Module Specification

Contemporary Security Issues

Version: 2026-27, v3.0, Approved

Contents

Part 1: Information

Module title: Contemporary Security Issues

Module code: UBGMGA-30-3

Level: Level 6

For implementation from: 2026-27

UWE credit rating: 30

ECTS credit rating: 15

College: College of Arts, Technology and Environment

School: CATE School of Architecture and Environment

Partner institutions: None

Field: Geography and Environmental Management

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: No

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: Today, challenges faced by societies generate substantial political, economic, socio-cultural and environmental insecurities. This module seeks to develop students' understanding of several key challenges experienced by societies, including: conflict and small scale wars, socio-economic inequalities, terror and crime, forced migration, and underdevelopment. By undertaking this module students will develop and harness a set of conceptual and practical tools to interrogate insecurities associated with various contemporary societal challenges.

The interdisciplinary teaching and learning approach is the key feature of this module, which is underpinned by contemporary research and practice of human geography and security studies.

Features: This module combines lectures, seminars, and independent study to develop a critical understanding of contemporary security challenges and responses. It introduces key theoretical approaches, examines the geographical, social, and political dynamics of insecurity across diverse contexts, and explores how different stakeholders shape policy and practice. Case studies and topical issues provide a real-world focus, while structured activities build skills in critical reading, analysis, and effective communication through both written and verbal work.

Educational aims: On completion of the module, students will have substantive academic and empirical knowledge of societal insecurities and practices employed to address such issues.

Outline syllabus: The module is divided into three broad sections. It begins with an overview of some of the dominant trends associated with insecurities as experienced by societies. In this section a focal point will be placed on existing theoretical approaches to security and society within the discipline of human geography and security studies. The second section focuses on the analysis of geographical, socio-political, and cultural dynamics and expressions of insecurities within various localities across the world. Students will be exposed to the practical context including the major drivers and causes of societal insecurities. The third section places a strong emphasis on how insecurities are addressed and resolved. It is concerned with policies and practices that address societal issues considered within this module. The section encourages students to interrogate practices of national governments and global governance.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Learning will be delivered through a combination of lectures, seminars, and guided independent study, designed to build both substantive knowledge and critical skills. Case studies and topical issues will be used to illustrate contemporary security challenges and responses, encouraging

students to engage with real-world debates. Structured reading and discussion will support the development of critical engagement with academic literature, and the assessments will provide opportunities to practise clear communication and evidence-based argument.

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 Identify and evaluate contemporary security challenges in society using a range of topical issues and case studies.

MO2 Critically assess a variety of responses to security challenges and analyse how these are shaped by the agendas of different stakeholders.

MO3 Demonstrate critical engagement with academic literature and apply it to the analysis of evolving security issues.

MO4 Communicate complex arguments clearly and effectively, using appropriate evidence to support critical analysis and evaluation.

Hours to be allocated: 300

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 228 hours

Face-to-face learning = 72 hours

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link

https://rl.talis.com/3/uwe/lists/A8AD794D-144C-A877-4B7E-6001CBF5FA18.html?lang=en-GB

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: The Assessment:

Written Assignment (1500 words) - Security Brief: students will be required to submit a narrated e-presentation on one of the topics covered within the module. The purpose of this assessment is to allow students to examine knowledge of one of the

topics discussed in the module in depth, and to experience and practise communicating the complexities of a specific topic in a clear, concise and convincing manner. The e-presentation will require students to introduce and contextualise the topic of their choice.

The security brief builds on practical skills developed throughout the module and includes: convincing and concise presentation skills, and effective analytical skills. These skills will help students to demonstrate their ability: to identify key information; to understand levels of confidence in their own analysis; to communicate their analysis to stakeholders.

Report (3000 words) – Students will be free to choose the subject matter of the report (a problem they wish to report on). Students will be free to choose an appropriate audience towards whom the report will be directed (the organisation or institution). This piece of assessment is intended to help students to develop their writing and critical analysis skills. It will also help students to consider the practical relevance of the scholarly study of the topic of their choice In this context, students are assessed on whether they have identified a relevant audience to which to provide a report on the chosen problem and whether they present in an appropriate manner for their chosen audience.

Resit Written Assignment - Security Brief, a similar brief to that described above, which may include some topic changes.
Resit Report - a similar brief to that described above, which may include some topic changes.

Formative Feedback - Both pieces of assessment will be supported by formative feedback and guidance. Selection of topics for both assessments will be monitored through an on-line workbook where the students and teaching team can communicate about and comment on written work. In addition to this each student will be given the opportunity to provide a 5 minute presentation on their brief and report to their peers during practical workshops. This will allow for both peer-to-peer feedback and feedback from teaching staff.

Assessment tasks:

Written Assignment (First Sit)

Description: Security Brief e-presentation (1500 words)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Report (First Sit)

Description: Report (3000 words)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Written Assignment (Resit)

Description: Security Brief e-presentation (1500 words)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: No

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Report (Resit)

Description: Report (2000 words)

Weighting: 50 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3, MO4

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Geography [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2023-24