



INSTEP-WFU London
THE NEW SECURITY AGENDA

Introduction

This course is an introduction to Security Studies, a branch of the discipline of International Relations. It aims to familiarise students with the key concepts and debates of Security Studies for a better understanding of the contemporary security environment.

After an introduction to the key concepts of Security and War, the course runs chronologically from the advent of Security Studies at the beginning of the Cold War until the current day with the Ukraine War. The course traces how the study of security issues has evolved and expanded, including the transition from state-centric analysis in the Cold War to a much broader security agenda that includes counter-terrorism, humanitarian interventions, and actions pertaining to health security. As such, the course exposes students to a variety of different topics that reflects the complexity of security issues in contemporary international politics.

Topics

Week 1

1. Understanding Security
2. War and Society
3. The Cold War
4. Conflict in the Post-Cold War Era
5. Humanitarian Intervention and the Responsibility to Protect
6. Terrorism and the “War on Terror”
7. The “Unpeace” Era
8. Health Security
9. The Return of Interstate War?
10. Climate Change and Security

Assessment

The grade for the course will be based on class participation (20%) in seminars and a policy brief due at the end of the course (80%).

A policy paper is a clear, concise and structured note providing analysis and recommendations on a particular problem to a specific recipient (in this case, a decisionmaker for a state or international organisation). Policy papers are meant to inform decision-makers in order to assist them in taking a stance or making a choice on a specific question. Policy memos should consist of four distinct sections:

- a) a very short summary clarifying the main issue tackled in the memo and its main recommendation;
- b) concise and factual background information on the issue, including the interests for the recipient;

- c) an assessment of the positives and negatives of three/four different policy options according to established criteria;
- d) conclusion presenting the main recommendation, including why it has been chosen and concrete steps on how to implement said policy.