

CS- International security challenges: theories, actors, case studies

IEP Grenoble - UGA

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This 18-hour class aims at introducing students to the main questions raised in the field of international security by our contemporary multipolar world. The class focusses on understanding the major debates and challenges on international security issues and the players involved. It is based on a multi-faceted approach combining international relations, political science and international sociology. The lectures will mix theoretical aspects and case studies.

The lectures will be as interactive as possible, with a sequence dedicated to a role-playing game in the end of the semester.

Each session is built around a general theme which is dealt with in a presentation by the professor and the reading of at least one text or short scientific article. In most cases, the sessions are divided between theoretical and factual aspects. It goes without saying that reading the texts is crucial to be able to support the debate with informed arguments.

The final grade will be based on a 1-hour written exam (essay) during the exam week (January) with a retake in June.

Part I: International security: conceptual elements and theoretical approaches

This first part will look at the issue of security through the concepts and different approaches used by political science to grasp and analyze the subject of security.

Session 1: Introduction and general reflection on international security, war and peace

1. *Definition of war : what is war and what it is not*
2. *Peace and what it means*
3. *Irregular wars and global terrorism: understanding trends in contemporary warfare*

Session 2: Mainstream theories to analyze international security

1. *Realism*
2. *Liberalism*
3. *Constructivism*

Reading: SMITH, Nicholas Ross et DAWSON, Grant. Mearsheimer, realism, and the Ukraine war. <i>Analyse & Kritik</i> , 2022, vol. 44, no 2, p. 175-200.

Session 3: Critical theories in international security

1. *Critical theory and the securitization concept*
2. *Gendering international security*

Reading: SJOBERG, Laura et THIES, Cameron G. Gender and international relations. *Annual Review of Political Science*, 2023, vol. 26, no 1, p. 451-467.

Part II : The main players in international security

The aim of this part of the course is analyze its various players, as well as those who threaten it: States, IGOs, transnational groups, etc.

Session 4 : The State as a major player in international security

1. *Main characteristics of the state in international security*
2. *Examples of inter-state wars*
3. *A war of communication and images: how states frame wars and how public opinions interact*

Reading : TILLY, Charles. War making and state making as organized crime. In : *Collective violence, contentious politics, and social change*. Routledge, 2017. p. 121-139.

Session 5 : Multilateral organizations and international security

1. *International law and multilateralism : cooperating under anarchy*
2. *The UN system in contemporary IR*
3. *The UN Charter and the maintaining of international peace and security*

Reading : LUNDGREN, Magnus et KLAMBERG, Mark. Selective attention: The United Nations security council and armed conflict. *British Journal of Political Science*, 2023, vol. 53, no 3, p. 958-979.

Session 6 : Regional players and international security

1. General overview of the role of regional organizations in international security
2. The EU as an international security actor
3. NATO's evolution: from a cold war Alliance to a global military actor
4. Case studies of the roles of the EU and NATO in the war in Ukraine, and the role of the EU in the armed conflict in DR Congo

Reading: DESCHAUX-DUTARD, Delphine. European defence in an interpolar context: explaining the limitations of the French-German contribution to European strategic autonomy. *Defence Studies*, 2022, vol. 22, no 4, p. 591-608

Session 7 : Non-state actors in international security in the 21st century

1. *NGOs and international relations and conflict in the contemporary era*
2. *The specific case of humanitarian interference and the development of the notion of responsibility to protect*
2. *Is war becoming a private activity ? The case of Private Military Companies*

Reading: FUDHALI, Aufa Rabbi et QOSIM, Ahmad Afrizal. The Use of PMC Wagner in Various Missions in the Middle East and Eastern Europe. In : *Proceedings of Sunan Ampel International Conference of Political and Social Sciences*. 2024. p. 70-83.

Part III: Strategies and policies of war and peace: case studies

This part of the course aims to understand the dynamics and processes of war and post-conflict situations, as well as the question of the legitimacy of the use of force.

Session 8: Technology and war : changing international security

1. *Technologizing international security: the case of drones*
2. *The case of cybersecurity and cyberdefence*

Reading: SINGER, Peter W. The ethics of killer applications: Why is it so hard to talk about morality when it comes to new military technology?. In : *Military Ethics and Emerging Technologies*. Routledge, 2016. p. 5-18.

Session 9: Asymmetric wars and new areas of conflict

1. *The challenge of international terrorism in international relations*
2. *The raising environmental security challenge*

Reading : MCDONALD, Matt. Accepting responsibility? Institutions and the security implications of climate change. *Security Dialogue*, 2024, vol. 55, no 3, p. 293-310.

Collective debate/ simulation exercise

Short selection of References

- Baylis, John, Steve Smith, and Patricia Owens, eds. *The globalization of world politics: an introduction to international relations*. Oxford University Press, 2017.
- BURGESS, J. Peter (ed.). *Handbook of new security studies*. Routledge, 2010.
- CAFORIO, Giuseppe et NUCIARI, Marina (ed.). *Handbook of the Sociology of the Military*. New York : Springer, 2006.
- Dorussen, Han, ed. *Handbook on peacekeeping and international relations*. Edward Elgar Publishing, 2022.

- JACKSON, Paul (ed.). *Handbook of international security and development*. Edward Elgar Publishing, 2015. Jørgensen, Knud Erik. *International relations theory: A new introduction*. Macmillan International Higher Education, 2017.
- Galbreath, David J., and John R. Deni, eds. *Routledge handbook of defence studies*. London, New York: Routledge, 2018.
- GHECIU, Alexandra et WOHLFORTH, William C. (ed.). *The Oxford handbook of international security*. Oxford University Press, 2018.
- GRUSZCZAK, Artur et KAEMPF, Sebastian. *Routledge handbook of the future of warfare*. 2024.
- Kaarbo, Juliet, and Cameron Theis, eds. *The Oxford Handbook of Foreign Policy Analysis*. Oxford University Press, 2024.