



University
of Victoria

POLI 348 International Security

Instructor Spring 2023: Mehdi Hashemi

Course delivery: In the Spring 2023 term, this course will be delivered face-to-face and on campus.

Course description:

Traditionally, the study of international security focused on the causes of violent conflict between states, mostly major powers. Changes in the international system and the expansion of the realm of security studies have, according to one scholar, rendered security an essentially contested topic. Security scholars and practitioners now grapple with fundamental questions concerning the nature of security, such as 1) what does security, and insecurity, mean, 2) how do we assess threat claims, 3) what are the primary threats to international security, 4) whose security is paramount, states or individuals, and 5) who are the legitimate providers of security? This course aims to provide students with the tools and ability to address these important questions, through the application of IR theory and contemporary case study.

Prerequisite: POLI 240 or permission of the department

Course outcomes/objectives:

- Develop written and verbal communication through essay writing and discussion
- Examine the scholarly theories of international security
- Develop a critical attitude to varied perspectives
- Use theory and evidence to make sense of global conflict
- Explore debates using credible media sources

Topics may include:

Causes of war
Theories of international security
Migration and security
Terrorism
International security cooperation

This summary provides an overall sense of the course and is not considered an official course outline. Detailed course outlines will be available for all registered students on the first day of class.