

Module Details	
Module Title	Security Issues: Contemporary Challenges, Risks And Responses
Module Code	PES7061-B
Academic Year	2021/2
Credits	20
School	School of Social Sciences
FHEQ Level	FHEQ Level 7

Contact Hours	
Type	Hours
Lectures	28
Seminars	3
Tutorials	4
Directed Study	165

Availability	
Occurrence	Location / Period
BDA	University of Bradford / Non-Standard Academic Year

Module Aims
(a) Develop an advanced, critical, understanding of causes, trends, and responses to major emerging and contemporary international security challenges, in the context of underlying global drives of change, technology developments and spread, and global and regional power shifts, particularly in at least three of the following areas: information, cyber, and 'hybrid' warfare; security, migration and demography in regions under stress; security challenges associated with Russia, Iran and others in the context of regional and global power shifts; current risks posed by weapons of mass destruction - technology spread, proliferation and hot spots; natural resource competition, environmental degradation and insecurity. (b) Develop a critical awareness of key concepts and approaches that are used to frame academic, policy and practitioner debates and to analyse emerging security challenges associated with technology developments, power shifts, and underlying global drivers of change. (c) Enable you to apply this advanced understanding and critical awareness to the analysis and assessment of specific contemporary security challenges, and of international and UK responses to such challenges.

Outline Syllabus

The module starts with an introduction to core concepts and debates in the fields of strategic and security studies; relevant data and debates on trends in peace and conflict; and to a range of major governmental assessments by the UK, USA, EU, NATO and others of key current and emerging security risks and trends.

In this context, the range of these key security risks and challenges are initially examined, and analysed in the context of key underlying global drivers of change; technology development and spread, and international power shifts. The module then then focuses on a detailed critical analysis of selected key security challenges: their causes, trends, impacts and policy responses to them.

Learning Outcomes

Outcome Number	Description
01	Explain and assess the uses of key concepts, theories and perspectives in the understanding of current and emerging international security challenges, and the underlying causes and drivers associated with them and the risks they present.
02	Drawing on recent experiences and selected case studies, analyse and assess specific current or emerging security trends and challenges, and responses to them.
03	Critically examine the development, implementation and effectiveness of policies and programmes that have been considered or adopted by international or regional organisations and the UK and its partners and allies to address specific current or emerging security challenges; in the context of technology developments, underlying global drivers of change and international power shifts.
04	Conduct a policy analysis, and evaluate policy options, of a specific current or emerging international security challenge and responses to it demonstrating capacity and skills to engage with contemporary policy debates in a sophisticated way.
05	Conduct advanced analysis and communicate this in a clear, concise and coherent manner, tailored to the appropriate audience.
06	Work independently and demonstrate advanced library research academic analysis skills.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy

Teaching will be through a combination of lectures, seminars, class exercises and discussions, and short syndicate projects. Learning will develop through preparatory reading, participation in lectures, seminars, class discussions, guided study, coursework, and tutor support.

Students will receive relevant digitised pre-course readings, customised for the course. During the direct course itself, teaching and learning will be through a combination of lectures, discussions, group work and short syndicate projects, in an intensive four day period of teaching and learning at appropriate University of Bradford facilities. Subsequently, students studying for this module will be allocated a personal tutor, who will guide and support their study and preparation of coursework for the remainder of this module.

All sessions will be presented by internationally recognised experts in the relevant field, including experienced and specialist academics at the University of Bradford and other UK Universities, but also prominent experts from the UK and international policy and practitioner communities. All participants are provided with teaching materials (including copies or presentations) during the course, and at the end of the class teaching in the module they receive a copy of all course materials (as well as a certificate of participation).

Formative assessment will be undertaken through feedback from class discussions, exercises and group work during the intensive course on campus. It will then be undertaken by individual academic tutor feedback on directed study and on planning and development of written work. Summative assessment will be through a combination of a written presentation of the findings of a policy research project and of an academic essay.

The written presentation of the analysis and conclusions of a short individual project will be on a policy-relevant question (authorised by the module co-ordinator), presented in a format appropriate for use in a presentation of up to 25 minutes to an expert practitioner audience (for example, in the form of a Powerpoint presentation of no more than 30 slides, plus speakers notes and bibliography).

The essay will be 3,300-3,500 words in length addressing a question (selected from a list authorised by the module co-ordinator) relating to current and emerging international security challenges, and responses to them.

Mode of Assessment

Type	Method	Description	Weighting
Summative	Coursework	2. Preparation and written presentation of essay, answering set Q, based on desk research and analysis (3300-3500 words)	85%
Summative	Coursework	1. Policy analysis project as a 15-30 slide presentation (25 Mins)	15%
Formative	Coursework	Class discussions and short group exercises; Review of directed study and review of final essay outline.	N/A
Formative	Coursework	Brief plan for short policy research project and outline for written presentation on findings	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.

