

JPM137

Social Justice as a Future of Security Studies

Winter Semester 2024/2025

Room: B329

When: Wednesday 12:30-13:50

(every other week)

Lecturer: Mgr. Anna Kotvalová

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Course Description

This seminar presents and defines critical approaches in the field of security studies and international relations relevant to the issues of social justice, human security, and human agency within these fields. Specifically, this seminar explores intersectional feminism and postcolonialism/decolonialism in security studies and their relevance to issues of social justice and challenges to the west-centrism and state-centrism of SS and IR.

The various readings should provide students with feminist and postcolonial perspectives on security, war, conflict, and peace and engage students in complex debates. Special attention will be dedicated to the issues of epistemology and knowledge production and its relevance to our understanding of violence, war, and other crucial phenomena relevant to our field (both international relations and security studies).

This will be done through the continuous challenge to the prevailing mainstream paradigm in the field: realism, positivism, and the prevailing notion of objective (universal) knowledge.

COURSE SCHEDULE

I. 9.10. 2024

Introduction to the seminar, requirements, introduction to the critical perspectives and critical evolution of international relations and security studies

II. 23.10. 2024

Crucial concepts within the critical perspectives, social justice, epistemology/ontology

III. 6.11. 2024

Feminism in International Relations and Security Studies

IV. 20.11. 2024

Postcolonialism/decolonialism in International Relations and Security Studies

V. 4.12. 2024

Universalism, state

VI. 18.12. 2024

1990s and beyond, specific developments

Requirements and Assessment

The final grade shall be a composite of preparatory activity (10%), class participation (10%), presentation (30%) and final essay (50%). Preparatory activity shall consist of the successful completion of one test after the last session exploring student's understanding of the compulsory readings. This test will be completed by the due date in Moodle. Presentation (10 minutes) shall consist of a critical overview of one other piece of reading and linking it to the argument of the reading to which it is linked in the syllabus. The assignment of presentations to be prepared by students shall be done during the introductory session. (No presentations are scheduled for this session). The final exam will take the form of a submitted research paper (min. 2,000 words, excluding references). Students are expected to use relevant secondary literature to support their argument and follow all standards of academic writing when preparing their paper.

Attendance is mandatory, but allowance is made for absence of no more than two sessions, one of which must be the introductory session. Students who miss the introductory session are requested to contact the lecturer without delay at anna.kotvalova@fsv.cuni.cz to arrange the distribution of class assignments. Students are furthermore requested to report their absence in the other sessions in advance. Students are not allowed to miss the seminar where they present their presentation.

In line with Opatření děkanky 17/2018, the following grading scale is used:

91 % and more	A
81-90 %	B
71-80 %	C
61-70 %	D
51-60 %	E
50%-0%	F