

Introduction to International Security

Instructors

Dr. Olivier Schmitt
Associate Professor, department of political science
schmitt@sam.sdu.dk

Dr. Amelie Theussen
Assistant Professor, department of political science
amelie@sam.sdu.dk

Course information

One lecture per week, **Mondays, 14.00-17.00 (rooms subject to change, check each week)**. Olivier or Amelie will hold office hours every Monday before class, from 12.00 to 14.00 (which one of us will be holding office hours depends on who is teaching the class this particular week). Our offices are located in the department of political science. You can also email us for an appointment.

Course structure and objective

This course is designed to introduce the key concepts and issues in international security, *and* develop essential writing and analytical skills. *It is expected that you come to class prepared*, having read the mandatory texts and noted a few questions raised by them. A compendium of the mandatory reading will be printed and made available for purchase at the library.

The class assumes a knowledge of international political history (especially since 1945) commensurate with what can be normally expected from master students in the social sciences. If you feel you need to refresh your memory on the Cuban missile crisis, the timeline of the Vietnam War or else, we recommend regularly checking the handbook by John W. Young and John Kent, *International Relations since 1945*, Oxford UP, 2013. We also strongly recommend Odd Arne Westad, *The Cold War, A World History*, Allen Lane, 2017: comprehensive, ambitious and well-written.

A typical class will involve a combination of lecturing, discussion of the assigned texts, and a collective exercise based on a document circulated the week before class. We will begin each class by randomly selecting a student who will have between one and two minutes (“elevator speech”) to summarize an international politics event that happened the week before class, and explain the challenges and issues at stake. We will then have a 10 minutes discussion about the issue.

Your work and preparation does not end when you are done reading the mandatory texts. It is expected of you to follow national and international news through the quality newspapers of your choice, depending on your language skills (*Politiken*, *Washington Post*, *New York Times*, *Süddeutsche Zeitung*, *Le Monde*, etc.).

We also encourage you to read the following websites that offer detailed (and free) analyses on international security:

- *War on the Rocks*, on security and strategic issues (<https://warontherocks.com/>)
- *Lawfare*, on the legal aspects of both US politics and international security (<https://www.lawfareblog.com/>)
- *The Monkey Cage*, US political scientists showing how political science explains US and international politics (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/>)
- *Political Violence at a Glance*, dedicated to conflict analysis (<https://politicalviolenceataglance.org/>)

You should also familiarize yourself with the main international think-tanks on international affairs.

In Denmark:

- Danish Institute for International Studies (<https://www.diiis.dk/en>)
- Center for Military Studies (<https://cms.polsci.ku.dk/english/>)

In the United States:

- Rand Corporation (<https://www.rand.org/>)
- Center for Strategic and International Studies (<https://www.csis.org/>)
- Atlantic Council (<http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/>)
- Center for a New American Security (<https://www.cnas.org/>)
- Brookings Institution (<https://www.brookings.edu/>)

In the United Kingdom:

- International Institute for Strategic Studies (<https://www.iiss.org/>)
- Chatham House (<https://www.chathamhouse.org/>)
- RUSI (<https://rusi.org/>)

Finally, your professors are also active publishing their research, organizing events or commenting in the media.

Make sure to regularly check the website of the *Center for War Studies* (<https://www.sdu.dk/en/cws>), 'like' its Facebook page and subscribe to its Twitter account (@CWSWarStudies) in order to not miss any news. Most of your professors are also on Twitter. We are indifferent as to whether you follow us or not, but we regularly post articles and news that could be of interest to you and your studies.

Assessment

Portfolio exam. The first part (15%) will be a critical examination of a document. The second part (15%) will require students to draft a policy paper based on a given scenario. In the last part (70%), students will have to answer two questions.

The first assignment must be maximum 3 pages in English (each with 2,400 strokes. Spacing, appendix and notes included, but table of content and bibliography excluded). The second assignment must be maximum 5 pages in English (each with 2,400 strokes. Spacing, appendix and notes included, but table of content and bibliography excluded). The third assignment must be maximum 8 pages in English (each with 2,400 strokes. Spacing, appendix and notes included, but table of content and bibliography excluded.)

Other rules regarding the formatting of the assessments:

- Font: Times New Roman 12

- Include page numbers
- Consistent use of one citation style (Chicago, APA, etc.)
- A standard cover page including the number of strokes.

Assignments failing to report the numbers of strokes and assignments exceeding the maximum number of strokes will be dismissed.

Equity and Disability Policies

The University of Southern Denmark and us are committed to providing a supportive learning environment. If you are facing medical, emotional or personal circumstances that will affect your attendance and performance, please see us.

Plagiarism and cheating

Plagiarism is a *very* serious offense, and will not be tolerated. It could result in a grade of zero for the course or expulsion from the University. The Danish university act defines the following actions as cheating:

- Plagiarise, including reusing own texts (autocitation) without source reference and citation
- Commit forgery
- Omit information
- Mislead about their own efforts or results
- Participate in unauthorised cooperation
- Receive help during examinations or help others during a non-group examination
- Unlawfully have prior knowledge of the examination assignment
- Provide false attendance information

Academic integrity

As professors, we strive to provide an exceptional learning environment. Feel free to contact us, and use our office hours for any issue you may have.

As students, the Danish University act prescribes that “students, must act in a manner that ensures the University’s uninterrupted function. (...) Students must act considerately towards staff and fellow students. Students must act in regard to the University’s property, buildings and possessions when present on the University area. Noisy behavior, eating, drinking, etc. must not take place in such a manner that it causes inconvenience to others. This implies e.g. that threatening or harassing behavior and violation of the University’s smoking ban may be considered violations of the code of conduct. Students must abide by the rules set by the University or by rules the University are bound to”.

We will not tolerate inappropriate behavior towards us or towards other students.

Finally, email us with one paragraph about yourself (your background, why you chose this class/degree program, and what you expect from it) the week before the first class.

Class 1: Security and security dilemmas (September 3rd) Amelie/Olivier (U82)

Questions:

- What is the difference between security and strategy?
- What are the consequences of shifting the focus of security from the state to other actors?
- Are there different types of security dilemmas?

Mandatory reading:

Keith Krause and Michael C. Williams, “Security and ‘Security Studies’: Conceptual Evolution and Historical Transformation”, in Alexandra Gheciu and William C. Wohlforth (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of International Security*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2018, pp. 14-28.

Richard K. Betts, “Should Strategic Studies Survive?”, *World Politics*, 50/1, 1997, pp. 7-33.

David A. Baldwin, “The Concept of Security”, *Review of International Studies*, 23/1, 1997, pp. 5-26.

Thierry Balzacq, Sarah Léonard and Jan Ruzicka, “Securitization revisited: theory and cases”, *International Relations*, 30/4, 2016, pp. 494-531.

Shiping Tang, “The Security Dilemma: A Conceptual Analysis”, *Security Studies*, 18/3, 2009, pp. 587-623.

Movies, novels, series...

William Golding, *Lord of the Flies*, 1954; Kazuo Ishiguro, *The Buried Giant*, 2015.
“District 9”, Neill Blomkamp, 2009; “13 Days”, Roger Donaldson, 2000.

Class 2: Coercion and Deterrence (September 10th) Olivier (U 47)

Questions:

- Is deterrence harder than coercion?
- What is the difference between deterrence by denial and deterrence by punishment?
- How can we observe/measure the success of coercion and deterrence?
- What is the relative importance of military vs non-military means of coercion?

Mandatory reading:

Robert J. Art and Kelly M. Greenhill, “Coercion: an Analytical Overview”, in Kelly M. Greenhill and Peter Krause (eds.), *Coercion. The Power to Hurt in International Politics*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018, pp. 3-32.

Patrick M. Morgan, “The State of Deterrence in International Politics Today”, *Contemporary Security Policy*, 33/1, 2012, pp. 85-107.

David A. Baldwin, “The Sanctions Debate and the Logic of Choice”, *International Security*, 24/3, 1999/2000, pp. 80-107.

Dima Adamsky, “From Moscow with Coercion: Russian Deterrence Theory and Strategic Culture”, *Journal of Strategic Studies*, 41/1-2, 2018, pp. 33-60.

Elbridge Colby and Jonathan Solomon, “Facing Russia: Conventional Defence and Deterrence in Europe”, *Survival*, 57/6, 2015, pp. 21-50.

Movies, novels, series...

Mordecai Roshwald, *Level 7* (1957, 2004). Julien Gracq, *The Opposing Shore* (1986). “Dr. Strangelove”, Stanley Kubrick, 1964; “The Brink”, HBO, 2015.

Class 3: International system and trends in international conflicts (September 17th) Amelie (U47)

Questions:

- Are the US in decline, and how would we know?
- Is violence declining?
- What is the shape of the emerging international order?

Mandatory reading:

Michael Beckley, “China’s Century? Why America’s Edge Will Endure”, *International Security*, 36/3, 2011/12, pp. 41-78.

*Trine Flockhart, “The Coming Multi-Order World”, *Contemporary Security Policy*, 37/1, 2016, pp. 3-30.

David M. Edelstein, *Over the Horizon: Time, Uncertainty and the Rise of Great Powers*. Ithaca, Cornell University Press, 2017. Introduction and Chapter 1, pp. 1-37.

Michael Mann, “Have Wars and Violence Declined?”, *Theory and Society*, 47/1, 2018, pp. 37-60.

Gray, John. 2015. “Steven Pinker is wrong about violence and war”, *The Guardian*, 13 March 2015.

Movies, novels, series...

Cixin Liu, *The Dark Forest* (2016); Isaac Asimov, *Robots and Empire* (1986), “Battlestar Galactica”, 2004-2009.

Class 4: Alliances and security cooperation (September 24th)

Olivier (U42)

Questions:

- What are the conditions that make security cooperation more or less likely?
- Why are the different forms of security cooperation, and their advantages/disadvantages?
- What are the challenges of coalition warfare?

Mandatory reading:

Robert Jervis, “From Balance to Concert: A Study of International Security Cooperation”, *World Politics* 38/1, 1985, pp. 58-79.

*Sten Rynning, “Coalitions, Institutions and Big Tents: the New Strategic Reality of Armed Intervention”, *International Affairs*, 89/1, 2013, pp. 53-68.

Kathleen J. McInnis, “Lessons in Coalition Warfare: Past, Present and Implications for the Future”, *International Politics Reviews*, 1/2, 2013, pp. 78-90.

*Olivier Schmitt, *Allies that Count. Junior Partners in Coalition Warfare*, Washington, DC, Georgetown University Press, 2018. Introduction, pp. 1-42.

Alice Pannier, “Understanding the workings of interstate cooperation in defence: an exploration into Franco-British cooperation after the signing of the Lancaster House Treaty”, *European Security*, 22/4, 2013, pp. 540-558.

Movies, novels, series...

Luo Guanzhong, *Romance of the Three Kingdoms* (XIVth Century)
“War Machine”, David Michod (2017); “Games of Thrones”, HBO, 2011-

Class 5: Conventional arms control and disarmament (October 1st) Olivier (U47)

Questions:

- What is the role of trust in arms control?
- When is arms control effective?
- Do we need new arms control agreements in Europe?

Mandatory reading:

John Kierulf, *Disarmament under International Law*, Montréal&Kingston, McGill-Queen's University Press. Read pp. 20-51.

Skim the section “Conventional Weapons” (pp 167-205) to get an overview of the existing arms control agreements.

Lionel P. Fatton, “The Impotence of Conventional Arms Control: Why do International Regimes Fail When they are Most Needed?”, *Contemporary Security Policy*, 37/2, 2016, pp. 200-222.

Keith Krause, “Leashing the Dogs of War: Arms Control from Sovereignty to Governmentality”, *Contemporary Security Policy*, 32/1, 2011, pp. 20-39.

Ulrich Kühn, “Conventional Arms Control 2.0”, *The Journal of Slavic Military Studies*, 26/2, 2013, pp. 189-202.

Movies, novels, series...

Ian M. Banks, *Consider Phlebas*, 1986.

“Deutschland 83”, RTL, 2015.

Class 6: Nuclear proliferation and WMDs (October 8th) Amelie (U82)

Questions:

- Why do states acquire nuclear weapons?
- Is nuclear disarmament possible?
- Why banning certain categories of weapons but not others?

Mandatory reading:

Alicia Sanders-Zarke, “The Birth of a Ban: A Comparative Analysis of WMD Prohibition Treaties”, *Project on Nuclear Issues*, February 2018, pp. 170-183.

Skim USG, “Basic Nuclear Physics and Weapons Effects”, *Nuclear Matters Handbook 2016*, pp. 169-204, to get a basic understanding of the physics behind nuclear weapons.

Nicholas L. Miller and Vipin Narang, “North Korea Defied the Nuclear Odds: What can We Learn from its Successful Nuclearization?”, *Texas National Security Review*, 1/2, 2018, pp. 59-74.

Scott D. Sagan, and Benjamin A. Valentino, “Revisiting Hiroshima in Iran: What Americans Really Think about Using Nuclear Weapons and Killing Noncombatants”, *International Security*, 42/1, 2017, pp. 41-79.

Tim McCormack, “Chemical Weapons and Other Atrocities: Contrasting Responses to the Syrian Crisis”, *International Law Studies*, Vol. 92, 2016, pp. 512-544.

Movies, novels, series...

Eugene Burdick, *Fail Safe*, 1962. Tom Clancy, *The Sum of All Fears*, 2002. Alan Moore, *Watchmen*, 1987.

“The Hunt for Red October”, John Mc Tiernan, 1990; “Grave of the Fireflies”, Isao Takahata, 1987.

Class 7: International Terrorism (October 29th)

Amelie (U47)

Questions:

- What is the strategic objective of terrorism?
- What differentiates terrorism from other forms of asymmetric warfare?

Mandatory reading:

Alex Schmid, “The Revised Academic Consensus Definition of Terrorism”, *Perspectives on Terrorism*, 6/2 (2012), pp. 158-159.

Andrew H. Kydd and Barbara F. Walter, “The Strategies of Terrorism”, *International Security*, 31/1, 2006, pp. 49-80.

Petter Nesser and Anne Stenersen, “The Modus Operandi of Jihadi Terrorists in Europe”, *Perspectives on Terrorism*, 8/6 (2014), pp. 2-24.

Anthony Richards, “From terrorism to ‘radicalization’ to ‘extremism’: counterterrorism imperative or loss of focus?”, *International Affairs*, 91/2, 2015, pp. 371–380.

Daniel Koehler, “Right-Wing Extremism and Terrorism in Europe”, *Prism*, 6/2, 2016, pp. 85-104.

Movies, novels, series...

Joseph Conrad, *The Secret Agent*, 1907; John Le Carré, *The Little Drummer Girl*, 2011. “The Kingdom”, Peter Berg, 2007; “Body of Lies”, Ridley Scott, 2008; “Fauda”, Netflix, 2017.

Class 8: Humanitarian Interventions and Peace Building (November 5th)

Amelie (U47)

Questions:

- What are the different forms of peacebuilding?
- When should humanitarian interventions be conducted?

Mandatory reading:

Martha Finnemore, *The Purpose of Intervention. Changing Norms about the Use of Force*, Ithaca, Cornell UP, 2004. Chapter 3.

Roland Paris, “The ‘Responsibility to Protect’ and the Structural Problems of Preventive Humanitarian Intervention”, *International Peacekeeping*, 21/5, 2014, pp. 569-603.

Oliver P. Richmond, “UN Peace Operations and the Dilemmas of the Peacebuilding Consensus”, *International Peacekeeping*, 11/1, 2004, pp. 83-101.

David M. Edelstein, “Foreign Militaries, Sustainable Institutions, and Postwar Statebuilding”, in Roland Paris and Timothy D. Sisk (eds.), *The Dilemmas of State-Building: Confronting the Contradictions of Postwar Peace Operations*, Abingdon, Routledge, 2009, pp. 81-103.

John Karlsrud, “The UN at War: Examining the Consequences of Peace-Enforcement Mandates for the UN Peacekeeping Operations in the CAR, the DRC and Mali”, *Third World Quarterly*, 36/1, 2015, pp. 40-54.

Movies, novels, series...

“Warriors”, Peter Kosminsky, 1999.

Class 9: Soft power, Disinformation and Propaganda (November 12th)

Olivier (U82)

Questions:

- How can we measure foreign influence?
- What is the role of the media ecology in the spread of disinformation?
- What is soft power? How is it related (or not) to propaganda?

Mandatory reading:

*Chiara de Franco, *Media Power and the Transformation of War*, Basingstoke, Palgrave MacMillan, 2012. Chapter 1.

*Vincent Charles Keating and Katarzyna Kaczmarska, “Conservative Soft Power: Liberal Soft Power Bias and the ‘Hidden’ Attraction of Russia”, *Journal of International Relations and Development*, early view, 2017.

*Olivier Schmitt, “When are Strategic Narratives Effective? The Shaping of Political Discourse Through the Interaction Between Political Myths and Strategic Narratives”, *Contemporary Security Policy*, early view, 2018.

Martin Kragh and Sebastian Åsberg, “Russia’s Strategy for Influence through Public Diplomacy and Active Measures: the Swedish Case”, *Journal of Strategic Studies*, 40/6, pp. 773-816.

Thomas H. Johnson, *Taliban Narratives. The Use and Power of Stories in the Afghanistan Conflict*, Oxford, Oxford University Press, 2018. Chapters 2 and 3.

Movies, novels, series...

Philip Roth, *The Human Stain*, 2002; Ian M. Banks, *The Player of Games*, 1988

Class 10: New technologies and the future of war (November 19th) Amelie/Olivier (U47)

Questions:

- What are the key technologies shaping the future of warfare?
- What are the consequences for the likelihood of conflict?

Mandatory reading:

Lucas Kello, “The Meaning of the Cyber Revolution. Perils to Theory and Statecraft”, *International Security*, 38/2, 2013, pp. 7-40.

Michael C. Horowitz, “Artificial Intelligence, International Competition and the Balance of Power”, *Texas National Security Review*, 3/1, 2018.

Denise Garcia, “Future Arms, Technologies and International Law: Preventive Security Governance”, *European Journal of International Security*, 1/1, 2016, pp. 94-111.

Andrea Gilli & Mauro Gilli, “The Diffusion of Drone Warfare? Industrial, Organizational and Infrastructural Constraints”, *Security Studies*, 25/1, 2016, pp. 50-84.

*James Rogers, “Drone Warfare: The Death of Precision”, *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, 12 May 2017.

Daniel Fiott, “A Revolution too Far? US Defence Innovation, Europe, and NATO’s Military-Technological Gap”, *Journal of Strategic Studies*, 40/3, 2017, pp. 417-437.

Movies, novels, series...

P.W. Singer and August Cole, *Ghost Fleet*, 2015; Linda Nagata, *The Red*, 2015.
“Edge of Tomorrow”, Doug Liman, 2014.