

WAR STUDIES:
UNDERSTANDING MODERN WAR AND WARFARE

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The course ‘WAR STUDIES: UNDERSTANDING MODERN WAR AND WARFARE’ combines two sub-disciplines of IR – Security Studies and Strategic Studies – in order to pursue two objectives.

It first aims at explaining the causes of the international wars occurring in the contemporary international order. It also sheds light on the methods and modalities used to wage these wars and the political and normative environment within which they are embedded.

In doing so, the course focuses on the traditional military dimension of security, thus postulating an underlying continuity of today’s world with earlier eras. The underlying cognitive interest is nevertheless critical of the dominating discourses held by politicians and recommendations made by experts.

1. War and Warfare: Theoretical and Historical Preliminaries

I. War is Like Love - It Always Finds A Way

2. Nuclear Proliferation: the War that Did Not – Yet? – Take Place

3. US-China: the Next Major War?

4. Israel-Palestine: a Never-Ending (State of) War

5. ‘Desert Storm’, ‘Iraqi Freedom’: from a Defensive War to a Sinister War

6. Democratic Wars: the Wars that Are – Recurrently! – Launched

II. War is Like Football - At The End, the West Always Wins

7. Democratic Victories: the Culture of Carnage

8. Professional Armies and Corporate Warriors: Wars Without the People

9. Missiles to Drones to Robots: Big Brother is Killing You

10. Politics and Media: Blame-Shifting and Over-Selling

11. Global Terrorism: Democracies’ Achilles’ Heel?

12. What Have We Learned?

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