

Scuola Superiore di Catania

Corso specialistico
a.a. 2019-2020

“Sicurezza e Relazioni Internazionali, sicurezza umana e studi critici sulla sicurezza”
“IR & Security, human security and critical security studies”

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Security is a crucial issue of world politics. Over time, security studies have adapted to the changing of national and international settings. This course explores the security issue in the IR studies and addresses specific theoretical frameworks and approaches focusing on the most advanced aspects of the literature.

Human Security

When human security entered the policy and research agenda it reoriented the focus to individuals rather than states. What is the status of human security in IR studies today? The tension between state and non-state actors providing security is the essence of this portion of the course that contests the dominant, realist approach to security promoted during the Cold War.

IR&Security

The security policies of the states and the collective and multilateral management of international security problems have gone through a remarkable process of transformation passing from the past to the contemporary world system. This part of the course explains why the traditional instruments for providing security to the state like hi-tech armaments and well-trained armies, and also the ways of building security in geographical limited international systems and regions like military pacts and alliances, have been joined by new forms of security management like multilateral peace operations, arms control arrangements, and regional security partnerships.

Critical Security Studies

The origins of critical security studies as a distinct school of thought go back to the early 1990s. Citizens, social groups and movements, intellectuals and activists have long called for thinking beyond the Cold War categories that restricted ways of thinking about and practicing security. This part of the course focuses on the call for rethinking security. 9/11 has showed that prevalent approaches to security are far from being able to account for the world's current insecurities. The need to engage directly with issues related to war and peace, hard and soft power, state and non-state actors in world politics represents the essence of this course. The course takes seriously both the deconstructive and reconstructive aspects of critical security studies.