

International Security: Practical Insights

Summer 2024, Masaryk University, Czech Republic

Europe has been at the centre of world politics it is here where key principles of today's international relations such as state sovereignty, nationalism, legal equality and others came into existence. Major wars were started and fought here and the potential Cold War central battle field was planned to be here. With the fall of the Soviet Union and its satellites, the continent underwent a major transformation in its perception of security in the direction from traditional military perspective towards non-military threats. The assortment of threats Europe has experienced since then weave a tapestry across all fields of international security and range through environmental, cyber, information, border and migration, extremism, terrorism, and many others – including a sharp return to direct or indirect armed conflict.

To help navigate this assortment of threats in a structured and analytical manner, the *International Security: Practical Insights* program is aimed at developing practical analytical skills in students through academic classes, practical exercises, active group work, and guest presentations. It is ideal for students studying international relations, politics, security studies or policing, criminal studies, international relations, history or international law. The programme is ideally located for students to be able to gain an overview and basic grasp of modern security analysis from a European regional perspective on both the hard and soft security threats to international security

The course aims at presenting students with various theoretical and practical approaches towards analysing security and it shows European experience in providing for it. In the process of the course, students will start with the traditional military security approach which will be discussed briefly in the case of European historical international system and particularly in the present European security environment. In the second and third weeks of the course, lectures will gradually move towards non-traditional and non-military threats and today's case studies, all analysed via tools utilised by practitioners which students should acquire. The topics covered will include terrorism, extremism, energy security, cyber security, Ukraine conflict, and Islamic state. The main idea of the course is to make students familiar with development of international security at large, its broadening and deepening scope, and key analytical tools utilised within the field.

The intensive and dynamic program will involve academic classes, active group work, guest presentations, and visits to organizations like the UN, Radio Free Europe and others. In addition to academic program, rich cultural program will be integral to the course along with field trips looking at the discussed issues on-the-ground.

The participants of this course will:

- understand key dimensions of international security and systems of assessing threats, including armed conflict, information warfare, cyber, energy, and climate security, migration, and extremism
- understand major practical approaches to international security analysis utilised in practice and research

- apply selected analytical tools in a number of international security spheres
- analyze complex international security threat scenarios through the application of said practical analytical tools

Course assessment

Task	Due Date	% of overall mark
Module quizzes	throughout	30%
Group Presentation applying analytical tool (each presentation will be 20 minutes long)	Thursday, 3 rd week	30%
Analytical essay utilising a chosen tool (2,500 - 4,000 words)	Two weeks after the end of the program	30%
In-class participation: activity in class as well as on excursions	Throughout	10%
Late penalty: 2 % will be deducted per day for late work		

There will be a set of group presentations on the topic: Turbulent neighborhood: How various crises affect European security and what Europe does about it.

Students will be required to choose a topic for their final essay and discuss communicate with the teachers before the end of the course. The ideal essay would choose a theoretical approach and appropriate analytical tool discussed during the course and apply it to a relevant security issue in the European context. The essay should be between 2,500 and 4,000 words long, not including bibliography depending on the final assessment agreed upon (6 or 8 ECTS).

Each student will be expected to attend all the classes. In case of missing, the points for in-class participation will be deducted. Additionally, students will be expected to take actively part in discussions during the classes and site visits. Ability to present opinion and answer questions of teachers will be assessed.

Students can expect about 150 hours of work for 6 ECTS or 200 hours of work for 8 ECTS (matching the European standard of 1 ECTS=25 hours of work). Of this, 65 hours is expected in class or at academic site visits, an additional 30 hours is expected on course reading during the three weeks, and 15 hours is expected in the preliminary background reading prior to the start of the class. The remaining workload is expected to be split between the final presentation (worked on during the course) and the final paper (handed in after the course has ended).

Course readings

Course readers is available on-line – see the documents for each session in Teams.

Program outline

Pre-arrival preparation:

Apart from the readings affiliated with each session of the course (which students are strongly recommended to start studying before the start of the program), it is mandatory for students to familiarize with the basic concepts which will be covered throughout the course before their arrival. For this purpose the background reading is listed here:

Background reading (will be discussed in the first class):

- Holsti, Kalevi Jacque. 1996. *The state, war, and the state of war*. 1st pub. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. (in the scope provided)
- Jackson, Robert and Georg Sorensen. 2007. *Introduction to international relations: theories and approaches*. 3rd ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press. (in the scope provided)
- Střítecký, Vít. 2012. *Security and Securitization in Central Europe*. Palgrave Macmillan. Available at (http://www.academia.edu/7193659/Security_and_Securitisation_in_Central_Europe).
- Williams, Paul. 2008. *Security studies: an introduction*. New York: Routledge. (in the scope provided)

Week I:

Concept of security and development of security arrangements in the European continent (2 days)

Instructor: Martin Chovančík

The introductory bloc of the course will present various answers to the question of what the security is and how we can work with it. It will discuss the differences in understanding and operating the concept in international relations, strategic studies and security studies. In the first lecture we will discuss major traditions of international relations such as realism, liberalism and constructivism as well as their distinct theories in the field of security studies, such as neorealism, (neo)liberal institutionalism and Copenhagen school.

Required readings:

Baldwin, David A. 1997. "The Concept of Security." *Review of International Studies*, vol. 23, no. 1, pp. 5–26. JSTOR, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/20097464>.

Pansophix. 2019. A Useful Guide to SWOT analysis.

Recommended reading:

Wohlstetter, Albert. 1958. The Delicate balance of terror. Available on-line at (<http://www.rand.org/about/history/wohlstetter/P1472/P1472.html>)

ICISS. 2001. The Responsibility to Protect. Report of the International Commission on Intervention and State Sovereignty.

Kagan, Robert. 2008. *Of Paradise and Power: America and Europe in the New World Order*. American Power and the Crisis of Legitimacy. New York: Vintage Books. Pp. 105-158.

National security construction, security analysis via risk assessment matrices

Instructor: Martin Chovancik

In the second day a development of security arrangements in Europe will be presented. We will discuss a number of case studies demonstrating a shift from the traditional view of national security centred on state sovereignty and military towards modern approaches aimed at the individual and community and encompassing military as well as non-military threats.

We will introduce several analytical tools useful in the construction of national security. Namely, students will learn to apply SWOT analyses and risk assessment matrices as fundamental tools of analysis.

Required readings:

Singer, J. David. 1961. "The Level-of-Analysis Problem in International Relations." *World Politics*, vol. 14, no. 1, pp. 77–92. JSTOR, <https://doi.org/10.2307/2009557>.

Kovacevic, N. et al. 2019. "Application Of The Matrix Approach In Risk Assessment' Operational Research in ES. Vol 2 😊, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.31181/orestal.903055k>

Conflict and military analysis – PIN model analysis and statistical data

Instructor: Martin Chovancik

Our foray into global security issues will start with this session focusing on hard security topics intrinsically linked with armed conflict. Armed conflict is itself among the most serious threats to international security and cause of destruction, but also functions as the source of the many threats covered in following sessions. The lesson will introduce conceptualizations of conflict causes and key approaches to their analysis. We will discuss the trends and patterns of conflict escalation as well as the activity of international organizations in prevention. The conflict analysis tool we will investigate will be the PIN model.

Required readings:

Levy, J. S., & Thompson, W. R. 2011. *Causes of War*. Somerset: Wiley. Pp. 1-54.

Stewart, F., & Annan, K. 2010. *Horizontal inequalities and conflict: Understanding group violence in multiethnic societies*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan., pp. 1-24

Fauna and Flora International. 2013. Positions, interests, and needs PINs - Conservation, Livelihoods and Governance Programme Tools for participatory approaches.

3-day trip to Budapest

Week II:

Conflict and military analysis – PIN model analysis and statistical data

Instructor: Martin Chovancik

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Fauna and Flora International. 2013. Positions, interests, and needs PINs - Conservation, Livelihoods and Governance Programme Tools for participatory approaches.

Energy security – scenario analysis

Instructor: Jan Osička

The session will kick off by discussing the role of energy in shaping the development of the contemporary Western society and draw some general conclusions for global, national and human security. The main focus of the session will be determined at its beginning by the students themselves. The students will collectively select from the ready-made list of topics. These are: Energy transition, the rise of renewable energy and the future of the international energy system; Oil peak - when will we run out of oil and what will happen next?; Energy weapon - is it meant to fail? (A case study of the 1970s oil shocks and their long term political and economic consequences.)

Required readings:

- Sovacool, B. K. (2014). Diversity: Energy studies need social science. *Nature*. Available at: <http://www.nature.com/news/diversity-energy-studies-need-social-science-1.15620>

- Cherp, A., Jewell, J. (2014). The concept of energy security: Beyond the four As. Energy Policy 75. Available at: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0301421514004960>
- Ciută, F. (2010). Conceptual Notes on Energy Security, Security Dialogue 41 (2). Available at: <http://sdi.sagepub.com/content/41/2/123.short>

Recommended readings:

Pasqualetti, M. J. (2011). The competing dimensions of energy security. In: B. Sovacool (ed.), The Routledge Handbook on Energy Security, pp. 275-290. New York: Routledge (16 pages)38 (2).

Information Warfare - source analysis in disinformation

Instructor: Petra Mlejnková

The session focuses on phenomenon of information warfare and propaganda, which emerged in public debates after annexation of Crimea. Students will learn how information warfare and propaganda has become part of politics, how it has changed during the history and how it looks like today. We will discuss manipulative techniques of propaganda, security threats and possible consequences of implementation of propaganda.

Required readings:

Gregor, M. - Mlejnková, P. (eds, 2021). Challenging Online Propaganda and Disinformation in the 21st Century. Palgrave Macmillan. pp. 3-41, 75-103.

Clark, T. - Johnson, R. (eds, 2021). The World Information War. Routledge. pp. 63-80, 214-230.

Cyber security – vulnerability analysis

Instructor: Jakub Drmola

Importance of cyber security is growing with each passing year as new types of threats emerge. Ever since the end days of the Cold War and through the 21st century, there have been worries about potential risks and the fragility of our dependence on information technology. Some of these concerns have been eventually vindicated in recent years and conflict in cyberspace has become a common sight. Nowadays whole range of actors execute wide spectrum of attacks for various reasons - from international warfare simultaneously supported by operations in cyberspace, to profit-oriented cybercrime and ideologically motivated mass blockades of corporate infrastructure. This module explores these ongoing phenomena (cyber warfare, hacktivism, sabotage, etc.), recently uncovered developments such as surveillance, and even conspicuously missing (yet widely discussed and publicized) manifestations of cyber terrorism and similar concepts.

Required readings:

DENNING, Dorothy (2001): *Activism, Hactivism, and Cyberterrorism* (http://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/monograph_reports/MR1382/MR1382.ch8.pdf)

GARTZKE, Eric (2013): *The Myth of Cyberwar* (http://pages.ucsd.edu/~egartzke/papers/cyberwar_12062012.pdf)

Recommended reading:

SINGER, P. W. - FRIEDMAN, A. (2014): *Cybersecurity and Cyberwar*. Oxford University Press. ISBN: 978-0-19-991811-9.

3-day trip to Prague

Week III:

Open-source intelligence and information analysis

Instructor: Lukáš Horák and Karel Pešek

Students will obtain basic knowledge regarding intelligence, intelligence analysis, purpose of intelligence and intelligence analysis and specifics of these methods and analysis. Emphasis will be given to OSINT techniques and methods, that will present students tools that can be utilized in everyday life and are sometimes utilized by OSINT/PAI intelligence analysts. Students will be then presented with basic intelligence methods such as pattern-analysis/wagon-wheel analysis and time-series analysis, and structured analytical methods such as analysis of competing hypothesis. Each analytical method will be followed by practical exercise.

Required readings:

NATO AJP 2.7, 2022. *Allied Joint Doctrine For Joint Intelligence, Surveillance And Reconnaissance*.

Government of USA, Central Intelligence Agency, 2009. *A Tradecraft Primer: Structured Analytic Techniques for Improving Intelligence Analysis*.

Religious radicalism – thematic analysis

Instructor: Kateřina Fridrichová

We will discuss broader role of religion in politics and international relations and why it is sometimes an overlooked dimension in these spheres. Then we will address the areas of friction and potential

conflict between the “political” and the “religious” and discuss various potential religious threats in Europe.

Required reading:

Fox, Jonathan. 2018. *An Introduction to Religion and Politics: Theory and Practice*. Second edition. Routledge Studies in Religion and Politics. London New York: Routledge. 4-31, 195-205

EU army? Strategic culture, CSDP and NATO - thematic analysis

We will discuss the perennial problem of unified European security policy, and discuss challenges to creating a common European army with emphasis on sovereignty, strategic culture, and relationship to NATO.

Required reading:

Howorth, Jolyon, and Anand Menon. 2015. ‘Wake up, Europe!’ *Global Affairs* 1 (1). Routledge: 11–20. doi:10.1080/23340460.2015.995346.

Chappell, Laura, and Petrov Petar. 2014. ‘The European Union’s Crisis Management Operations: Strategic Culture in Action?’ *European Integration Online Papers*, no. 2014–002 (May): 1–24. doi:10.1695/2014002.

Final presentations, Concluding remarks and discussion

Instructor: Martin Chovancik

(no required literature assigned, students will be expected to be able to discuss about major ideas of the course)

3-day trip to Vienna

Faculty profiles

Martin Chovancik is Director of the International Relations and European Politics program at the Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University overseeing a fully international curriculum. Martin received his Ph.D. from the university on the topic of Arms embargoes in conflict management. His research focus therefore fixates on conflict dynamics, management, resolution, coercion, sanctions, and the arms industry. He has further developed these topics during his extended stays with the University of Aberystwyth, University of Toronto, and Palackeho University. Martin produces both academic and applied research in a number of ongoing national and international projects.

Jakub Drmola is an assistant professor at the Detachment for Security and Strategic Studies of Department of Political Science at Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University. He specializes in cyberspace threats, impact of modern technologies on security and system dynamics.

Kateřina Fridrichov is an assistant professor at the Department of International Relations and European Studies at the Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University. Her main focus are humanitarian intervention, religion and theories of international relations. She recently participated in a project aimed at predicting the escalation of international conflict.

Jan Osička is an assistant professor at the Department of International Relations and European Studies at the Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University. His majors are primarily theoretical setting of foreign energy policy and energy commodity markets. Since 2009, when he completed a six-month internship at the Istanbul Bilgi University, he has been also dealing with the transport of energy commodities. In 2010, he took part in the development of the MEOS' natural gas network flow model, which was employed as the part of the research "The Future of Natural Gas Security in the V4 Countries" and "Unconventional Sources of Natural Gas: Development and Possible Consequences for the Central Eastern European Region"

Petra Mlejnkov is currently Assistant Professor at Department of Political Science, Faculty of Social Studies, Masaryk University. Petra graduated in Political Science and International Affairs at the Faculty of Social Studies. Doctoral studies were successfully finished with the PhD thesis focused on international cooperation of European neo-Nazis. In her research, she focuses on political extremism and radicalism in Europe, prevention, processes of radicalization leading to violent extremism and processes of deradicalization. In her focus is also security policy. Petra is author and co-author of research papers. She regularly attends international conferences of political science and criminology associations. She is also member of Radicalization Awareness Network and European Expert Network on Terrorism Issues.

Karel Peřek, researcher on Institute of Intelligence Studies, University of Defence, CZE. In 2021 and 2023 he graduated from the Faculty of Social Studies of Masaryk University with a bachelor's and master's degree in Security and Strategic Studies. From September 2023 he has been an academic staff member of the Institute of Intelligence Studies (ZS) at the University of Defence, where he is also studying for a PhD in National Defence Theory at the Faculty of Military Leadership. His primary research interests are new intelligence trends, structured intelligence analysis methods and geographically the post-Soviet space.

Lukas Horák, researcher on Institute of Intelligence Studies, University of Defence, CZE and researcher for PSSI (Prague Security Studies Institute). From 2009 – 2023 acted on various positions for Czech MoD, especially in domain of intelligence, operational security and security advisory services. Acted as a security advisor to MoD, NATO and EU in missions in Afghanistan, Sahel (Africa) and Balkans region. His primary research interests are stability of abovementioned regions, terrorism, and influence and political warfare activities and operations.