

Security Studies Core Courses

HIST 810 or POLSC 810, Security Studies Methodology: This course is most appropriate at the start of your study and will prepare you to complete your major research project in HIST/POLSC 815 by introducing you to important concepts and methods of research in Security Studies along with preparation of a research proposal that will be completed in HIST 815 or POLSC 815. It is a team-taught class, with one professor from the Political Science Department and one professor from the History Department.

POLSC 812, Foundations of Security Studies: This course will introduce you to major themes in Security Studies. You will read key texts on international security, military history, and strategy, as well as works on the theory and research practice of history and political science. The course is delivered online.

POLSC 813, International Security: This course can be taken at any time during your program, and is normally offered during the fall and spring semesters. This course will focus on traditional issues of the causes of war, deterrence, the relevance/role of international institutions, arms proliferation, the politics of international intervention, and conflict resolution.

POLSC 814, Terrorism and Transnational Security: This course can also be taken at any time during your program. It is normally offered during the fall and spring semesters. You will learn about security issues that have been given increasing emphasis over recent years. Examples include the unique context of security problems in the developing world, demographic developments and internal/external conflict, environmental issues and their relation to security, economic globalization and security, post-conflict reconstruction, and humanitarian emergencies.

History and Security of Pivotal Regions

HIST 850, History and Security: East Asia: An examination of the major historical problems and literature relating to national and international security in East Asia.

HIST 851, History and Security: Latin America: An examination of the major historical problems and literature relating to national and international security in Latin America.

HIST 852, History and Security: the Middle East: An examination of the major historical problems and literature relating to national and international security in the Middle East.

HIST 853, History and Security: Russia/Central Asia: An examination of the major historical problems and literature relating to national and international security in Russian and Central Asia.

HIST 854, History and Security: South Asia: An examination of the major historical problems and literature relating to national and international security in South Asia.

HIST 855, History and Security: Modern Africa: Focuses on major political events and their repercussions. Key topics include war in African history, the creation and administration of colonial empires, decolonization, and the political and security struggles of the post-independence era.

HIST 860, Topics in International History: Introduce the most important themes and issues in historical topics and subjects of transnational and global significance. Contextualizes historical literature to help students prepare for teaching and for their general field exams.

HIST 815 or POLSC 815, Research Methods in Security Studies: This is the capstone research course, and should be taken in the final semester of your study. It is team taught by one professor from the Political Science Department and one professor from the History Department. This course will allow you to synthesize knowledge acquired during the core and other M.A. courses. You will complete this course with the production of a publishable quality research paper of roughly 30-35 pages in length.