

Subject	International Security			
	Type	Semester	ECTS	Code
	OBLIGATORY	3	6	
Course Lecturer	Dr. Bashkim Smakaj			
Course Lecturer	n.a			
Course Lecturer	n.a			

Aims
and
Objectives

Aims:

This course is designed to introduce key concepts and issues to international security and to develop essential analytical skills.

The desire to prevent (or at least reduce) the devastating effects of war has long been the normative core of international relations. However, in order to move towards peace, we must first understand the root causes and dynamics of war. Thus, international security scholars have traditionally focused on topics such as power balance, braking, and grand strategy.

In recent decades, the field has shifted from a narrow focus on interstate warfare to a wider interest in other forms of organized violence, particularly civil wars and terrorism. Readings for this course reflect this trajectory.

The other aim of the course is to create within the student group a better structured vision and better understand national and international security issues.

We will begin our journey in the field of security studies with key conceptual and theoretical debates. The course will make students able to interpret key texts from the history of international politics and understand the basic concepts of security.

Objectives :

- Articulate key theories and concepts on International Security by explaining the major theories and concepts in international security, and apply these to analyze historical and contemporary international security issues.
- Identify the current and emerging international security challenges and assess their implications at global, regional, and national levels.
- Evaluate the Role of International Actors by analysing the roles and effectiveness of international organizations, alliances, and regimes in addressing security challenges.
- Critically evaluate the ethical dimensions of international security issues and policies, demonstrating an understanding of the complexities involved in decision-making processes.
- Effectively communicate analyses and arguments regarding international security issues through written assignments and oral presentations.
- Work collaboratively with peers to debate and discuss key issues in international security, showing respect for diverse perspectives.

Learning Outcomes	<p>After the successful completion of this course, students will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will demonstrate a thorough understanding of the fundamental theories and concepts in international security, including realism, liberalism, constructivism, and emerging theoretical perspectives. • Students will be able to identify and critically analyze contemporary and emerging international security challenges, including state-based conflicts, terrorism, cyber threats, and non-traditional security issues. • Students will gain knowledge of the roles, functions, and effectiveness of international institutions, alliances, and norms in shaping and responding to global security dynamics. • Students will demonstrate the ability to critically and ethically evaluate international security issues and policies, considering the balance between security needs, human rights, and ethical implications. • Students will be able to effectively communicate their understanding and analyses of international security issues through clear, concise, and well-organized written and oral presentations. • Students will demonstrate the ability to work effectively in teams, showing an ability to engage in constructive debate and discussion, and to respect diverse viewpoints. • Students will be able to apply theoretical knowledge to analyze real-world international security scenarios and propose informed solutions or strategies. 										
	Course Content	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="407 848 1333 884">Course Plan</th> <th data-bbox="1333 848 1479 884">Week</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="407 884 1333 1058"> Introduction : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the course, • Why International Security matters? • Course Requirements • Assignments and Evaluation • The course goals; </td> <td data-bbox="1333 884 1479 1058">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="407 1058 1333 1226"> What is International Security - Defining International Security <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding the Scope and Evolution • Historical Perspectives on International Security • The Changing Nature of Security in the Post-Cold War Era • Traditional vs. Non-Traditional Security Threats </td> <td data-bbox="1333 1058 1479 1226">2</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="407 1226 1333 1415"> Theoretical support to International Security, the international system and trends in international conflicts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Realism and Security: State-Centric Views • Liberalism and Cooperative Security • Constructivism and the Social Construction of Security Issues • Emerging Theories and Perspectives </td> <td data-bbox="1333 1226 1479 1415">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="407 1415 1333 1654"> Russian –Ukrainian war <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical Context and Background , the 2014 Ukrainian Revolution and Crimea's Annexation • The Conflict in Eastern Ukraine: The Donbas Region • International Responses and geopolitical implications • Human Rights and War Crimes Allegations • Current State and Future Prospects </td> <td data-bbox="1333 1415 1479 1654">4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Course Plan	Week	Introduction : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the course, • Why International Security matters? • Course Requirements • Assignments and Evaluation • The course goals; 	1	What is International Security - Defining International Security <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding the Scope and Evolution • Historical Perspectives on International Security • The Changing Nature of Security in the Post-Cold War Era • Traditional vs. Non-Traditional Security Threats 	2	Theoretical support to International Security, the international system and trends in international conflicts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Realism and Security: State-Centric Views • Liberalism and Cooperative Security • Constructivism and the Social Construction of Security Issues • Emerging Theories and Perspectives 	3	Russian –Ukrainian war <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical Context and Background , the 2014 Ukrainian Revolution and Crimea's Annexation • The Conflict in Eastern Ukraine: The Donbas Region • International Responses and geopolitical implications • Human Rights and War Crimes Allegations • Current State and Future Prospects
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The meaning of war.	5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding the Concept of War • Definitions and Historical Perspectives on War • Jus ad Bellum: The Legal Justification for War • Principles and Criteria for Legally Justifying War • Jus in Bello: Laws Governing Conduct in War • Principles of Distinction, Proportionality, and Military Necessity • Treatment of Non-Combatants and Prisoners of War • Prohibitions under International Humanitarian Law 	
Diplomacy and peace negotiations	6
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding Diplomacy: Definitions and Scope • Historical Evolution of Diplomatic Practices • Types of Diplomacy: From Traditional to Public and Digital Diplomacy • Key Principles and Strategies in Peace Negotiations • The Art of Negotiation: Tactics and Techniques 	
Military alliances and security cooperation	7
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding Military Alliances: Purpose and Evolution • Historical Overview of Military Alliances • Theoretical Perspectives on Alliance Formation • Changing Nature of Alliances in the 21st Century • NATO: History, Evolution, and Current Role • The Warsaw Pact: A Historical Counterpart to NATO • Asian Security Alliances: ANZUS, SEATO, and the Quad • Regional Alliances: Arab League, African Union, and EU Defense Initiatives 	
The civil war	8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding Civil Wars: Definitions and Characteristics • Externalities of Civil Wars • Regional Instability and Spillover Effects • Refugee Flows and Humanitarian Crises • Economic Impact on Neighboring Countries and Global Markets • The Arab Spring: Origins and Outcomes • The Syrian Civil War: A Case Study 	
Humanitarian interventions and peacebuilding	9
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding Humanitarian Interventions • Definitions and Historical Evolution of Humanitarian Interventions • Legal and Ethical Foundations of Humanitarian Action • The Debate: Sovereignty vs. Human Rights • The Role of International Organizations in Humanitarian Interventions • Peacebuilding: Concepts and Strategies • From Peacekeeping to Peacebuilding: A Shift in Approach 	
Humanitarian intervention in Bosnia and Herzegovina	10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Background of the Conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina • The International Community's Response to the Crisis • Humanitarian Intervention Efforts • Diplomatic Efforts to End the Conflict • The Washington Agreement and the Dayton Accords 	
Military and humanitarian intervention in Kosovo	11
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical Context of the Kosovo War • International Response to the Kosovo War • NATO's Military Intervention • Justification ,Controversies and Criticisms of the NATO Bombing • Resolution and Aftermath of the War 	

	BRICs (Brazil, Russia, India and China) and new world order!	12		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to BRICs: Emergence and Significance • Conceptualizing BRICs: Origin and Evolution of the Term • BRICs and the Shift in Global Economic Power • BRICs and the Changing Landscape of International Relations 	13		
	Conventional weapons control and disarmament.			
	Weapons of Mass Destruction: Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Weapons			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of Conventional Weapons Control, Definition and Types • Key International Treaties and Agreements on Conventional Weapons • Nuclear Weapons: Proliferation and Control • The Development and Spread of Nuclear Weapons • Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and Its Challenges 	14		
	Presentations	15		
	Final Exam			
Teaching/Learning Methods	Activity	Weight (%)		
	1. Class Participation (active discussions and participations)	20%		
	2. Short Papers assignments (2 x 15%) – Presentations	30%		
	3. Final Exam	50%		
Assessment Methods	Assessment activity	Number	week	Weight (%)
	1. Individual/group work project Short Papers assignments	2	5,10	30%
	2. Class Participation	15	1-15	20%
	3. Final exam	1	15	50%
Course resources	Tools	Number		
	1. Classes (e.g.	1		
	2. Laboratory (e.g)	n/a		
	3. Moodle	1		
	4. Software MATLAB/SPSS/SIMULINK	n/a		
	5. Projector	1		
ECTS Workload	Activity	Weekly hrs	Total workload	
	1. Lectures	2	30	
	2. Exercises	1	15	
	3. Papers assignments presentations	0.5	7	
	4. Consultations	0.5	7	
	5. Home works	2	12	
	6. Independent learning	2-3	77	
	7. Exam	1	2	

Literature/References

- ALEXANDRA GHECIU ,WILLIAM C. WOHLFORTH (2018) , THE OXFORD HANDBOOK OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY , © Oxford University Press
- Collins, A. (2016). Contemporary security studies. Oxford university press.
- Buzan, B. People, states and fear: an agenda for international security studies in the post-cold war era. (London: Pearson, 2004) second edition [ISBN 9781555872823].
- BARRY BUZAN, LENE HANSEN (2009), THE EVOLUTION OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY STUDIES, Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York.
- Hough, P. Understanding global security. Fourth edition published 2018 by Routledge,2 Park Square, Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 4RN
- Peter Hough, Bruce Pilbeam, Shahin Malik, Andrew Moran: "International Security Studies: Theory and Practice", Routledge, 2014 , ISBN 978-0-415-73435-6 (hardback) -- ISBN 978-0-415-73437-0 (paperback),-- ISBN 978-1-315-81681-4 (ebook)
- Roland Dannreuther: International Security: The Contemporary Agenda, 2nd Edition, Keith Krause and Michael C. Williams, "Security and 'Security Studies': Conceptual Evolution and

	<p>Historical Transformation”, Nikolaos van Dam (2017) Destroying a Nation: The Civil War in Syria (London: IB Taurus) Pinker, Steven. 2011. The Better Angels of Our Nature: Why Violence Has Declined. Penguin Books: New York. Kwang Ho Chun,(2013), The BRICs Superpower Challenge Foreign and Security Policy Analysis, Published by Ashgate Publishing Limited ,England</p> <p>Articles</p> <p>Baldwin, D. ‘The concept of security’, Review of International Studies 23(1) 1997 pp.5–26. Morality and foreign policy’, George F. Kennan Foreign Affairs Vol. 64 (2) (1985), pp.205–18 (article consists of 14 pages) Newman, E. ‘Humanitarian intervention, legality and legitimacy’, International Journal of Human Rights 6(4) (2002) pp.102–120. Simpson, J. ‘The nuclear non-proliferation regime: back to the future?’ UNIDIR Disarmament Forum 1 2004 pp.1–12. Robert Kagan, “Power and Weakness,” Policy Review, no. 113 (2002). (pdf) Stephen Biddle, Military Power: Explaining Victory and Defeat in Modern Battle (Princeton University Press, 2004), chaps. 3-4, 7. (pdf) Ivan Arreguin-Toft, "How the Weak Win Wars: A Theory of Asymmetric Conflict," International Security, vol. 26, no. 1 (2001), pp. 93-128. (pdf) David A. Lake, "Beyond Anarchy: The Importance of Security Institutions," International Security, vol. 26, no. 1 (2001), pp. 129-160. (pdf) Thucydides, “ The Melian Dialogue” in Betts, pp. 69-73. (5 pages) Kenneth N. Waltz, “ Origins of War in Neorealist Theory” in Betts, pp. 100-106. (7 pages) Robert Gilpin, “ Hegemonic War and International Change” in Betts, pp. 107-119. (13 pages) Robert Jervis, “ Cooperation Under the Security Dilemma,” in Betts, pp. 425-441. (17 pages) John Mearsheimer, The Tragedy of Great Power Politics (New York: W. W. Norton, 2001), pp. 29-54. (25 pages) Rajan Menon, The End of Alliances (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007), 53-99. (46pages) Nicholas Burns and James Jones, “ Restoring the Power and Purpose of the NATO Alliance,” Atlantic Council, June 2016, pp. 1-14. (14 pages) Scott D. Sagan, “ Why do States Build Nuclear Weapons? Three Models in Search of a Bomb,” International Security vol. 12, no. 3 (Winter 1996/1997): 54-86. (32 pages) Kenneth Waltz, ‘ The Spread of Nuclear Weapons: More May Be Better,’ in Betts, pp. 451-61. (11 pages)</p>
Contact:	<p style="text-align: center;">bashkim.smakaj@ubt-uni.net 0038345992299</p>
Note:	<p>The assessment in this course, as explained above, consists of three components: individual research, presentation of articles and other tasks distributed in the classroom during the week and physical and active participation in lectures.</p> <p>Students who have 3 absences during the semester, the maximum grade they will receive in this course is 8 (eight). Those who have four or more absences during the semester, the maximum grade they will receive in this subject is 7 (seven), rules will be introduced in the first lecture and also put in Moodle .</p> <p>- The course teacher retains the right to make changes and eventual adaptations during the semester in order to achieve the course's goals more effectively. Students will be notified of these changes in time.</p>