

**MGIMO University**  
**School of Government and International Affairs**

*Syllabus approved*  
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Mikhail Troitskiy  
«     »                      2018

**International Security**  
Undergraduate Course Syllabus

Instructors

Prof. Alexander I. Nikitin, Associate Prof. Yulia A. Nikitina

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This syllabus is designed in accordance with the MGIMO Educational Standard for the Bachelor Program in International Affairs.

Author \_\_\_\_\_ Prof. A.I. Nikitin

Author \_\_\_\_\_ Associate Prof. Y.A. Nikitina

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**PART 1:  
INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION, COURSE DESCRIPTION  
AND TEACHING METHODS**

**1.1 General information**

- Full course title: International Security
- Type of course: Elective
- Level of course B.A.
- Year of study: 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Number of ECTS credits allocated: 2 ECTS
- Name of lecturer(s) and office hours:
  - Dr Alexander Nikitin, PhD (doctor nauk)
  - Professor, Department of Political Theory
  - Office hours: TBC
  - Dr Yulia Nikitina. PhD (kandidat nauk)
  - Associate Professor, Department of World Politics
  - Office hours: TBC

**1.2 Course aims and learning outcomes**

**The course is addressed to** the students specializing in the fields of international relations, international security, international organizations, and international media.

By the end of the course students are expected to be well acquainted with and oriented in the modern terminology, concepts and practices of international security policies of the major states, including Russian Federation and other P5 and G7 powers, and of major international organizations.

**Learning outcomes:**

By the end of this course students should be able to:

- To know the modern international security threats, challenges, as well as national and international policies and mechanisms aimed to meet them;
- To extend comparative analysis of modern international organizations acting in security area (UN, OSCE, NATO, EU, CSTO, SCO, etc.) and their policies;
- To present typology, case studies and estimate practices of peace-keeping, peace enforcement and other types of operations in conflict areas by the international actors aimed at conflict intervention and conflict resolution;
- To introduce concepts, definitions, typologies of terrorism/counter-terrorism activities;
- To consider and analyze modern challenges of nuclear proliferation, status of nuclear armaments/disarmament and global efforts to minimize the risk of nuclear war;
- To comprehensively conceptualize the international security area within a frameworks of modern political science, international and humanitarian law, theories of international relations,
- To know about different international and regional security threats.

**1.3 Course requirements and grading plan**

**Course requirements**

**Requirements for presentations about international security threats**

**You should choose only international or regional threats, which can be settled only by collective efforts of many countries**

About 15 minutes (which is usually about 10 slides)

On the first slide put down your name, on the last slide put down the bibliography that you used

Topic: any security threat

Examples from the UN document *A More Secure World: Our Shared Responsibility* (2004)

- **6 types of threats:**
- war between states;
- violence within states;
- poverty, infectious disease, and environmental degradation;
- nuclear, chemical, biological, and radiological weapons;
- terrorism;
- and transnational crime

You can choose a specific threat (e.g. terrorism only in one specific region)

How to analyze a threat in your presentation:

- Definition of a threat (official national or international documents; influential think tanks' reports). Give at least TWO different definitions
- Is it a regional or global threat?
- Scope of the threat (operationalize the chosen threat):
- E.g. number of terrorist attacks, number of small arms illegally sold worldwide, drug trafficking numbers... Use official sources and indexes
- Ways to counter this threat (regional, global: multilateral and institutionalized). Give specific detailed examples
- Problems, which occur when the international community tries to counter this threat (e.g. definition of terrorists groups, etc)

## **Requirements for policy paper**

**The policy paper should be addressed to one of the international security organizations or an intergovernmental organization, which has a security dimension (UN, NATO, EU, CSTO, CIS, OSCE, SCO, African Union, ECOWAS, etc)**

- Word count: 1500 words
- Bibliography at the end and references on every page

Suggested structure:

- 1) Your addressee (international security organization)
- 2) Why this security problem is important to solve
- 3) What is the current strategy to solve this problem by this organization or national governments
- 4) Why this strategy does not work perfectly
- 5) Your recommendations how this organization can deal with this security problem (methods, instruments, etc)

## **Grading plan**

Presentation – 40%

Policy paper – 40%

Attendance and participation in class discussions - 20%

Written exam on the basis of the selected chapters from the Handbook – only for those who missed a lot of classes or did not submit some assignments

## PART 2. COURSE CONTENT

### 2.1 Types of work

#### Course Structure and Content

№	Topic	Lectures	Seminars	Homework	Total
1.	Global and Regional International Institutions in Security Field	2		2	4
2.	Security Theories. UN Charter and Evolution of UN Peace Support Policies	2		2	4
3.	NATO: Role in Conflict Areas and NATO-Russia Relations	2		2	4
4.	Regional Security Actors: OSCE and European Union: Policy and Cases of Conflict Resolution	2		2	4
5.	Collective Security Treaty Organization: Instruments and Policies in Security Field	2		2	4
6.	End of Post-Soviet Space and Shanghai Cooperation Organization	2		2	4
7.	Terrorism/Counter-Terrorism: Political and Legal Aspects	2		2	4
8.	Nuclear Weapons, Nuclear Disarmament and NPT Regime	2		2	4
9.	Methodological seminar on the course assignments		2	2	4
10.	Students' presentations on security threats		14	22	36
<b>Subtotal</b>		<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>72</b>

Types of work	Academic hours
<b>Total</b>	<b>72</b>
<b><i>Total for lectures, seminars</i></b>	<b>32</b>
Lectures	16
Seminars	16
Written tests and/or exam	
<b><i>Homework</i></b>	<b>40</b>
Written and oral home assignments	20
Preparation for lectures, seminars and written tests	20

### 2.2. Course content and readings by topic

#### Topics Description

### **1. Global and Regional International Institutions in Security Field**

Principles of decision-making on security issues in UN Security Council, General Assembly and in G-8/G-7 format. Regional security organizations under provisions of the Chapter 8 of the UN Charter. "Families" of regional security/political regional organizations on five continents. Relations between global and regional institutions, share of responsibilities and functions.

#### **Seminar 1. Global and Regional International Institutions in Security Field**

Compulsory readings

1. The Handbook of Global Security Policy, ed. by Mary Kaldor, Iavor Rangelov 2014. (Electronic version available for all students)

### **2. Security Theories. UN Charter and Evolution of UN Peace Support Policies**

Principles for conflict mediation and "soft peace-keeping" in Chapter 6 of the UN Charter. Principles for coercive peace-enforcement in Chapter 7 of the UN Charter. Mixed formats (operations "Six-and-a-Half" and "Seven-and-a-Half").

Commission on Sovereignty and Conflicts and "Responsibility to Protect" UN Report. UN Department of Peace Operations. Modern typology and statistics of peace operations. HIPPO-2015 UN Report. UN lessons learned from engagements in conflicts.

#### **Seminar 2. Security Theories. UN Charter and Evolution of UN Peace Support Policies**

Compulsory readings

1. The Handbook of Global Security Policy, ed. by Mary Kaldor, Iavor Rangelov 2014. (Electronic version available for all students)

Additional reading:

1. Global Peace Operations. Annual Review – 2013. Ed. By. L.Gleason. – London, Boulder, 2013. – 343 p.
2. Intergovernmental Negotiations and Decision Making at the United Nations: A Guide. – UN: NY, 2009. – 172 p.

### **3. NATO: Role in Conflict Areas and NATO-Russia relations.**

Evolution of NATO's role in post-Soviet period. NATO's enlargement policy and conflicts. NATO's role in former Yugoslavia. NATO's role in international operations in Afghanistan. NATO operation in Libya. Rules and exceptions.

Dynamics of NATO-Russia relations in post-Soviet period. Crises in relations in 1999, 2008, 2014-2016. Two "editions" of NATO-Russia Council and principles of its operation. Interaction of Afghanistan. Prospects for joint conflict resolution policy and necessity for coordinated conflict response. Internal debates in Russia on ideological/political aspects of relations with the NATO.

#### **Seminar 3. NATO: Role in Conflict Areas and NATO-Russia relations.**

Compulsory readings

1. The Handbook of Global Security Policy, ed. by Mary Kaldor, Iavor Rangelov 2014. (Electronic version available for all students)

Additional reading:

1. Global Peace Operations. Annual Review – 2013. Ed. By. L.Gleason. – London, Boulder, 2013. – 343 p.

#### **4. OSCE and European Union: Policy and Cases of Conflict Resolution Operations**

CSCE/OSCE as a universal interstate organization for Eurasia. Results and weaknesses of the OSCE policies. Conflict Prevention Center in Vienna. OSCE summit in Kazakhstan (2010).

European Union in search of European security and defense identity. Failure of initial attempts to create EU joint military forces. Creation of EU Rapid Reaction contingents (CJTFs). EU participation in 14 operations on 3 continents.

#### **Seminar 4. OSCE and European Union: Policy and Cases of Conflict Resolution Operations**

Compulsory readings

1. The Handbook of Global Security Policy, ed. by Mary Kaldor, Iavor Rangelov 2014. (Electronic version available for all students)

Additional reading:

1. Global Peace Operations. Annual Review – 2013. Ed. By. L.Gleason. – London, Boulder, 2013. – 343 p.

#### **5. Collective Security Treaty Organization: Instruments and Policies in Security Field**

Collective Security Treaty of 1992 and basic principles of security cooperation between the new independent states. Stages of political-military integration. CIS Military Cooperation Coordination Staff. CIS / CSTO comparative study.

Institutionalization of CSTO in 2002-2003. Dilemma of working with “new” and “old” security challenges. Impasse in CSTO-NATO relations. Achievements and problems of CSTO policies on various directions.

#### **Seminar 5. Collective Security Treaty Organization: Instruments and Policies in Security Field**

Compulsory readings

1. The Handbook of Global Security Policy, ed. by Mary Kaldor, Iavor Rangelov 2014. (Electronic version available for all students)

#### **6. End of Post-Soviet Space and Shanghai Cooperation Organization: Debates on Security Functions**



Creation of competing integrative schemes on post-Soviet space. Multi-vector policies of most of the NIS. Re-configuration and erosion of post-Soviet space.

Creation of Shanghai Cooperation Organization on the basis of system of negotiations over the borders. Interests of Russia, China and Central Asian states regarding SCO. SCO “enlargement” (observers and partners). Erosion of SCO’s functions: from security to general social-economic cooperation. CSTO / SCO comparative study.

## **Seminar 6. End of Post-Soviet Space and Shanghai Cooperation Organization: Debates on Security Functions**

Compulsory readings

1. The Handbook of Global Security Policy, ed. by Mary Kaldor, Iavor Rangelov 2014. (Electronic version available for all students)

Additional readings:

A.Nikitin. Russian Foreign Policy in Fragmented Post-Soviet Space. – In: International Journal on World Peace, June 2008, vol. XXV No.2, pp.7-31

## **7. Terrorism/Counter-Terrorism: Political and Legal Aspects**

History of Terrorism. Convention of League of Nations. 16 basic UN conventions on terrorist activities. UN Anti-criminal Committee’s definition of terrorism. EU and Council of Europe basic documents on terrorism. African Union Convention. League of Arab States Convention.

National laws on terrorism (USA, UK, Russia, etc.). International coordination of counter-terrorist activities. Main parameters of legal/political regulation of terrorist/counter-terrorist activities.

## **Seminar 7. Terrorism/Counter-Terrorism: Political and Legal Aspects**

Compulsory readings

1. The Handbook of Global Security Policy, ed. by Mary Kaldor, Iavor Rangelov 2014. (Electronic version available for all students)

Additional readings:

1. SIPRI Yearbook on Disarmament. – Stockholm, 2013. – 1052 p.
2. International Instruments Related to the Prevention and Suppression of International Terrorism. – UN: NY, 2009. – 452 p.

## **8. Nuclear Weapons and NPT Regime.**

Invention of nuclear weapons and dangers of WMD. Concept of nuclear deterrence. Strategic, middle range and tactical weapons. Non-Proliferation Treaty and problems with the NPT regime. Missile Technologies Control Regime (MTCR).

IAEA and principles of its operation. Additional protocols and systems of IAEA inspections. Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). Prospects for Fissile Materials Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT).

Logic of nuclear and conventional arms race/disarmament.

US-Soviet SALT negotiations and START-1 Treaty. Problems with START-2 and SORT treaties. Main parameters of the START-3.

ABM Treaty and modern political difficulties with the new ABM systems. INF Treaty and its implementation. Conventional disarmament and CFE Treaty.

### **Seminar 8. Nuclear Weapons and NPT Regime.**

Compulsory readings

1. The Handbook of Global Security Policy, ed. by Mary Kaldor, Iavor Rangelov 2014. (Electronic version available for all students)

#### **Additional reading:**

1. Arms Control: Does It Have a Future? Ed. by S.Oznobishchev and A.Nikitin. – Moscow: ROSSPEN, 2013. – 279 p.
2. Nuclear Doctrines and Strategies. Ed. by M.Fitzpatrick, A.Nikitin, S.Oznobishchev. – Amsterdam, Berlin, Oxford, Tokyo, Washington (DC): IOS Press, 2008.
3. Lessons to be Learned from Non-Proliferation Failures and Successes. Ed. by A.Nikitin. - Amsterdam, Berlin, Oxford, Tokyo, Washington (DC): IOS Press, 2009.

### **2.3. Essay topics/Exam Questions**

1st group of exam questions:

1. UN principles of peace operations (in UN Charter, as well as in modern UN documents)
2. Typology of peace operations. Examples of types and variations of operations.
3. Conflict in Tajikistan and peace operations in Central Asia.
4. Conflict in South Ossetia/Georgia, peace-keeping operation in South Ossetia/Georgia, events and consequences of the Russian-Georgian war of 2008.
5. Conflict in Ukraine, role of great powers and international organizations.
6. Conflict in Moldova/Transnistria and prospects for its settlement.
7. Conflict in former Yugoslavia and peace operations of the UN, NATO, EU in this region.
8. Conflicts around Iraq and international coalitions of 1991 and 2003-2010.
9. Conflict in Afghanistan, legal and political aspects of operation of international coalition in Afghanistan.
10. Definitions of terrorism and legal aspects of fight against terrorism.

2nd Group of exam questions:

1. Regional Security Organizations: their role, rights and responsibilities in conflict resolution
2. Evolution of NATO's policy regarding conflicts.
3. Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE/OSCE) and its role in conflict resolution.
4. European Union and its role in conflict resolution. Cases of EU operations.
5. Conflict in Syria, role of great powers and international organizations.
6. Collective Security Treaty and Shanghai Cooperation Organization functions, history, problems.
7. Doctrinal documents of the Russian Federation : Russia's stand on military and conflict resolution policies.
8. Modern threats and risks to the Non-Proliferation of WMD regime.
9. Basic disarmament treaties.

10. Typology of conflicts and wars.

#### 2.4. Exam timing

- Spring semester tests – last week of May

#### 2.5. Consolidated reading list (in alphabetic order)

2. A.Nikitin. Russian Foreign Policy in Fragmented Post-Soviet Space. – In: International Journal on World Peace, June 2008, vol. XXV No.2, pp.7-31
3. Arms Control: Does It Have a Future? Ed. by S.Oznobishchev and A.Nikitin. – Moscow: ROSSPEN, 2013. – 279 p.
4. CSTO: Responsible Security. Report by I.Jurgens, A.Nikitin, Yu.Nikitina, S.Kulik. – INSOR: Moscow, 2011. – 62 p.
5. Global Peace Operations. Annual Review – 2013. Ed. By. L.Gleason. – London, Boulder, 2013. – 343 p.
6. Intergovernmental Negotiations and Decision Making at the United Nations: A Guide. – UN: NY, 2009. – 172 p.
7. International Cooperation in the Arctic: Issues of Security and Development. – Ed. by A.Zagorsky and A.Nikitin. – Moscow: ROSSPEN, 2013. – 103 p.
8. International Instruments Related to the Prevention and Suppression of International Terrorism. – UN: NY, 2009. – 452 p.
9. International Security Organizations in Eurasia: Rivalry and Cooperation. – Ed. by A.Nikitin and A.Kazantsev. – Moscow: MGIMO, 2009. – 187 p.
10. Lessons to be Learned from Non-Proliferation Failures and Successes. Ed. by A.Nikitin. - Amsterdam, Berlin, Oxford, Tokyo, Washington (DC): IOS Press, 2009.
11. Nuclear Doctrines and Strategies. Ed. by M.Fitzpatrick, A.Nikitin, S.Oznobishchev. – Amsterdam, Berlin, Oxford, Tokyo, Washington (DC): IOS Press, 2008.
12. SIPRI Yearbook on Disarmament. – Stockholm, 2013. – 1052 p.
13. The Handbook of Global Security Policy, 2014. (Electronic version available for all students)
14. The United Nations Disarmament Yearbook 2013. – UN: NY, 2013. – 518 p.
15. The United Nations Today (Basic facts About the United Nations). – UN: NY, 2012. – 388 p.
16. World Religions and Norms of War. – UN: NY, 2009. – 352 p.

### **PART 3. FINAL REMARKS**

- Plagiarism is considered as a severe violation and as an indication of incompetence in the course. Plagiarism is understood as making of one's text using compilation method for other people's publications, even connected with own phrases and sentences. Collective performance of individual tasks is also unacceptable. Proved plagiarism an F-mark is given regardless of the fulfillment of all other requirements.
- Assignments are to be handed in on the due date. Late submissions will translate into the lowering of the grade by 1/3 of a grade for each day of delay.
- Students are asked to keep a copy of all work submitted for evaluation.