



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 largely 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 reflect the complexity of security issues in contemporary international politics.

Topics

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

Assessment

The grade for the course will be based on two essays. The first essay concerns the foundational concepts in Security Studies of security and war. The second essay explores contemporary developments in the study of security.