International Security and Conflict

Degree: Grau en Dret (Law Degree)
Year: 3rd/4th
Term: September
Number of ECTS credits: 4
Total study hours: 100 hours
Language: English
Lecturers: Dr. Pablo Pareja Alcaraz (40.1E06) / Jordi Quero Arias

1. Brief description of the course

The course International Security and Conflict is an elective course within the Degree in Law that seeks three complementary goals: first, it aims at familiarizing students with the main notions and theoretical approaches to the study of contemporary security and conflict; second, it analyzes the evolution of contemporary conflict, as well as the transformation of conventional and non-conventional challenges to global security; third, it explores some conflicts and security challenges particularly relevant for the understanding of contemporary security and, more broadly, international relations.

Students enrolling in this course are not required to have previous studies in International Relations. In addressing each of the units, the course will also reflect on the importance of Public international Law paying special attention to both its potentialities and limits to avoid contemporary sources of conflict and insecurity.

2. Syllabus

PART I. CONTEMPORARY TRANSFORMATIONS OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AND CONFLICT

Unit 1: Theoretical approaches to security: pessimistic, optimistic and alternative visions.

Unit 2: Armed conflict: evolution, transformation and main features of contemporary armed conflict.

Unit 3: The global private security market: evolution, features and main implications of the privatization of security.

Unit 4: The main dimensions of contemporary security.

PART II. THE MAP OF CONTEMPORARY (IN)SECURITY AND ARMED CONFLICT

Unit 5: Conflict, sovereignty and geopolitics: the Arab-Israeli conflict and the dispute over Taiwan.

Unit 6: Conflict and nuclearization: the North Korean challenge.

Unit 7: Conflict and natural resources: the Arctic dispute and the conflicts around the East and South China Seas.
3. Competences and skills

This course aims to develop a comprehensive set of competences and skills:

G1. Students’ capacity to critically analyze and identify the core ideas and concepts for the study of the contemporary international system.

G2. Students’ ability to organize themselves and to plan ahead.

G3. Students’ capacity to communicate their ideas.

G4. Students’ capacity to address and solve theoretical problems and challenges.

G5. Students’ motivation and capacity to engage in critical debate.

G6. Students’ ethical commitment.

G8. Students’ capacity to work in group and to adapt to changing working scenarios.

G9. Students’ ability to autonomous learning.

E6. Students’ capacity to elaborate legal and policy-oriented documents.

E8. Students’ capacity to identify the different sources of Law, the latter’s historical evolution and its current form and challenges.

4. Evaluation

The evaluation of this course comprises two different components:

a) Attendance and active participation in two seminars. This component is worth 40% of the course’s final grade.

b) A final exam based on both the content of the lectures and the list of readings available through “Aula Global”. This component is worth 60% of the course’s final grade. This exam will take place at the end of the course.

Students who fail to obtain a final grade of 5.0 or above have the right to re-take both components during the extraordinary exam period if (and only if) they meet the two following conditions: 1) having participated and submitted the activities of the two seminars; and 2) having delivered the final exam. This second exam will include two parts, each of which will be directly connected to the two components described above.

5. Calendar and activities (10-13hs.; 5-16 September)

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Study hours</th>
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<td>In-class</td>
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<td>Monday, 5 Sept.</td>
<td>Introduction to the course</td>
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<td>Unit 1</td>
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<td>Tuesday, 6 Sept.</td>
<td>Unit 2</td>
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<td>Wednesday, 7 Sept.</td>
<td>Unit 3</td>
<td>3</td>
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6. List of references

6.1. Basic, general references


6.2. Additional references


Duffield, M., Las guerras en el mundo global. La convergencia entre desarrollo y seguridad, Madrid: Los Libros de la Catarata 2004 (1ª ed. en inglés, 2001).


Hobswaw, E., Guerra y paz en el siglo XXI, Barcelona: Crítica, 2006.


Kaldor, M., Las nuevas guerras. La violencia organizada en la era global, Barcelona: Tusquets, 2001 (1ª ed. en inglés, 1999).


### 6.3. Other resources

#### 6.3.1. Internet sources

*Security and Peace Institutes and Think Tanks*

  * African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes (ACCORD) - http://www.accord.org.za/
  * Alliance for Peacebuilding - [http://www.allianceforpeacebuilding.org/](http://www.allianceforpeacebuilding.org/)
  * Beyond Intractability.org - [http://www.beyonandintractability.org/](http://www.beyonandintractability.org/)
  * British American Security Information Council (BASIC) - [http://www.basicint.org](http://www.basicint.org)
  * Canadian Peacebuilding Coordinating Committee (CPCC) - [http://www.peacebuild.ca/](http://www.peacebuild.ca/)
  * Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) - [http://www.csis.org](http://www.csis.org)
  * Centro de Educación e Investigación para la Paz (CEIPaz) - [http://www.ceipaz.org/](http://www.ceipaz.org/)
  * [Combatants for Peace - http://www.combatantsforpeace.org](http://www.combatantsforpeace.org)
  * Conflict Resolution Information Source - [http://www.crinfo.org/](http://www.crinfo.org/)
  * Escuela de Cultura de Paz - [http://www.escuelaculturadepaz.org/](http://www.escuelaculturadepaz.org/)
Genocide Watch – http://www.genocidewatch.org
Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict - http://www.gppac.net/
Heidelberger Institut für Internationale Konfliktforschung (HIIK) / Heidelberg Institute for International Conflict Research (HIIK) - http://www.hiik.de/
Human Security Centre - http://www.hsrgroup.org/
Human Security Gateway - http://www.humansecuritygateway.info/
Institute for Conflict Analysis and Resolution - http://icar.gmu.edu/
International Alert - http://www.international-alert.org/
International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect – http://responsibilitytoprotect.org
International Conflict Research (INCORE) - http://www.incore.ulst.ac.uk/
International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) - http://www.iiss.org/
International Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) - http://www.prio.no/
Peacemakers Trust - http://www.peacemakers.ca/
Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs - http://www.pugwash.org
Responsibility to Protect – Engaging Civil Society (R2PCS) - http://www.responsibilitytoprotect.org/
The Carter Center - http://www.cartercenter.org
Transcend: A Peace and Development Network - http://www.transcend.org/
States and Governments

GovSpot – http://www.govspot.com/categories/worldgovernment.htm

International organizations

Organización de las Naciones Unidas (ONU) – http://www.un.org
Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Desarrollo – http://www.undp.org/
Programa de las Naciones Unidas para el Medio Ambiente – http://www.pnuma.org/
Organismo Internacional para la Energía Atómica - http://www.iaea.org/
Organización Mundial de la Salud – http://www.who.int/
North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) - http://www.nato.int/
Organización para la Seguridad y la Cooperación en Europa – http://www.osce.org
Unión Europea (UE) – http://europa.eu
Europol – http://www.europol.net/
Interpol – http://www.interpol.int/

6.3.2. Atlas, annuaries and general works


Anuario internacional del CIP, Madrid: Centro de Investigación para la Paz.

SIPRI Yearbook, Londres: Oxford University Press.


6.3.3. Specialized journals

Estudios de Política Exterior
Foreign Affairs
International Organization
International Politics
International Security
International Studies Quarterly
International Studies Review
Journal of Conflict Resolution
Journal of International Affairs
Journal of Peace Research
Journal of Strategic Studies
Millennium: Journal of International Studies
Orbis: A Journal of World Affairs
Peace and Conflict Studies
Review of International Studies
Revista CIDOB d'Afers Internacionals
Revista Electrónica de Estudios Internacionales
Studies in Conflict and Terrorism
Survival: Global Politics and Strategy
World Politics

6.3.4. Documentaries and movies

Suggested documentaries


*Houston, We Have a Problem*, Dir: Nicole Torre, Prod: New Angle, 2009.


*An Inconvenient Truth (Una verdad incómoda)*, Dir.: Davis Guggenheim, Prod.: Lawrence Bender, Scott Z. Burns, Laurie David, 2006.

Suggested movies

Paths of Glory (Senderos de gloria), Dir.: Stanley Kubrick, Prod.: MDM, 1957.


No Man’s Land (En tierra de nadie), Dir.: Danis Tanovic, 2001.

Path to War (Camino a la guerra), Dir.: John Frankenheimer, Prod.: Guy Riedel / Barry Levinson / Cary Brokaw, 2002.


Lord of War (El señor de la guerra), Dir.: Andrew Niccol, Prod.: Nicolas Cage / Chris Roberts / Andreas Grosch, 2005.

