

Masters in International Security Studies

Also Postgraduate Diploma

Taught Element, and PG Diploma:

60 credits: IR5001 and IR5036

60 credits: from IR5004 - IR5095, IR5403 - IR5449, IR5526 - IR5528, IR5721 - IR5749

MLitt:

120 credits from the Taught Element plus IR5099

MPhil:

120 credits from the Taught Element, 30 credits from IR5601, plus a thesis of not more than 40,000 words.

Compulsory modules:

IR5001 International Security				
SCOTCAT Credits:	30	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	1
Planned timetable:	11.00 am - 1.00 pm Wed			
This module introduces students to important issues and significant debates in security studies. We begin by examining the nature of war, strategy, and alliances. We then analyze the structure and impact of military power, including both conventional and nuclear weapons. We then probe the causes of interstate war, from domestic politics to the structure of the state system, to bargaining models. Finally, we turn to domestic conflict and delve into the dynamics of insurgency, counterinsurgency, and peacekeeping.				
Programme module type:	Compulsory for International Security Studies Postgraduate Programme.			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 2-hour seminar.			
Assessment pattern:	3-hour Written Examination = 40%, Midterm Examination = 20%, Coursework = 40%			
Module Co-ordinator:	Dr M De Vore, Dr K Harkness			

IR5036 Critical Security Studies				
SCOTCAT Credits:	30	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	1
Planned timetable:	Lecture: 10.00 am - 11.00 am Mon, Tutorials: one of 1.00 pm - 2.00 pm, 2.00 pm - 3.00 pm or 3.00 pm - 4.00 pm Tue			
This module will examine the challenge to traditional conceptions of security presented by the emergence of Critical Security Studies since the end of the Cold War. Students will explore what it means to study the concept and practice of security from a critical perspective. They will examine the various theoretical traditions that have informed critical security studies and the methodological implications for the analysis of different types of security contexts, ranging from alliance relations, terrorism, the environment, migration, famine, etc.				
Programme module type:	Compulsory for International Security Studies Optional for other Postgraduate Taught Programmes within the School.			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 1-hour lecture and 1-hour tutorial.			
Assessment pattern:	3-hour Written Examination = 50%, Coursework = 50%			
Module Co-ordinator:	Dr C Gentry and Dr C Ogden			

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IR5099 Dissertation for MLitt Programme/s				
SCOTCAT Credits:	60	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	Whole Year
Planned timetable:	5.00 pm - 6.00 pm Wed			
Student dissertations will be supervised by members of the teaching staff who will advise on the choice of subject and provide guidance throughout the research process. The completed dissertation of not more than 15,000 words must be submitted by the end of August.				
Programme module type:	Compulsory for International Political Theory, International Security Studies, Middle East, Caucasus and Central Asian Security Studies and Peace and Conflict Studies MLitt Postgraduate Programmes Optional for Central and East European Studies Postgraduate Programme.			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: Individual Supervision.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework (Dissertation) = 100%			
Module Co-ordinator:	Dr J Murer			

Compulsory for MPhil:

IR5601 Research Methods in international Relations				
SCOTCAT Credits:	30	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	Whole Year
Planned timetable:	11.00 am - 1.00 pm Wed			
This is a required module for all MRes, PhD and MPhil students in the School of International Relations. It is designed to assist students in understanding the purpose and approaches of international relations scholarship, and to assist them in developing and carrying out their research. As such, it addresses a range of topics, from the history and philosophy of the social sciences to specific research methods.				
Programme module type:	Compulsory for the completion of the MRes, PhD and MPhil Programmes in the School of International Relations.			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 2-hour seminar			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module Co-ordinator:	Dr V Paipais			

Optional modules:

IR5007 Terrorism and Liberal Democracy				
SCOTCAT Credits:	30	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	2
Planned timetable:	3.00 pm Tue			
<p>This module addresses: conceptual and definitional issues concerning terrorism; the relationship of terrorism to other forms of political violence; the origins, dynamics and development of contemporary terrorism; the efficacy of terrorism as a political weapon; the dilemmas and challenges of liberal democratic state responses to terrorism; and case studies in terrorism and counter-terrorism. The module is convened by Professor Richard English, and is taught by Professor Richard English, Professor Louise Richardson, Professor Bruce Hoffman, Dr Rashmi Singh, and Dr Javier Argomaniz, together with other specialist colleagues from the Handa Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence (CSTPV) and the School of International Relations.</p>				
Programme module type:	Optional for Terrorism and Political Violence, International Political Theory, Peace and Conflict Studies and International Security Studies Postgraduate Programmes			
Required for:	IR5999			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 2.5-hours (1-hour lecture and 1.5-hour seminar).			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module Co-ordinator:	Prof R English			
Lecturer(s)/Tutor(s):	Various			

IR5029 Conflict and Peace in Post-Communist Eurasia				
SCOTCAT Credits:	30	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	2
Planned timetable:	1.00 pm - 3.00 pm Thu			
<p>This module examines where and why conflicts have arisen throughout the post-communist space, Eurasia, particularly in the Balkans, Caucasus and Central Asia, and the contrasting forms these conflicts have taken. It also considers cases that were expected to but did not explode into violence, as well as ones where preventive measures appear to have succeeded. It gives comparative attention to the roles of major states, intergovernmental organisations and non-governmental organizations have played in moderating, preventing and resolving these conflicts, and considers alternative scenarios.</p>				
Programme module type:	Optional for Middle Eastern and Central Asian Security Studies Postgraduate Taught Programmes.			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 1-hour lecture and 1-hour seminar.			
Assessment pattern:	3-hour Examination = 50%, Coursework = 50%			
Module Co-ordinator:	Dr B Teles Fazendeiro			

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IR5030 Religion and International Politics				
SCOTCAT Credits:	30	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	2
Planned timetable:	11.00 am - 1.00 pm Tue			
<p>This module explores the so-called 'global resurgence' of politicised religion, moving out from traditional studies of church-state relations in the West to selected case studies of religio-political interactions in the wider world. After an examination of various theoretical approaches to politics and religion emanating from both sociology and the study of international relations, the focus will be on themes - such as religion and the state, the nation, the international system, religious violence and peacemaking - and on cases - such as the role of the New Christian Right in the United States, political Islam, religious nationalism in the Indian sub-continent, or religious contributions to democratisation in Latin America. The use of specific themes and cases may vary from year to year, depending upon current developments in this area.</p>				
Programme module type:	Optional for International Security Studies Postgraduate Programme. Optional for Peace and Conflict Studies Postgraduate Programme.			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 1 x 2-hour seminar.			
Assessment pattern:	3-hour Written Examination = 50%, Coursework = 50%			
Module Co-ordinator:	Prof J P Anderson			
Lecturer(s)/Tutor(s):	Prof J P Anderson and Dr F McCallum			

IR5033 Identity and Collective Violence				
SCOTCAT Credits:	30	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	2
Planned timetable:	11.00 am - 1.00 pm Wed			
<p>This module examines the concept of violence as a group or collective phenomenon. It explores the various manifestations of violence in its physical, structural, and symbolic forms, and explores the psychological motivations that promote or inhibit violence. Students will closely examine a series of events, both historical and contemporary, which are variously described as motivated by conflicts of ethnicity, class, race or clan membership. Students will explore the processes by which enemies are identified and maintained; how collectivities define their membership, and whether reconciliation after a violent conflict is possible. The module approaches the analysis of these conflicts from a multidisciplinary perspective.</p>				
Programme module type:	Optional for International Security Studies and other Postgraduate Taught Programmes within the School of International Relations.			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 2-hour seminar.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module Co-ordinator:	Dr J Murer			

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IR5039 Political Economy of Conflict				
SCOTCAT Credits:	30	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	2
Planned timetable:	2.00 pm - 4.00 pm Tue			
<p>This module provides a political economy perspective on conflict in a developing economy, introducing concepts and theoretical approaches of political economy and their application to situations involving conflict and violence. Economic arguments for a 'resource curse' and the explanatory binary of 'greed versus grievance' are interrogated and challenged for the absence of political, hence political economic, contextualisation and analysis. The complex network of commodities and goods traded between developed and developing economies are explored through a series of case studies and the increased securitisation of development in the twenty-first century is examined.</p>				
Programme module type:	Optional for International Political Theory, International Security Studies, Peace and Conflict Studies Postgraduate Taught Programmes.			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 2-hour seminar.			
Assessment pattern:	3-hour Written Examination = 50%, Coursework = 50%			
Module Co-ordinator:	Dr W B Vlcek			

IR5042 Gender and Terrorism				
SCOTCAT Credits:	30	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	2
Planned timetable:	10.00 am – 12.00 noon and 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm Mon			
<p>This module aims to familiarise the students with how gender is a social construction that privileges certain actors over and against others. Bluntly, gender, similarly to race and class, is a tool for the construction and maintenance of power. The process of 'gendering' expects different actions and grants different agency to particular actors based upon their biological sex. This often reflects a power differential which has historically (and continues) to privilege men and masculinised subjects over women and feminised subjects. This has a significant impact on International Relations and thus Terrorism Studies. Gender also affects the way that we construct and conceive of actors—groups and individuals—who use political violence.</p>				
Programme module type:	Optional for International Political Theory, International Security Studies, Peace and Conflict Studies Postgraduate Taught Programmes.			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 1 lecture and 1 tutorial.			
Assessment pattern:	3-hour Written Examination = 50%, Coursework = 50%			
Module Co-ordinator:	Dr C E Gentry			

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IR5050 Strategic Studies				
SCOTCAT Credits:	30	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	2
Planned timetable:	11.00 am - 1.00 pm Mon			
<p>The aim of this module is to discuss the major shifts and developments in modern strategic thought and practice, as well as some of the powerful factors that determined and are still determining military possibilities in the modern era. We will examine historical case studies and the reasons for changes in the use and application of military force along two axes: chronological and thematic. Starting from the Second World War, we will analyse the evolution of strategic thought and practice in response to political, technological, cultural and other developments. The combination of historical analysis and thematic issues will allow students to develop a more comprehensive picture of the evolution of strategy as well as better understanding and informed critique of major strategic trends and challenges of recent and contemporary history.</p>				
Programme module type:	Optional for International Political Theory, International Security Studies, Peace and Conflict Studies Postgraduate Taught Programmes.			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 2-hour seminar.			
Assessment pattern:	3-hour Written Examination = 50%, Coursework = 50%			
Module Co-ordinator:	Prof H Strachan			

IR5057 The Evolution of United Nations Peacekeeping				
SCOTCAT Credits:	30	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	2
Planned timetable:	10.00am - 12.00 noon Tue			
<p>This module is concerned with the development of United Nations peacekeeping from the 1940s to the present. After exploring the pre-UN origins of the concept, the growing prominence of peacekeeping (paralleling the “failure” of the UN’s original plans for a comprehensive system of collective security) will be examined. The role of peacekeeping in the management of “brushfire” conflicts in the years of cold war and decolonization will be traced with reference to specific operations. The focus will then shift to the great quantitative and qualitative changes of the post-cold war period and the emergence of the so-called “new peacekeeping”. The module will conclude with consideration of possible future trajectories for UN military intervention.</p>				
Programme module type:	Optional for all Postgraduate Taught Programmes in International Relations. (TO BE CONFIRMED)			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 2-hour seminar (x 11 weeks)			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module Co-ordinator:	Dr N MacQueen			
Lecturer(s)/Tutor(s):	Dr N MacQueen			

IR5059 Political Order and Violence in the Middle East				
SCOTCAT Credits:	30	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	2
Planned timetable:	10.00 am – 12.00 noon Wed			
<p>This module examines the causes and consequences of political order and violence in the Middle East. What constitutes a political order? Why and how are political orders established? What role does violence play in constituting political orders? Why and how does violence ensue with the breakdown of political orders? Drawing on IR, Sociological, and State-formation theories, we will examine different episodes of order and violence in contemporary Middle East politics: from the collapse of the Ottoman Empire to the latest Arab Uprisings, looking at colonial orders, regime-society violence, violent resistance against occupation, and civil wars.</p>				
Programme module type:	Optional for all Postgraduate programmes in the School in International Relations.			
Anti-requisite(s):	IR4601			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 1 lecture and 1 seminar.			
Assessment pattern:	Take-home Written Examination = 40%, Coursework (Essay 50%, Presentation 10%) = 60%			
Module Co-ordinator:	Dr A Saouli			
Lecturer(s)/Tutor(s):	Dr A Saouli			

IR5403 Political Philosophy and World Order				
SCOTCAT Credits:	30	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	2
Planned timetable:	11.00 am - 1.00 pm Wed			
<p>This module discusses philosophical reflections on the idea of world order through a study of certain key texts of political philosophy, selected each year from an approved list. This will consist of some Roman and Greek texts (e.g. Thucydides, History, Lucretius De Rerum Natura) some medieval Christian texts (e.g. Augustine, De Civitate Dei, Dante, De Monarchia), some modern texts (e.g. Hegel, Philosophy of History) and some twentieth century texts (for example, Voegelin, Order and History, Santayana, Dominations and Powers). These texts would be bracketed by a general methodological and philosophical introduction and a concluding discussion of the implications of these readings.</p>				
Programme module type:	Optional for International Political Theory, Peace and Conflict Studies and International Security Studies Postgraduate Programmes.			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 2-hour seminars.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module Co-ordinator:	Prof N J H Rengger			

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IR5412 'Reason of State': Origin, Nature and Career of a Concept				
SCOTCAT Credits:	30	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	2
Planned timetable:	3.00 pm - 5.00 pm Thu			
The module examines the meaning, origins, development, and significance of the notion of 'reason of state' in western political thought. It explores the differences between 'reason of state', 'national interest', 'public interest' and 'common interest'. It engages with a variety of writers from different centuries (e.g. Aristotle, Cicero, Tacitus, John of Salisbury, Machiavelli, Althusius, Botero, Fichte, Morgenthau, Gramsci, Schmitt, Foucault). It encourages students to demonstrate their grasp of the concept by explaining how it works in contemporary global politics.				
Programme module type:	Optional for International Political Theory, Peace and Conflict Studies and International Security Studies Postgraduate Programmes			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 2-hour seminar.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module Co-ordinator:	Dr G Slomp			

IR5413 Topics in International Political Thought: Hannah Arendt				
SCOTCAT Credits:	30	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	2
Availability restrictions:	Students in the MLitt in IPT have first choice in entering this module. After IPT students' needs have been filled, it will be open to students in other MLitt			
Planned timetable:	1.00 pm - 3.00 pm Thu			
This module introduces students to key themes in the international realm through a close engagement with the ideas of a single theorist. This year's seminar will focus on the work of Hannah Arendt.				
Programme module type:	Optional for International Political Theory and other Postgraduate Programmes within the School.			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 2-hour seminar.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100% (2 x 3,000-word essay = 50% each)			
Module Co-ordinator:	Prof P Hayden			

IR5415 Ideologies and Social Movements in the Middle East				
SCOTCAT Credits:	30	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	1
Availability restrictions:	Students in the MLitt in IPT have first choice in entering this module. After IPT students' needs have been filled, it will be open to students in other MLitt			
Planned timetable:	10.00 am - 12.00 noon Wed			
This module examines prominent ideologies in the modern history of the Middle East, and the role ideas play in the political mobilisation of society. The module draws particular attention to anti-colonial, nationalist, religious and liberal social movements; it compares the formation, implementation and evolution of the different sets of ideologies, and the relationships between the social movements and the state. The module aims to a) deepen students' understanding of ideologies in the region, beyond culturalist and power-political frameworks, and b) to highlight the important role of societal forces in Middle East politics.				
Programme module type:	Optional for all Postgraduate Programmes in the School of International Relations.			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 2 hours of seminars (x 11 weeks), 1-hour tutorial (x 11 weeks), 2 office consultation hours (x 12 weeks)			
Assessment pattern:	3-hour Written Examination = 50%, Coursework = 50%			
Module Co-ordinator:	Dr J Gani			

IR5527 Conflicts, Security and Democracy in the Greater Caucasus (30)				
SCOTCAT Credits:	30	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	1
Planned timetable:	11.00 am - 1.00 pm Wed			
<p>This module examines one of the world's most fascinating yet least understood regions. The Caucasus are rich in history, languages and culture, having developed as the crossroads between three great empires, the Ottoman, Persian and Russian. It is also a region riven by conflicts and remains of geopolitical importance to world powers, not least for reasons of energy. The module gives particular attention to the sources of the many wars in the Caucasus; the failed efforts to solve them; and the divergent interests there of such actors as Turkey, Iran, Russia, the United States and the EU.</p>				
Programme module type:	Optional for Middle East and Central Asian Security Studies Postgraduate Programme and other Postgraduate Programmes within the School of International Relations.			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 2-hour seminar.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module Co-ordinator:	Prof R Fawn			
Lecturer(s)/Tutor(s):	Prof R Fawn			

IR5528 Social Movements, Revolutions and Authoritarianism in North Africa				
SCOTCAT Credits:	30	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	2
Planned timetable:	11.00 am - 1.00 pm Wed			
<p>This module examines the dynamics and outcomes of social protests in the authoritarian regimes of North African region in the post-colonial period. It aims to describe the structural and inter-subjective features of democratic, authoritarian and revolutionary change, and to locate them in vis-à-vis the evolution of regional politics and of the international system. It describes the specificities and dilemmas of authoritarian and democratic governance in each polity with a particular focus on the developments of the last decade (post-2001). It examines in details the relationship between the state and social movements within the larger context of processes of political and economic liberalisation as well as regional (north-south) integration.</p>				
Programme module type:	Optional for Middle East and Central Asia Security Studies and all other Postgraduate Programmes in the School.			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 1 lecture and 1 tutorial.			
Assessment pattern:	Coursework = 100%			
Module Co-ordinator:	Dr F Volpi			

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IR5728 Foreign Policy Analysis				
SCOTCAT Credits:	30	SCQF Level 11	Semester:	2
Planned timetable:	11.00 am - 1.00 pm Thu			
<p>This module covers the literature, research topics, and current issues in the area of foreign policy analysis – a significant subfield within the study of international relations. Research in this area is designed to answer the question: Why do states do what they do in international politics? The module is organised in a basic "levels of analysis" framework that roughly corresponds to the historical development of the study of foreign policy analysis – from outside, 'external' approaches associated with general international relations theories, to societal sources of culture and public opinion, to government organization and elite decision-making. An emphasis will be given to decision-making approaches to foreign policy, with a particular focus on psychological dimensions. The political psychology of foreign policy decision-making has become a dominant area of research in foreign policy analysis and offers a unique, complimentary perspective to an understanding of international relations. The emphasis in the course is on theories of foreign policy, as well as bridging from theories to practice. Students will also be exposed to the substance/content of the foreign policies of various countries.</p>				
Programme module type:	Optional for International Security Studies Postgraduate Programme and other Postgraduate Programmes within the School.			
Anti-requisite(s):	IR5035			
Learning and teaching methods and delivery:	Weekly contact: 2-hour seminar (x 11 weeks) 1 x 2-hour practical class (during semester)			
Assessment pattern:	3-hour Written Examination = 50%, Coursework = 50%			
Module Co-ordinator:	Dr R Beasley			
Lecturer(s)/Tutor(s):	Dr R Beasley			