



Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Political Science

Syllabus

International Security

Course Code:	SVAM07
Course Title:	International Security <i>Internationell säkerhetspolitik</i>
Credits:	7.5
Degree Level:	Master's level
Progressive Specialisation:	Second cycle, has only first-cycle course/s as entry requirements (A1N)

Major Field of Study:
SKA (Political Science)

Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences 2021-02-18, and is valid from the Autumn semester 2021 at Karlstad University.

Prerequisites

90 ECTS credits completed in Political Science, including at least 30 ECTS credits at the G2F level or higher, including a degree project worth 15 ECTS credits, and upper secondary level Swedish 3/b, Swedish as a Second Language 3/B, and English 6/A, or equivalent

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

1. give an account of international conflicts and periods of regional peace from historical and comparative regional perspectives,
2. give an account of theoretical explanations for international conflicts and periods of regional peace,

Competence and skills

3. compare and contrast different theoretical explanations for international conflicts and periods of regional peace,

Judgement and approach

4. assess the explanatory potential of theories applied to international conflicts and periods of regional peace, and

5. develop independent explanations for international conflicts and periods of regional peace, using relevant theory.

Content

The aim of the course is to offer an introduction to relevant research on the transition from conflict to periods of peace in different parts of the world from historical and comparative regional perspectives. Through a longer historical perspective on this general issue, which is relevant in terms of security politics as well as theory, the course traces the development of international politics from the emergence of the modern system of nation states until today. By means of a comparative regional perspective, the course aims to address the more specific research question about reasons why certain regions are characterised by recurring or long-lived conflicts, while others are known for varying degrees of institutionalised cooperation and integration. In order to achieve these aims, but also to encourage the students to develop skills in assessing research and developing independent explanations for specific research problems covered in the course, a selection of literature is offered which represents a relatively broad range of theoretical approaches and themes that may be relevant for such problems, directly or indirectly. In order to keep students updated regarding groundbreaking research and current theoretical debates, but also to enable teaching staff to be flexible when selecting literature, the course includes a considerable amount of additional reading.

Reading List

See separate document.

Examination

All learning outcomes are assessed on the basis of an individual written paper and individual seminar assignments.

Instruction is in the form of mandatory seminars. Students who are absent from a mandatory seminar will be asked to submit a more extensive written hand-in assignment. More information about make-up assignments is provided when the course begins.

If students have a decision from Karlstad University entitling them to Targeted Study Support due to a documented disability, the examiner has the right to give such students an adapted examination or to examine them in a different manner.

Grades

One of the grades Distinction (VG), Pass (G), or Fail (U) is awarded in the examination of the course.

Quality Assurance

Follow-up relating to learning conditions and goal-fulfilment takes place both during and upon completion of the course in order to ensure continuous improvement. Course evaluation is partly based on student views and experiences obtained in accordance with current regulations and partly on other data and documentation. Students will be informed of the result of the evaluation and of any measures to be taken.

Course Certificate

A course certificate will be provided upon request.

Additional information

The local regulations for studies at the Bachelor and Master levels at Karlstad University stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.