

Module Details	
Module Title	Contemporary Security Challenges
Module Code	PES7037-B
Academic Year	2020/1
Credits	20
School	School of Social Sciences
Subject Area	Peace Studies
FHEQ Level	FHEQ Level 7
Pre-requisites	N/A
Co-requisites	N/A

Availability	
Occurrence	Location / Period
BDA	University of Bradford / Semester 1

Module Aims
To develop a good grounding and advanced appreciation of key concepts, theories, perspectives and analytical frameworks of security studies, particularly as these relate to understanding transnational and international security agendas and processes. To develop a good appreciation of the range of contemporary security challenges and processes, particularly as they relate to transnational and international security problems; and understanding and skills on how these concepts and analytical frameworks can be used to advance knowledge and understanding of such security challenges. To develop detailed and advanced understanding of selected major contemporary security challenges in which major shifts in relative power, interstate tensions, and risks of inter-state war are a major factor. These include risks of violent conflict and military confrontations involving major or emerging global and regional powers, including selected case studies in Asia, Europe, Middle East and North Africa. These further include major challenges to global and regional security governance and conflict prevention mechanisms in the contexts of the relative rise of China, India, Russia, and other major developing powers and global security governance; challenges to post-Cold War regional security and conflict prevention orders (for example in Europe and East Asia); the relevance and effectiveness of the UN and other multilateral security institutions; and nuclear arms proliferation and holdings. To develop knowledge and understanding sufficient to engage at an advanced level with contemporary policy debates concerning key international security issues. To develop skills and familiarity with methods for analysing factors contributing to risks and processes of violent conflict, and for assessing inter-relationships between risks of civil war or transnational conflicts and risks and dynamics of interstate conflicts.

Outline Syllabus

Grounding in key concepts, perspectives and analytical frameworks of security studies, particularly as these relate to transnational and international security agendas and processes; including concepts, theoretical frameworks, conditions of (in-)security and conflict prevention and security governance. Review of types of contemporary security challenges and of application of security studies concepts and perspectives to understand and analyse these. Detailed examination of selected major contemporary security challenges in which major shifts in relative power, interstate tensions, and risks of inter-state war are a major factor. These include risks of violent conflict and military confrontations involving major or emerging global and regional powers. Selected case studies will be examined in detail; for example in Asia (e.g. the Korean Peninsula, East Asia, South Asia, South West Asia); Europe (e.g. Ukraine, the Baltic region; South East Europe); and Middle East and North Africa (e.g. Iran-Saudi Arabia; Yemen and Arab-Israeli conflicts). Introduction to methodological frameworks and their use for analysing risks and processes of violent conflict, and for assessing inter-relationships between risks of civil war or transnational conflicts and risks and dynamics of interstate conflicts.

Learning Outcomes

Outcome Number	Description
01	Explain and assess the uses of key concepts, theories and perspectives in security studies and apply them in a sophisticated way to interpreting different types of contemporary security challenges.
02	Examine and evaluate at an advanced level selected major challenges to global and regional security governance and conflict prevention mechanisms in the contexts of the relative rise of China, India, Russia, and other major developing powers and global security governance; for example recent challenges to post-Cold War regional security and conflict prevention orders, in Europe, Asia or other regions; and recent security challenges and responses concerning nuclear arms proliferation and holdings.
03	Use and assess methodological frameworks for analysing risks and processes of violent conflict, and their relevance and contributions to assessing risks and dynamics of interstate conflicts.
04	Generate clear, concise and coherent advanced analysis and communication tailored to the appropriate audience
05	Gather and analyse information about the factors contributing to selected international conflict and security challenges, and to the significance and relevance of international responses to such challenges; and conduct advanced library research and work independently using advanced academic analysis skills.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy

In accordance with the University's Blended Learning Strategy, teaching and learning on this Module consist of a combination of online and face-to-face lectures, seminars, class simulations and class exercises, coursework and class discussions. There will also be a conflict analysis and assessment workshop, in the form of a thematic laboratory day, enabling students to develop their skills for applying widely used conflict analysis and assessment methods, and examining inter-linkages between conflict risks within states and inter-state conflict.

Learning will develop through participation in online and face-to-face lectures, seminars, class discussions, simulations and exercises coursework, directed study, and tutor support; and also through a thematic laboratory workshop on applying conflict analysis frameworks and methods.

Formative assessment will be undertaken through feedback from: online and face-to-face discussions, exercises and simulations; work during laboratory workshop; class and individual tutor feedback on planned written work.

Summative assessment will mainly be through an essay, presenting desk research and analysis of a question set by the module tutors.

Mode of Assessment

Type	Method	Description	Length	Weighting
Summative	Coursework	essay based on desk research and analysis addressing a question from a list set by the module tutors. (3600-4000 words)	N/A	100%
Formative	Coursework	Feedback for class exercises, simulations and lab workshop exercises (and planned outline for essay)	Feedback for class exercises, simulations and lab workshop exercises (and planned outline for essay)	N/A
Formative	Coursework	small group/seminar discussions (supervised by the module tutor); plus tutor individual feedback on planned essay outlines	N/A	N/A

Reading List

To access the reading list for this module, please visit <https://bradford.rl.talis.com/index.html>

Please note:

This module descriptor has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but minor changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Upon commencement of the module, students will receive a handbook with further detail about the module and any changes will be discussed and/or communicated at this point.

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