Introduction to International Security 2020

Instructors

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Objective

This course will provide students with the foundational concepts to understand and analyze the contemporary security environment. While news cycle are replete with information on the North Korean nuclear programme, the potential Russian challenge to European security or the development of new military technologies, there is a need to better understand the dynamics underpinning those issues.

The class is divided into three parts. The first part discusses the key dynamics of international systems, and their impact on the likelihood of war and peace. The second part addresses major concepts that help make sense of the international security environment. The third part deals in more details with selected contemporary security issues.

Course structure

Because of the COVID-19 crisis, the university cannot host all students on campus while maintaining safety and distancing measures. We will therefore adopt a “flipped classroom” approach to teaching.

Each week, you will be required to watch a few pre-recorded videos (available on blackboard), and read key texts related to the week’s topic. The videos are designed to be introductory and provide you with the foundational knowledge necessary to better understand the readings, so watch the videos before reading the mandatory texts. Unless indicated otherwise, the texts are all available through the SDU library.

We will meet once a week for one-hour seminars in which we will discuss the texts and major issues related to the topic of the week. It is critical that you have watched the videos and read the mandatory texts before attending these seminars: there will be no lecturing and the instructors will assume that you have acquired the background knowledge provided by the videos and the texts.

The seminars will also provide training for the final exam (more on this below).

The class will combine online and presental teaching. You will be divided into four groups, which will alternate between presental teaching with Vicky in Odense (room 70) and online teaching with Olivier. A detailed schedule for each group will be posted on Blackboard.

The seminars will take place on Wednesdays between 11am and 14pm. Each week, Vicky and Olivier will send an announcement regarding the starting time of the seminar the week after.

You are also welcomed to contact us and make an appointment for any question you may have.

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.

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:
- **War on the Rocks**, on security and strategic issues
- **Lawfare**, on the legal aspects of both US politics and international security
- **The Monkey Cage**, US political scientists showing how political science explains US and international politics
- **Political Violence at a Glance**, dedicated to conflict analysis

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), ‘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. Finally, we have signalled the articles authored by your professors with an asterisk (*) in the syllabus.

**Assessment**
A 72-hours take-home exam in January, in which you will be asked to answer two questions out of a list of six. The length of the exam is 16 pages (in total, each page with 2,400 strokes. Spacing, appendix and notes included, but table of content and bibliography excluded.). *Assignments failing to report the numbers of strokes and assignments exceeding the maximum number of strokes will be dismissed.*

All aides are allowed but writing 16 pages in 72 hours is no easy task: you will simply not have the time to go back to the videos or discover the mandatory readings and write the exam in that timespan. In other words, **you need to be already familiar with the readings and the content of each class**, and simply refresh your memory if needed. Therefore, you must do all the necessary readings and watch the videos during the semester, and not wait for the last minute, or you will in all likelihood fail the exam. **The seminars will have an important role in preparing you for the final exam**, since the questions we will be discussing will be similar to the ones you will have to answer during the exam.

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.
**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
- 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.

**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.
Part 1. The dynamics of international systems

Class 1: International system and international order (78 pages)

Mandatory readings:


Recommended readings:


Class 2: Power in International relations (83 pages)

Mandatory readings:


Recommended readings:


**Class 3: International Institutions, cooperation and diplomacy (78 pages)**

**Mandatory readings:**


**Recommended readings:**


**Class 4: International Norms (89 pages)**

**Mandatory readings:**


**Recommended reading:**

**Class 5: Causes of War, Conditions for Peace (84 pages)**

**Mandatory readings:**


**Recommended readings:**


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**Class 6: What is Security? (82 pages)**

**Mandatory readings:**
*Also*, Avant, D. Chapter 28: Private Security. (39 pages in total)


**Recommended Readings**
Class 7: The security dilemma (94 pages)

**Mandatory readings:**


**Recommended readings:**


Class 8: Coercion, deterrence, covert action (96 pages)

**Mandatory readings:**


**Recommended readings:**


Class 9: Alliances and security cooperation (87 pages)

Mandatory readings:


Recommended readings:


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Class 10: The rise of China in the international system (89 pages)

Mandatory readings:


Recommended readings:

Class 11: Russia and European Security (88 pages)

**Mandatory readings:**


**Recommended readings:**


Class 12: International Terrorism (72 pages)

**Mandatory readings:**


**Recommended readings:**
Class 13: Environmental Security (81 pages)

**Mandatory readings:**


Class 14: Soft Power & Propaganda (79 pages)

**Mandatory readings:**

*Schmitt, O. (2018). When are strategic narratives effective? The shaping of political discourse through the interaction between political myths and strategic narratives. *Contemporary Security Policy, 39,* 4, 487-511. (24 pages)


**Recommended reading:**
Class 15: Nuclear security, WMDs, and proliferation (92 pages)

**Mandatory readings:**


