COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School / Department: Humanities and Social Sciences

Programme: MA International Relations

FHEQ **Level:**   7

Course Title: Security & Insecurity: Bodies, Identities, Images

Course Code: INR 7303

Student Engagement Hours: 200 (standard 4 credit MA course)
Lectures:
Seminar / Tutorials: 45
Independent / Guided Learning: 155

Semester: Fall, Spring

Credits: 20 UK CATS credits
10 ECTS credits
4 US credits

Course Description:
This course provides a focused engagement with critical security studies and international political sociology emphasizing some of the key contemporary themes in these emerging sub-disciplines pertaining to the place of the body, the nature of identity, as well as the role of images and visual, sonic, or popular cultures in global politics. In doing so this course provides students with an overview of contemporary debates on the roles of emotion, trauma, images, and technology in global politics.

Prerequisites:
MA International Relations students

Aims and Objectives:
- To cultivate a sophisticated and expansive understanding of theoretical and empirical discussions of security and insecurity in global politics.

- To develop a clear sense of critical approaches to security and international political sociology as subject areas drawing upon broad empirical, conceptual and theoretical advances in its analyses of contemporary global politics.

- To promote an abstract and critical space for engaging with contemporary global politics through case studies in all their complexity, whilst analytically reflecting upon the theoretical and conceptual foundations of the subject area.

- To provide a conceptual and empirical foundation for students as they progress through the programme.

Programme Outcomes:

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following programme outcomes:

A; B; C; E; G

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the archive maintained by Registry and found at: https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/

Learning Outcomes:
By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:
- Demonstrate a deep and systematic understanding of key texts, thinkers and debates in the study of security and role of images, emotions, and bodies in global politics.
- Develops critical and innovative responses towards contemporary practices of violence and security.
- Demonstrates a deep, systematic and innovative ability to adapt and apply knowledge in the areas of critical security studies and international political sociology.
- Engages with and evaluates complex, incomplete, and contradictory evidence while critically reflecting on different approaches to security and insecurity.
- Demonstrates the ability to gather, organise and deploy complex and abstract ideas regarding security and insecurity.

Indicative Content:
- Technologies of War and Security
- Ontological Security
- Body Politics
- Gendered and racialized aspects of Security and Insecurity
- Images and Sound in Global Politics
- The Politics of Emotion

Assessment:
This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and are located at https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies.

Teaching Methodology:
The course will consist of weekly postgraduate seminars, which will follow the structure set out within the course syllabus and will serve a number of functions: seminars provide a framework for the course; address critically the relevant literature in specific areas, examine concepts, theories and case studies, and enable students to engage in group discussion and dialogue, and autonomous learning. Seminars rely upon active student participation, mediated by the module instructor. By examining and discussing issues and problems in a seminar setting, students as junior research colleagues will be able to learn from each other and resolve questions that arise in the course of the lectures and readings. Seminars will only

be useful to the extent that they are prepared for and participation in discussions and debates is an essential aspect of this. All students will be required to participate. Tutorial opportunities will also be available for research supervision and other academic support.

Indicative Text(s):

- Ahmed, S. 2019. *What's the Use?* Durham and London: Duke University Press.
- Blieker, R. 2018. *Visual Global Politics*. London and New York: Routledge.
- Fishel, S. 2017. *The Microbial State: Global Thriving and The Body Politic*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
- Purnell, K. 2021. *Rethinking the Body in Global Politics*. London and New York: Routledge.
- Mbembe, A. 2019. *Necropolitics*. Durham and London: Duke University Press.
- Wilcox, L. 2015. *Bodies of Violence: Theorizing Embodied Subjects in International Relations*. Oxford University Press.

Journals

Critical Studies on Security, International Political Sociology, Body and Society, Emotions and Society, Theory, Culture, Society, International Political Theory, Mortality, European Journal of International Relations, Millennium: Journal of International Studies, Borderlands, International Feminist Journal of Politics, Review of International Studies

Web Sites and Blogs

Somatosphere, The Disorder of Things, Duck of Minerva, e-International Relations

See syllabus for complete reading list

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or AB)	Change Actioned by Registry Services