critical thinking. In the essay students will provide evidence of active engagement with, and critical analysis of, the relevant academic literature, comply with academic essay writing conventions and reference thoroughly. In general, essay topics will require students to address opposing points of view on the question and to come to their own conclusion about the merits of these arguments.

Essay questions will be posted in Week 2 on iLearn.

The essay must be submitted electronically via the IRPG831 iLearn site no later than Wednesday 1 October 2014. Marks will be returned electronically via the iLearn site.

Please read the University's guidelines on Academic Honesty. All assessment submissions through iLearn will be automatically processed through Turnitin.

The essay will be marked in accordance with the MIR's 'Grading Criteria and Rubric' document which will be uploaded on iLearn.

**Essay format:** please ensure that your essay is written using font 12, with at least 1.5 line spacing and a 2.5 cm margin.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:

- The ability to explain and differentiate between both traditional and non-traditional theoretical approaches to international security.
- The ability to independently analyse and critically evaluate the assumptions, arguments and concepts that underlie both traditional and non-traditional theoretical approaches to international security.
- The capacity to apply theoretical concepts to analyse contemporary security issues.
- An ability to communicate effectively in written work. This involves being able to identify...
and and organise relevant knowledge in the field and to be able to formulate persuasive, coherent, and critical arguments.

Final Examination
Due: Wednesday 12th November
Weighting: 40%

All internal and external students will complete an online, open book test assessing students’ knowledge of the content covered from weeks 1-11. It will be a 3 hour paper. As this course covers a broad range of topics it is advisable that students attempt to keep up to date with their readings throughout the semester.

The test will be made available to students through the IRPG831 iLearn site on Wednesday 12 November 2014 at 9.30 am.

Detailed information about this assessment item will be available on the iLearn site for this subject after the mid-semester break.

All students are responsibility for ensuring their availability to take the exam on this date.

This Assessment Task relates to the following Learning Outcomes:
• The ability to explain and differentiate between both traditional and non-traditional theoretical approaches to international security.
• The ability to independently analyse and critically evaluate the assumptions, arguments and concepts that underlie both traditional and non-traditional theoretical approaches to international security.
• The capacity to apply theoretical concepts to analyse contemporary security issues.
• An ability to communicate effectively in written work. This involves being able to identify and and organise relevant knowledge in the field and to be able to formulate persuasive, coherent, and critical arguments.

Delivery and Resources
Unit Requirements and Expectations
• You should spend an average of at least 12 hours per week on this unit. This includes attendance at lectures and tutorials and reading weekly required readings detailed in iLearn.
• Internal students are expected to attend at least 80% of tutorials and external students are expected to contribute to on-line discussions.

Required readings
• The required prescribed textbook for this unit is Collins, A. (ed) Contemporary Security Studies, Oxford University Press 2012.
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.
- The unit can only be accessed by enrolled students online through http://ilearn.mq.edu.au

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.
- All assessment tasks will be subject to a 'TurnitIn’ review as an automatic part of the submission process.
- Assessment tasks must be submitted with as assessment coversheet incorporating a plagiarism declaration. This can be done online in the process of submitting written work online on the ilearn site.

Unit Schedule

WEEK 1 (6 August) : Introduction-the widening and deepening of security studies.

No tutorials in week 1

WEEK 2 (13 August): Traditional Approaches to Security - Realism and Liberalism

WEEK 3 (20 August): Non-traditional approaches to security - Constructivism and human security

WEEK 4 (27 August): Nuclear Proliferation

WEEK 5 (3 September): Non-proliferation and counter-proliferation strategies - Role Play 1

WEEK 6 (10 September): Terrorism

WEEK 7 (17 September): Irregular warfare and counter-insurgency

Mid-Semester Break - 20 Sept to 6 October

Research Essay due Wednesday 1 October 2014

WEEK 8 (8 October): Regime Security Role Play 2

WEEK 9 (15 October): Health and Security

WEEK 10 (22 October): Societal Security

WEEK 11 (29 October): Great-power competition and East-Asia

WEEK 12 (5 November): Study week - no classes

WEEK 13 (12 November): Final Examination 12 November 9.30 am to 12.30 pm - no classes
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:


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/](https://students.mq.edu.au/support/student_conduct/)

Student Support
Macquarie University provides a range of support services for students. For details, visit [http://students.mq.edu.au/support/](http://students.mq.edu.au/support/)

Learning Skills
Learning Skills ([mq.edu.au/learningskills](http://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 Enquiry Service
For all student enquiries, visit Student Connect at [ask.mq.edu.au](http://ask.mq.edu.au)

Equity 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.

**IT Help**


When using the University's IT, you must adhere to the Acceptable Use Policy. The policy applies to all who connect to the MQ network including students.

**Graduate Capabilities**

**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**

- The ability to explain and differentiate between both traditional and non-traditional theoretical approaches to international security.
- The capacity to apply theoretical concepts to analyse contemporary security issues.
- The capacity to formulate and defend policy recommendations on important contemporary international security issues.
- An ability to communicate effectively in written work. This involves being able to identify and organise relevant knowledge in the field and to be able to formulate persuasive, coherent, and critical arguments.

**Assessment tasks**

- Discussion Board Participation
- Role Plays
- Research Essay
- Final Examination

**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

• The capacity to formulate and defend policy recommendations on important contemporary international security issues
• An ability to communicate effectively in written work. This involves being able to identify and organise relevant knowledge in the field and to be able to formulate persuasive, coherent, and critical arguments.
• The ability to work collaboratively with ones peers on common projects.

Assessment tasks

• Discussion Board Participation
• Role Plays
• Research Essay
• Final Examination

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

• The ability to explain and differentiate between both traditional and non-traditional theoretical approaches to international security.
• The ability to independently analyse and critically evaluate the assumptions, arguments and concepts that underlie both traditional and non-traditional theoretical approaches to international security.
• The capacity to apply theoretical concepts to analyse contemporary security issues.
• The capacity to formulate and defend policy recommendations on important contemporary international security issues
• An ability to communicate effectively in written work. This involves being able to identify and organise relevant knowledge in the field and to be able to formulate persuasive, coherent, and critical arguments.

Assessment tasks

• Discussion Board Participation
• Role Plays
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**

- The ability to explain and differentiate between both traditional and non-traditional theoretical approaches to international security.
- The ability to independently analyse and critically evaluate the assumptions, arguments and concepts that underlie both traditional and non-traditional theoretical approaches to international security.
- The capacity to apply theoretical concepts to analyse contemporary security issues.
- The capacity to formulate and defend policy recommendations on important contemporary international security issues.
- An ability to communicate effectively in written work. This involves being able to identify and organise relevant knowledge in the field and to be able to formulate persuasive, coherent, and critical arguments.

**Assessment tasks**

- Discussion Board Participation
- Role Plays
- Research Essay
- Final Examination

**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**

- The capacity to formulate and defend policy recommendations on important
contemporary international security issues
  • The ability to work collaboratively with ones peers on common projects.

Assessment task
  • Role Plays

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
  • The ability to independently analyse and critically evaluate the assumptions, arguments and concepts that underlie both traditional and non-traditional theoretical approaches to international security.
  • The capacity to apply theoretical concepts to analyse contemporary security issues.
  • The capacity to formulate and defend policy recommendations on important contemporary international security issues

Assessment tasks
  • Role Plays
  • Research Essay