SECURITY STUDIES: ISSUES AND PERSPECTIVES

Semester: VII	
Programme: POLITICAL SCIENCE	
Course: SECURITY STUDIES: ISSUES AND PERSPECTIVES	
Paper code:	**Credits: 4**
Hours/week: 4	
Category: Core/MDC/SEC/VAC: CORE (MAJOR)	
Theory / Practical / Composite: THEORY	
No of Modules: TWO	

Course Overview: This course introduces students to foundational concepts, classical thinkers, and contemporary concerns in the field of Security Studies. Students examine both traditional and non-traditional security paradigms, exploring major ideas about war and strategy from Kautilya, Sun Tzu, and Clausewitz, as well as critical issues such as low-intensity conflict, asymmetrical warfare, missile defense, and the dynamics of alliances and deterrence. The course further investigates pressing threats in the modern era, such as securitization, politicization, genocide, crimes against humanity, cyber security, environmental security, and health security. With an emphasis on both theoretical and practical perspectives, students develop analytical and problem-solving skills to interpret global security challenges in international politics.

Course Outcome:

1. **Remember:** key concepts, theories, and thinkers (Kautilya, Sun Tzu, Clausewitz) in Security Studies, and recognize both traditional and non-traditional security issues in historical and contemporary contexts.

2. **Understand:** the nature of war—including low-intensity conflict, asymmetrical warfare, missile defense—and the mechanisms of balance of power, alliances, and deterrence in global and regional security.

3. **Apply:** core frameworks and analytical concepts to interpret real-world examples of war, alliance dynamics, deterrence, and responses to new security threats such as cyber threats, environmental challenges, and health crises.

4. **Analyse:** evolving security concerns such as securitization, politicization, genocide and crimes against humanity, distinguishing how global actors adapt strategies to both traditional and emerging threats.

5. **Evaluate:** the strengths and limitations of both classical and contemporary approaches to security, including responses to non-traditional threats, and analyze policy and ethical implications in international contexts.

6. **Create:** thematic, comparative, or empirical projects that synthesize theoretical and practical insights to propose solutions or analyze contemporary challenges in security—ranging from strategy to human security and digital, environmental, or health risks.

Prerequisites: *Basic knowledge about any prior course*

SYLLABUS

UNIT/Module	CONTENT	HOURS or NUMBER OF CLASSES	CO Mapping	COGNITIVE LEVEL
I	1. Ideas of War: Kautilya, Sun Tzu, Clausewitz 2. Contemporary War: Low-Intensity Conflict; Asymmetrical Warfare; Missile Defence 3. Balance of Power: Alliances, Deterrence	26	CO1 CO2 CO3 CO4 CO5 CO6	K1,K2,K3,K4, K5, K6
II	1. Securitization and Politicization 2. Genocide and Crimes against Humanity 3. Cyber Security, Environmental Security and Health Security	26	CO1 CO2 CO3 CO4 CO5 CO6	K1,K2,K3, K4, K5, K6

Text Books:

1. Boesche, Roger (2017), Kautilya: The First Great Political Realist, Harper India

2. Baylis, John, Wirtz, James & Gray, Colin S. (2015), Strategy in the Contemporary World, Oxford University Press

3. Williams, Paul D & McDonald, Matt (ed.) (2018), Security Studies: An Introduction, 3rd Edition, Routledge

Suggested readings:

4. Collins, Alan (2022), Contemporary Security Studies, 6th Edition, Oxford University Press

5. Caballero-Anthony, Mely (2016), An Introduction to Non-Traditional Security: A Transnational Approach, SAGE

Evaluation: CIA: 30 (mid-semester exam 20 + 5 assignment) + 5 Attendance = 30
END SEMESTER: 70

Paper Structure for Theory Semester Exam Module: Module I and II each: 3 Qs x 5 Marks out of 5 = 15 + 2 Qs x 10 Marks out of 4 = 20

Course outcomes (COs) and Cognitive Level Mapping

COs	CO Description	Cognitive levels
CO1	**Remember:** Identify key concepts, theories, and thinkers (Kautilya, Sun Tzu, Clausewitz) in Security Studies, and recognize both traditional and non-	K1

	traditional security issues in historical and contemporary contexts.	
CO2	**Understand:** Explain the nature of war—including low-intensity conflict, asymmetrical warfare, missile defense—and the mechanisms of balance of power, alliances, and deterrence in global and regional security.	**K2**
CO3	**Apply:** Use core frameworks and analytical concepts to interpret real-world examples of war, alliance dynamics, deterrence, and responses to new security threats such as cyber threats, environmental challenges, and health crises.	**K3**
CO4	**Analyse:** Examine evolving security concerns such as securitization, politicization, genocide and crimes against humanity, distinguishing how global actors adapt strategies to both traditional and emerging threats.	**K4**
CO5	**Evaluate:** Critically assess the strengths and limitations of both classical and contemporary approaches to security, including responses to non-traditional threats, and analyze policy and ethical implications in international contexts.	**K5**
CO6	**Create:** Develop thematic, comparative, or empirical projects that synthesize theoretical and practical insights to propose solutions or analyze contemporary challenges in security—ranging from strategy to human security and digital, environmental, or health risks.	**K6**