

Module code	INR519	Level	5
Module title	Security in an Uncertain World	Credit value	20
Core	Core	ECTS Credits	10
		Notional learning hours	200
Courses on which the module is taught	BA (Hons) International Relations	Teaching Period	Spring

1. Module description

In a contemporary context where uncertainty has become a normal aspect of everyday life, security seems to be everywhere, including international and national security, economic security, information security, environmental security, food security and gender-based security.

This module will interrogate perceived contemporary security issues, asking critical questions about how security is understood, deployed, and studied: what makes us feel 'secure'? Who are the actors and institutions of security and insecurity? How do these shape us as citizens and human beings? How does security play out in Europe – for example, in war-torn Ukraine? Finally, what happens when we see security beyond state-centric international relations?

This module will explore a selection of frameworks in which securitisation is made theoretically and intellectually intelligible. Through a range of research methods and analytical tools we will enhance our understanding of policy responses developing critical perspectives that go beyond the standard explanations of political practice.

2. Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this module you will be able to:

Decision-making (MLO 04)

analyse and reflect on different ideas in security and international relations, including your own, to inform decision making and exercise judgements

Communication (MLO 05)

communicate effectively both orally and in writing in multicultural and/or international settings within unfamiliar and well-defined international relations contexts.

Interdisciplinary Perspectives (MLO 09)

investigate and apply perspectives from different disciplines in multifaceted security scenarios in international relations.

Human & Environmental Impact (MLO 10)

analyse the impact of security issues on people and on the environment.

3. Learning and teaching methods

In this module you will learn to analyse security challenges in a global landscape. Through mini lectures, seminars, class discussions and other learning activities you will use case

studies to gain insights into security issues in various international relations contexts. You will learn and apply qualitative research approaches and methods to investigate real-world scenarios.

Learning hours	
Directed learning	48 hours
Workshops/classes	48
Guided/Self-guided learning	152 hours
Total	200

4. Assessment, formative feedback and relative weightings

Assessment 1: Presentation

Weight (%): 50

Word Count or Equivalent: 10 mins

You will research and present a briefing on a contemporary security issue, drawing on different perspectives to assess its impact. This assessment will include a written summary.

Assessment 2: Research Plan

Weight (%): 50

Word Count or Equivalent: 2000

You will develop your own research plan aimed at investigating a topic within security studies. You will develop a qualitative research methodology making decisions about and justifying appropriate research methods.

Each summative assessment will be preceded by an opportunity for formative assessment accompanied by formative feedback.

Mapping of assessment tasks for the module

Assessment tasks	LO4	LO5	LO9	LO10
Presentation		x	x	x
Research Plan	x		x	x

5. Indicative resources

Allan Collins (2022) Contemporary Security Studies (Oxford University Press)
 Alan Bryman (2021) Social Research Methods (Oxford University Press)
 Columba Peoples and Nick Vaughan-Williams (2021). Critical Security Studies (Routledge)
 Laura Sjoberg (2014), Gender, War and Conflict (Polity)
 Laura Sjoberg (2017), Gender and Crisis in Global Politics (Routledge)
 Paul D. Williams (2018, 3rd ed.), Security Studies: An Introduction (Routledge)