



Module Specification

Geographies of Security

Version: 2026-27, v3.0, Approved

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Geographies of Security

Module code: UBGMSD-15-2

Level: Level 5

For implementation from: 2026-27

UWE credit rating: 15

ECTS credit rating: 7.5

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: This module examines the concept of security through the intersecting lenses of geography, geopolitics, and international development. It begins by exploring how security is framed and understood across these disciplines, before analysing the evolution of military force through key historical periods, including modern warfare, nuclear deterrence, and the rise of new technologies such as drones. The final section focuses on contemporary security challenges, from global environmental and health threats to personal and human security concerns linked to

gender and identity. Throughout, students will engage with a range of theoretical and real-world perspectives to understand the shifting nature of conflict, power, and protection.

Features: The aim of this module is to provide students with a critical understanding of security as a key concept in contemporary geography, geopolitics, and international development. Students will examine how notions of security and insecurity are constructed, experienced, and addressed across different scales—from military conflict and state power to environmental degradation and human vulnerability. The module traces the evolution of strategic thought and the use of military force, from the emergence of modern warfare to the role of nuclear deterrence, drone technology, and the proliferation of small arms. In the final section, students will explore broader sources of insecurity, including global health threats, environmental change, and gender-based violence, and consider how different political communities contribute to or mitigate these risks.

In engaging with these themes, students will be supported to apply key theoretical approaches, conduct independent research, and build persuasive evidence-based arguments. The module emphasises the development of core academic skills, including critical reading, data analysis, and the evaluation of scholarly and empirical sources. These skills are essential for further study and will enable students to engage meaningfully with contemporary debates about security in an increasingly interconnected and uncertain world.

Educational aims: This module aims to develop students' critical understanding of security as a central geographical concern, introducing key theories and real-world case studies to explore the sources and impacts of security and insecurity. It further seeks to build students' capacity for independent research and evidence-based argument, while strengthening skills in critical reading, analysis, and clear communication in both written and verbal forms.

Outline syllabus: The module is composed of three parts.

The first part of the module will focus on situating the concept of security within geography, geopolitics and international development.

The second part of the module focuses on matters relating to the field of 'strategic studies'. This section will concentrate on the evolution of the military use of force. Various historical and strategic eras will be considered: the origins of 'modern' warfare; World Wars One and Two and the rise of 'total' warfare; the development of nuclear weaponry and the emergence of nuclear deterrence, and post-Cold trends relating to the proliferation of small arms, missile technology (including chemical and biological weapons), as well as the so-called 'revolution in military affairs' (RMA) and the use of drones.

The third part of the module will focus more broadly on the field of 'security studies'. This section will concentrate primarily on the sources of security and insecurity in the contemporary era. It will focus on the various political communities that cause insecurity and/or provide security, including, for example, states, nations and civilisations. Furthermore, (in) security will be considered on a global level through the examination of 'slow' (e.g. environmental) and 'grey-area' (e.g. pandemic) threats as well as on a personal level through the examination of issues relating to gender and security and human security.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Weekly lectures and seminars are used to introduce students to arguments and information regarding topics covered and to provide students with the opportunity to discuss substantive issues related to this material.

Written feedback on all assessment is intended to aid students in developing knowledge of the relevant subject matter and research, analysis and communication skills.

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

MO1 Assess and explain the significance of security as a growing area of concern within geography, and identify key sources of security and insecurity across different spatial and political contexts.

MO2 Describe and evaluate key theoretical approaches to security and insecurity, and explain their relevance and applicability to real-world issues and case studies.

MO3 Conduct independent research using empirical data and scholarly analysis, and construct clear, well-evidenced arguments through critical reading, analysis, and written and verbal communication.

Hours to be allocated: 150

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 114 hours

Face-to-face learning = 36 hours

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at [readinglists.uwe.ac.uk](https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ubgmsd-15-2.html) via the following link <https://uwe.rl.talis.com/modules/ubgmsd-15-2.html>

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: Presentation - The students are asked at the start of the semester to pick one of the topics within the remit of Geographies of Security / Human Security and explore this further in a case study. Through a series of engagement tasks they are guided to the delivery of a 15 minute presentation on their chosen topic and case study, including a mitigation proposal.

Formative feedback will be in the form of discussion and activities based on the engagement tasks as the module progresses. Students submit each stage via Blackboard which is used by the tutors to monitor the progress and provide tailored support. Student are able to ask for support during the sessions. Where not enough time was available to support all students, further one on one sessions can be scheduled outside of in class hours.

The resit strategy is the same as for the first sit.

Assessment tasks:

Presentation (First Sit)

Description: 15 min presentation on a human security topic of choice, as stated in the assessment brief.

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

Presentation (Resit)

Description: 15 min presentation on human securities topic of choice, as stipulated in the assessment brief.

Weighting: 100 %

Final assessment: Yes

Group work: No

Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study:

Environmental Management and Practice {Foundation} [GCET] BSc (Hons) 2024-25

Environmental Management and Practice {Foundation} [GCET] DipHE 2024-25

Environmental Management and Practice {Foundation} [GCET] BSc (Hons) 2024-25

Geography [Frenchay] BA (Hons) 2025-26