Syllabus

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY: THEORY & REALITY - 58306

Last update 07-04-2015

HU Credits: 4

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: International Relations

Academic year: 2

Semester: Yearly

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Korina Kagan

Coordinator Email: korina.kagan@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Mondays 17:00-18:00

Teaching Staff:
Dr. Korina Kagan
Course/Module description:
The first part of the course discusses the major approaches and theories in the field of security studies. In the second part we shall apply these theories to a range of practical security issues in the current international system.

Course/Module aims:
The course aims to develop a deep and critical understanding of the major competing approaches and theories to international security issues, as well as the ability to apply them to analyzing current processes and events in the international system.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
To examine the major approaches and theories to the study of war and peace
To compare and contrast the competing approaches and theories of war and peace
To analyze and criticize the approaches and theories in light of competing approaches
To apply the various approaches and theories to a range of practical security issues in the international system
To evaluate the relative success of the competing approaches and theories in explaining issues of war and peace in the current international system.

Attendance requirements(%):
80% of the classes

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction:
Lecture

Course/Module Content:

Part 1: Theoretical Approaches to International Security

1. Introduction: competing theoretical approaches to war and peace

2. The debate over the concept of security: should it be broadened?

3. The realist perspective in the last 25 years: offensive, defensive and neo-classical realism
4. The liberal perspective 1: democratic peace theory

5. The liberal perspective 2: the role of trade and interdependence in war and peace

6. The constructivist perspective: the role of norms and culture in war and peace

7. The role of international institutions: liberal and constructivist approaches

Part 2: Practical Issues of International Security in the Post-Cold War Era

8. The Long Peace of the Cold War: why has there been no World War 3?

9. The surprisingly peaceful end of the Cold War: the Gorbachev enigma

10. The US hegemony and its future: Is the US declining?

11. The warm peace of Western Europe: how can we explain it?

12. The endurance and enlargement of NATO: why is NATO still around?

13. Security in East Asia: is the region evolving toward greater peace or rising conflict?

14. The rise of China: does it portend future conflict?

15. Nuclear proliferation: danger or promise?

16. Conclusion: to what extent do our theoretical approaches help us understand war and peace in the current era?

Required Reading:

The Required Readings

חלק א': גישות תיאורטיות לביטחון בינלאומי

1. מבוא: גישות תיאורטיות מתחרות לשלום ושלום


The concepts of security: Should they be redefined and expanded?

The development of realist thinking in international studies.

The years: Offensive realism, defensive realism and neo-classicism.

The liberal view (1): Theory of liberal democracy.

The liberal view (2): Theory of liberal nationalism.

The concept of security: Frameworks for development and norms of international security.


Josef Joffe, “The Default Power: The False Prophecy of America’s Decline”, Foreign


Additional Reading Material:

Additional Readings:


John Mueller, Retreat from Doomsday: The Obsolescence of Major War (New York:


Robert English, “Power, Ideas, and New Evidence on the Cold War’s End: A Reply to


John Ikenberry and Michael Mastanduno, "Conclusion: The United States and Stability in East Asia", in International Relations Theory and the Asia-Pacific, pp. 421-440.


16. סכסוכים אתניים: גורמים ופתרונות מתחרים


**Course/Module evaluation:**

End of year written/oral examination 75 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 0 %
Project work 25 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information: