



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Disrupting Security: The Discourse and Practice of (in)Security - 58726

Last update 02-09-2021

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: International Relations

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: English

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Yehonatan Abramson

Coordinator Email: yehonatan.abramson@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Mondays, 2-3 PM

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Yehonatan Abramson

Course/Module description:

To be critical means, first and foremost, to disrupt and challenge what is hegemonic and taken-for-granted. The course offers a critical examination of the concept of security. In addition to asking "what is security," we will ask who gets to define security and whether the discourse and practice of security actually makes us more secure. We will read constructivist, poststructuralist, post-colonial, and feminist works, and will include non-traditional issues, such as health, environment, migration, and artificial intelligence.

Course/Module aims:

The goal of this course is to think critically about security as a concept and an object of analysis. Specifically, the course seeks to develop a reflexive attitude toward one's understanding and praxis of security.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

1. To identify explicit and implicit assumptions common in the "conventional" or "traditional" study of security
2. To question different political uses of the term "security"
3. To distinguish different "critical" approaches to the study of security
4. To evaluate some of the strengths and weaknesses of critical approaches to security.

Attendance requirements(%):

Up to two unjustified absences are allowed.

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: In-class lectures and discussions

Course/Module Content:

1. Disciplining Security Studies
2. What is "Critical" (or "critical")?
3. Securitization Theory

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4. *Ontological Security*
 5. *Post-structuralism*
 6. *Preparations for Final Assignment*
 7. *Post-colonialism*
 8. *Practice-based Approaches*
 9. *Biopower and bare life – Foucault and Agamben*
 10. *Global Catastrophic Risks*
 - (*Last day of class for international students)
 - 11-14. *Students' Presentations*

Required Reading:

1. 11 October – *Disciplining Security Studies*

* Herington, Jonathan. "The Concept of Security," in Michael J. Selgelid and Christian Enemark (eds.), *Ethics and Security Aspects of Infectious Disease Control: Interdisciplinary Perspectives* (London: Routledge, 2012): 7-25.

Recommended:

Buzan, Barry and Lene Hansen. *The Evolution of International Security Studies*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2009, Chapter 1.

Walt, Stephen M. "The Renaissance of Security Studies," *International Studies Quarterly* 35:2 (June 1991): 211-239.

Herington, Jonathan. "Philosophy: The Concepts of Security, Fear, Liberty, and the State," in Philippe Bourbeau (ed.), *Security: Dialogue Across Disciplines* Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press: 22-44.

Krause, Keith and Michael C. Williams. "Broadening the Agenda of Security Studies: Politics and Methods," *Mershon International Studies Review* 40:2 (October 1996): 229-254

Smith, Steve. "The Contested Concept of Security," in Ken Booth (ed.), *Critical Security Studies and World Politics*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner, 2005: 27-62.

Wolfers, Arnold. "'National Security' as an Ambiguous Symbol," *Political Science*

Quarterly 67:4 (December 1952): 481-502.

Rothschild, Emma. "What is Security?" *Daedalus* 124:3 (Summer 1995): 53-98.

Baldwin, David A. "The Concept of Security," *Review of International Studies* 23:1 (January 1997): 5-26.

Huysmans, Jef. "Security! What Do You Mean? From Concept to Thick Signifier," *European Journal of International Relations* 4:2 (June 1998): 226-255.

2. 18 October – What is "Critical" (or "critical")?

What is the difference between problem-solving theories and critical theories? What does this difference mean for how we produce knowledge about the world?

or

What is the relationship between theoretical knowledge and security praxis? What is the role of critical security theorizing?

* Cox, Robert W. "Social Forces, States and World Orders: Beyond International Relations Theory," *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* 10:2 (June 1981): 126-155.

Recommended:

Biersteker, Thomas J. "Critical Reflections on Post-Positivism in International Relations," *International Studies Quarterly* 33:3 (September 1989): 263-267.

Browning, Christopher S. and Matt McDonald. "The Future of Critical Security Studies: Ethics and the Politics of Security," 19:2 (2011): 235-255.

Booth, Ken. "Security and Self: Reflections of a Fallen Realist," in Keith Krause and Michael C. Williams (eds.), *Critical Security Studies: Concepts and Cases*. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 1997: 83-119.

Krause, Keith. "Critical Theory and Security Studies: The Research Programme of 'Critical Security Studies,'" *Cooperation and Conflict* 33:3 (September 1998): 298-333.

C.A.S.E. Collective. "Critical Approaches to Security in Europe: A Networked Manifesto," *Security Dialogue* 37:4 (December 2006): 443-487.

3. 25 October – Securitization Theory

What is "securitization"? What are the consequences of securitizing something?

or

If we want to study securitization, how could we identify it? Who is involved in securitization processes? How can we differentiate between securitization and politicization?

* Wæver, Ole. "Securitization and Desecuritization," in Ronnie D. Lipschutz (ed.), *On Security*, New York, NY: Columbia University Press, 1995: 46-87.

* Hansen, Lene. "The Little Mermaid's Silent Security Dilemma and the Absence of Gender in the Copenhagen School," *Millenium: Journal of International Studies*. 29 (1998): 285-306.

Recommended:

McDonald, Matt. "Securitization and the Construction of Security," *European Journal of International Relations* 14:4 (December 2008), 563-587.

Wæver, Ole. "Security, Insecurity and Asecurity in the West-European Non-war Community," in Emmanuel Adler and Michael Barnett (eds.), *Security Communities*, Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1998: 69-118.

Buzan, Barry, Ole Wæver, and Jaap de Wilde. *Security: A New Framework for Analysis*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner, 1998: Chapters 1-2.

Davies, Sara E. "Securitizing Infectious Disease," *International Affairs* 84:2 (March 2008), 295-313.

Van Rythoven, Eric. "Learning to Feel, Learning to Fear? Emotions, Imaginaries, and Limits in the Politics of Securitization," *Security Dialogue* 46:5 (October 2015): 458-475.

Wilkinson, Claire. "The Copenhagen School on Tour in Kyrgyzstan: Is Securitization Theory Useable Outside Europe?" *Security Dialogue* 38:1 (March 2007): 5-25.

Lupovici, Amir. "The Limits of Securitization Theory: Observational Criticism and the Curious Absence of Israel," *International Studies Review* 16:3 (September 2014): 390-410.

4. 1 November – Ontological Security

What are the similarities and differences between neo-realist theory and the concept of "ontological security"?

* Steele, Brent. "'Death before Dishonor': Belgian Self-identity, Honor, and World

War I," *Ontological Security in International Relations* (London: Routledge, 2008): 95-113.

Recommended:

Mitzen, Jennifer. "Ontological Security in World Politics: State Identity and the Security Dilemma," *European Journal of International Relations* 12 (2006): 341-70.

Browning, Christopher S. and Pertti Joenniemi. "Ontological Security, Self-articulation and the Securitization of Identity," *Cooperation and Conflict* 52:1 (March 2017): 31-47.

Zarakol, Ayşe. "Ontological (In)security and State Denial of Historical Crimes: Turkey and Japan," *International Relations* 24:1 (March 2010): 3-23.

Lupovici, Amir. "Ontological Dissonance, Clashing Identities, and Israel's Unilateral Steps towards the Palestinians," *Review of International Studies* 38:4 (October 2012): 809-833.

5. 8 November – Post-structuralism

In your reading, what is the connection between identity and security? How does post-structuralist approaches broaden securitization theory (as we studied it)?

* Hansen, Lene. *Security as Practice: Discourse Analysis and the Bosnian War*. London: Routledge, 2006: Chapters 1-2.

Recommended:

Campbell, David. *Writing Security: United States Foreign Policy and the Politics of Identity*. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 1992: Introduction.

Weldes, Jutta. "The Cultural Production of Crises: U.S. Identity and Missiles in Cuba," in Jutta Weldes et al. (eds.), *Cultures of Insecurity: States, Communities, and the Production of Danger*. Minneapolis, MN: University of Minnesota Press, 1999: 35-62.

Laffey, Mark. "Locating Identity: Performativity, Foreign Policy and State Action," *Review of International Studies* 26:3 (July 2000): 429-444.

6. 15 November – Preparations for Final Assignment No readings :)

7. 22 November – Post-colonialism

How does post-colonial approaches advance our understanding of security relations? How does the representation of "security" problems in the Global South

actually exacerbate them?

* Barkawi, Tarak and Mark Laffey. "The Postcolonial Moment in Security Studies," *Review of International Studies* 32:2 (April 2006): 329-352.

Recommended:

Tickner, Arlene B. "War and Conflict," in Arlene B. Tickner and Karen Smith (eds.), *International Relations from the Global South: Worlds of Difference* (London: Routledge, 2020): Chapter 7.

Baaz, Maria Eriksson. "Confronting the Colonial: The (re)production of 'African' Exceptionalism in Critical Security and Military Studies," *Security Dialogue* 49:1-2 (2018): 57-59.

Biswas, Shampa. "'Nuclear Apartheid' as Political Position: Race as a Postcolonial Resource," *Alternatives* 26 (2001): 485-522.

Ayoob, Mohammed. *The Third World Security Predicament: State Making, Regional Conflict, and the International System*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner 1995.

Catarina Kinnvall. "The Postcolonial has moved into Europe: Bordering, Security, and Ethno-Cultural Belonging," *Journal of Common Market Studies* 54:1 (2016): 152-168.

8. 29 November – Practice-based Approaches

What is the role of experts, professionals, and practitioners in defining and implementing "security"?

* Leander, Anna. "The Power to Construct International Security: On the Significance of Private Military Companies," *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* 33:3 (2005): 803-826.

Recommended:

Senn, Martin and Christopher Elhardt. "Bourdieu and the Bomb: Power, Language and the Doxic Battle over the Value of Nuclear Weapons," *European Journal of International Relations* 20:2 (2004): 316-340.

Avant, Deborah D. "Pragmatic Networks and Transnational Governance of Private Military and Security Services," *International Studies Quarterly* 60 (2016): 330-342.

Berling, Trine Villumsen. "Science and Securitization: Objectivation, the Authority of the Speaker and Mobilization of Scientific facts," *Security Dialogue* 42:4-5 (August 2011): 385-397

Abraham, Kavi Joseph and Yehonatan Abramson. "A Pragmatist Vocation for International Relations: The (Global) Public and its Problems," *European Journal of International Relations* 23:1 (2016): 26-48.

9. 6 December – Biopower and bare life – Foucault and Agamben

How are the concept of biopower, biopolitics or "bare life" help us understand security practices and insecurity lived experiences?

* Grove, Kevin J., "Insuring "Our Common Future?" Dangerous Climate Change and the Biopolitics of Environmental Security," *Geopolitics* 15:3 (2010): 536-563.

* Woroniecka-Krzyzanowska. "The Right to the Camp: Spatial Politics of Protracted Encampment in the West Bank," *Political Geography* 61 (November 2017): 160-169.

Recommended:

Foucault, Michel. "Right of Death and Power over Life," *History of Sexuality* Vol. 1, p.135-169

Squire, Vicky. "Governing Migration through Death in Europe and the US: Identification, Burial and the Crisis of Modern Humanism," *European Journal of International Relations* 23:3 (2017): 513-532.

Agamben, Giorgio. "The Camp as the 'Nomos' of the Modern," in *Homo Sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life* (Redwood City: Stanford University Press, 1998): 166-180 (Chapter 7).

10. 13 December – Global Catastrophic Risks

The global spaces of security are changing: climate change and pandemics are some examples of discussed "threats" to human life. Do you think our existing tools in International Relations fit to address these challenges? How should our thinking change in response to these concerns?

* Sears, Nathan Alexander. "International Politics in the Age of Existential Threats," *Journal of Global Security Studies* 6:3 (2021): 1-23

Recommended:

Petersen, Karen Lund. "Risk Analysis – A Field within Security Studies?" *European Journal of International Relations* 18:4 (December 2012): 693-717.

Bostrom, Nick and Milan M. Ćirković. *Global Catastrophic Risks*. Oxford: Oxford

University Press, 2008.

Deudney, Daniel. "Turbo Change: Accelerating Technological Disruption, Planetary Geopolitics, and Architectonic Metaphors," *International Studies Review* 20:2-1 (June 2018): 223-231.

11. 20 December – Student Presentations

12. 27 December – Student Presentations

13. 3 January – Student Presentations

14. 10 January – Student Presentations

Additional Reading Material:

Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %

Presentation 0 %

Participation in Tutorials 10 %

Project work 90 %

Assignments 0 %

Reports 0 %

Research project 0 %

Quizzes 0 %

Other 0 %

Additional information:

Last class for international students is December 13. The rest of the class will continue to meet in a conference format to present their final assignments.