Introduction to International Security

Instructors
Dr. Olivier Schmitt
Associate Professor, department of political science
schmitt@sam.sdu.dk

Dr. Amelie Theussen
Assistant Professor, department of political science
amelie@sam.sdu.dk

Course information
One lecture per week, Mondays, 14.00-17.00 (rooms subject to change, check each week). Olivier or Amelie will hold office hours every Monday before class, from 12.00 to 14.00 (which one of us will be holding office hours depends on who is teaching the class this particular week). Our offices are located in the department of political science. You can also email us for an appointment.

Course structure and objective
This course is designed to introduce the key concepts and issues in international security, and develop essential writing and analytical skills. It is expected that you come to class prepared, having read the mandatory texts and noted a few questions raised by them. A compendium of the mandatory reading will be printed and made available for purchase at the library.

The class assumes a knowledge of international political history (especially since 1945) commensurate with what can be normally expected from master students in the social sciences. If you feel you need to refresh your memory on the Cuban missile crisis, the timeline of the Vietnam War or else, we recommend regularly checking the handbook by John W. Young and John Kent, International Relations since 1945, Oxford UP, 2013. We also strongly recommend Odd Arne Westad, The Cold War, A World History, Allen Lane, 2017: comprehensive, ambitious and well-written.

A typical class will involve a combination of lecturing, discussion of the assigned texts, and a collective exercise based on a document circulated the week before class. We will begin each class by randomly selecting a student who will have between one a two minutes (“elevator speech”) to summarize an international politics event that happened the week before class, and explain the challenges and issues at stakes. We will then have a 10 minutes discussion about the issue.

Your work and preparation does not end when you are done reading the mandatory texts. It is expected of you to follow national and international news through the quality newspapers of your choice, depending on your language skills (Politiken, Washington Post, New York Times, Süddeutsche Zeitung, Le Monde, etc.).
We also encourage you to read the following websites that offer detailed (and free) analyses on international security:


You should also familiarize yourself with the main international think-tanks on international affairs.

In Denmark:
- Danish Institute for International Studies ([https://www.diis.dk/en](https://www.diis.dk/en))
- Center for Military Studies ([https://cms.polsci.ku.dk/english/](https://cms.polsci.ku.dk/english/))

In the United States:
- Rand Corporation ([https://www.rand.org/](https://www.rand.org/))
- Center for Strategic and International Studies ([https://www.csis.org/](https://www.csis.org/))
- Center for a New American Security ([https://www.cnas.org/](https://www.cnas.org/))
- Brookings Institution ([https://www.brookings.edu/](https://www.brookings.edu/))

In the United Kingdom:
- International Institute for Strategic Studies ([https://www.iiss.org/](https://www.iiss.org/))
- Chatham House ([https://www.chathamhouse.org/](https://www.chathamhouse.org/))
- RUSI ([https://rusi.org/](https://rusi.org/))

Finally, your professors are also active publishing their research, organizing events or commenting in the media. Make sure to regularly check the website of the *Center for War Studies* ([https://www.sdu.dk/en/cws](https://www.sdu.dk/en/cws)), ‘like’ its Facebook page and subscribe to its Twitter account (@CWSWarStudies) in order to not miss any news. Most of your professors are also on Twitter. We are indifferent as to whether you follow us or not, but we regularly post articles and news that could be of interest to you and your studies.

**Assessment**

Portfolio exam. The first part (15%) will be a critical examination of a document. The second part (15%) will require students to draft a policy paper based on a given scenario. In the last part (70%), students will have to answer two questions.

The first assignment must be maximum 3 pages in English (each with 2,400 strokes. Spacing, appendix and notes included, but table of content and bibliography excluded). The second assignment must be maximum 5 pages in English (each with 2,400 strokes. Spacing, appendix and notes included, but table of content and bibliography excluded). The third assignment must be maximum 8 pages in English (each with 2,400 strokes. Spacing, appendix and notes included, but table of content and bibliography excluded.)

Other rules regarding the formatting of the assessments:

- Font: Times New Roman 12
Include page numbers
Consistent use of one citation style (Chicago, APA, etc.)
A standard cover page including the number of strokes.

Assignments failing to report the numbers of strokes and assignments exceeding the maximum number of strokes will be dismissed.

Equity and Disability Policies
The University of Southern Denmark and us are committed to providing a supportive learning environment. If you are facing medical, emotional or personal circumstances that will affect your attendance and performance, please see us.

Plagiarism and cheating
Plagiarism is a very serious offense, and will not be tolerated. It could result in a grade of zero for the course or expulsion from the University. The Danish university act defines the following actions as cheating:
- Plagiarise, including reusing own texts (autocitation) without source reference and citation
- Commit forgery
- Omit information
- Mislead about their own efforts or results
- Participate in unauthorised cooperation
- Receive help during examinations or help others during a non-group examination
- Unlawfully have prior knowledge of the examination assignment
- Provide false attendance information

Academic integrity
As professors, we strive to provide an exceptional learning environment. Feel free to contact us, and use our office hours for any issue you may have.
As students, the Danish University act prescribes that “students, must act in a manner that ensures the University’s uninterrupted function. (...) Students must act considerately towards staff and fellow students. Students must act in regard to the University's property, buildings and possessions when present on the University area. Noisy behavior, eating, drinking, etc. must not take place in such a manner that it causes inconvenience to others. This implies e.g. that threatening or harassing behavior and violation of the University's smoking ban may be considered violations of the code of conduct. Students must abide by the rules set by the University or by rules the University are bound to”.

We will not tolerate inappropriate behavior towards us or towards other students.

Finally, email us with one paragraph about yourself (your background, why you chose this class/degree program, and what you expect from it) the week before the first class.
Class 1: Security and security dilemmas (September 3rd)
Amelie/Olivier (U82)

Questions:
- What is the difference between security and strategy?
- What are the consequences of shifting the focus of security from the state to other actors?
- Are there different types of security dilemmas?

Mandatory reading:


Movies, novels, series...

Class 2: Coercion and Deterrence (September 10th)
Olivier (U 47)

Questions:
- Is deterrence harder than coercion?
- What is the difference between deterrence by denial and deterrence by punishment?
- How can we observe/measure the success of coercion and deterrence?
- What is the relative importance of military vs non-military means of coercion?
Mandatory reading:


Movies, novels, series...


Class 3: International system and trends in international conflicts  
(September 17th)  
Amelie (U47)

Questions:
- Are the US in decline, and how would we know?
- Is violence declining?
- What is the shape of the emerging international order?

Mandatory reading:


*Movies, novels, series…*


**Class 4: Alliances and security cooperation (September 24th)**

*Olivier (U42)*

**Questions:**
- What are the conditions that make security cooperation more or less likely?
- Why are the different forms of security cooperation, and their advantages/disadvantages?
- What are the challenges of coalition warfare?

**Mandatory reading:**


*Sten Rynning, “Coalitions, Institutions and Big Tents: the New Strategic Reality of Armed Intervention”, *International Affairs*, 89/1, 2013, pp. 53-68.


*Movies, novels, series…*

Luo Guanzhong, *Romance of the Three Kingdoms* (XIVth Century)
“War Machine”, David Michod (2017); “Games of Thrones”, HBO, 2011-
Class 5: Conventional arms control and disarmament (October 1st)
Oliver (U47)

Questions:
- What is the role of trust in arms control?
- When is arms control effective?
- Do we need new arms control agreements in Europe?

Mandatory reading:

Skin the section “Conventional Weapons” (pp 167-205) to get an overview of the existing arms control agreements.


Movies, novels, series...
Ian M. Banks, Consider Phlebas, 1986.

Class 6: Nuclear proliferation and WMDs (October 8th)
Amelie (U82)

Questions:
- Why do states acquire nuclear weapons?
- Is nuclear disarmament possible?
- Why banning certain categories of weapons but not others?

Mandatory reading:


*Movies, novels, series…*

**Class 7: International Terrorism (October 29th)**
Amelie (U47)

*Questions:*
- What is the strategic objective of terrorism?
- What differentiates terrorism from other forms of asymmetric warfare?

*Mandatory reading:*


*Movies, novels, series…*
Class 8: Humanitarian Interventions and Peace Building (November 5th)  
Amelie (U47)

Questions:
- What are the different forms of peacebuilding?
- When should humanitarian interventions be conducted?

Mandatory reading:


John Karlsrud, “The UN at War: Examining the Consequences of Peace-Enforcement Mandates for the UN Peacekeeping Operations in the CAR, the DRC and Mali”, *Third World Quarterly*, 36/1, 2015, pp. 40-54.

*Movies, novels, series...*  

Class 9: Soft power, Disinformation and Propaganda (November 12th)  
Olivier (U82)

Questions:
- How can we measure foreign influence?
- What is the role of the media ecology in the spread of disinformation?
- What is soft power? How is it related (or not) to propaganda?

Mandatory reading:


*Movies, novels, series…*


**Class 10: New technologies and the future of war (November 19th)**

**Amelie/Olivier (U47)**

**Questions:**
- What are the key technologies shaping the future of warfare?
- What are the consequences for the likelihood of conflict?

**Mandatory reading:**


Movies, novels, series...