



SCHOOL OF GLOBAL STUDIES

IR1221 War, peace and security, 15 credits

Krig, fred och säkerhet, 15 högskolepoäng

First Cycle

Confirmation

This course syllabus was confirmed by School of Global Studies on 2021-02-02 and was last revised on 2023-11-14 to be valid from 2024-01-15, spring semester of 2024.

Field of education: Social Sciences 100%

Department: School of Global Studies

Position in the educational system

The course is given as an in-depth course at the first year level of the Bachelor's Programme in International Relations. It can also be studied as a single subject course.

The course can be part of the following programmes: 1) Bachelor's Programme in International Relations (S1INT), 2) Bachelors' programme in Global Studies (S1GLS) and 3) Program in Political Science (S1STV)

Main field of studies

International Relations

Specialization

G1F, First cycle, has less than 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements

Entry requirements

Entry to the course requires 30 credits completed core courses, of which 15 credits passed, in international relations. Alternatively, passed 45 higher education credits in the field of Political Science or Global Studies.

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of the course the student will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

- Describe changing manifestations of war, peace and security;
- Describe the historical emergence and current role of institutions and regulatory frameworks in the international system with special relevance for the study of war, peace and security;

Competence and skills

- Use relevant concepts to describe and reflect on war, peace and security;
- Assess the veracity and credibility of quantitative and qualitative sources of relevance for the analysis of war, peace and security;
- Identify and examine research problems and research questions in the study of peace, war and security;

Judgement and approach

- Evaluate and discuss strengths and weaknesses of different theories and approaches in the study of war, peace and security.

Course content

Substantial transformations have occurred in the fields of war, peace and security. Security challenges find new expressions derived, amongst others, from climate change and technological development. This course introduces historical and contemporary theoretical debates about war, peace and security and demonstrates their relevance in relation to concrete events in global politics. Issues related to war, peace and security often constitute urgent political challenges. Therefore, for anyone interested in International Relations, in-depth knowledge of the causes, processes and consequences of war as well as the possibilities and inherent problems in peace-building, is crucial. Examples of topics we discuss during this course include changing notions and expressions of war, changing mandates and practices in peacebuilding, as well as contestations about what constitutes threat, how we define security and how to end war. Different “schools” of thought in security studies are also introduced. Specific issues include, for example, different forms of state and non-state violence, technological transformations in the conduct of war and military sectors, issues related to the environment and security, as well as gender. The course will train the students in employing concepts and theories to analyze and operationalize problems and to assess and work with different types of qualitative and quantitative sources.

Form of teaching

Forms of teaching vary and include lectures, group assignments, discussions, literature seminars. Students practice employing concepts and theories to analyze and operationalize problems. Students will be trained in quantitative literacy by working with databases on war, peace and security. Furthermore, students will be trained in

using qualitative resources and source criticism throughout the course. Through a group assignment, students are also trained in cooperation and solving an assignment together. Progression in academic writing skills is ensured, through a number of different writing practices.

Language of instruction: English and Swedish

The course may be given in both English and Swedish. When given in English, students wishing to submit their assignments in Swedish may do so.

Assessment

The course is examined through one group assignment, one take-home exam in the form of short questions, active participation in seminars and one take-home exam in the form of a short essay.

The group assignment (4 ECTS) is examined through a mandatory seminar as well as a written analysis. If an individual student is absent from the seminar, an additional assignment is required.

The short questions/take home assignment (3 ECTS) addresses concepts in relation to war, peace and security and assesses the students' quantitative literacy relevant to the field.

The third assignment of the examination is formulated as a take-home exam (8 ECTS) where the students are to write a short essay that uses concepts to analyse an empirical phenomenon related to war, peace, security.

If a student who has twice received a failing grade for the same examination component wishes to change examiner ahead of the next examination session, such a request should be made to the department in writing and should be approved by the department unless there are special reasons to the contrary (Chapter 6 Section 22 of the Higher Education Ordinance).

If a student has received a recommendation from the University of Gothenburg for study support for students with disabilities, the examiner may, where it is compatible with the learning outcomes of the course and provided that no unreasonable resources are required, decide to allow the student to sit an adjusted exam or alternative form of assessment.

In the event that a course has ceased or undergone major changes, students are to be guaranteed at least three examination sessions (including the ordinary examination session) over a period of at least one year, but no more than two years after the course has ceased/been changed. The same applies to internships and professional placements (VFU), although this is restricted to just one additional examination session.

Grades

The grading scale comprises: Pass with Distinction (VG), Pass (G) and Fail (U).

- For the group assignment, a two-grade grade scale U/G is applied
- For the short-question take-home exam, a two-grade scale U/G/ is applied
- For the take home essay, a three-grade scale U/G/VG is applied

In order to obtain the grade Pass (G) on the whole course, students need to receive Pass (G) on all of the required assignments.

In order to Pass with Distinction (VG), the student needs to receive the grade Pass with Distinction (VG) on the final individual assignment and Pass (G) on the group assignment and the short-question examination.

Course evaluation

The course coordinator is responsible for systematically and regularly collecting the students' views of the course, and for making sure that the results of the evaluations in different forms are taken into consideration when developing the course. The results of and possible changes to the course will be shared with students who participated in the evaluation and students who are starting the course.