

Information for Incoming Security Studies M.A. Students

Welcome to Security Studies! We hope that you will find your time with us at K-State challenging and rewarding. In an effort to make your study with us as successful as possible, you will find important information below. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Important Contacts:

Phil Tiemeyer, Director of Security Studies

tiemeyerp@ksu.edu

Dr. Tiemeyer directs the Security Studies program. He also serves as the major professor for the majority of the M.A. students. Any questions about specific coursework, approval of transfer credit, and Programs of Study should be directed to him.

Michael Flynn, Associate Director of Security Studies

meflynn@ksu.edu

An alternate point of contact to answer questions when Dr. Tiemeyer is not available.

Monica Macfarlane, Administrative Desk

785-532-6842 – Calvin 101D (Students/Applicants)

mcmacfar@ksu.edu

Monica assists with general enrollment questions, room scheduling for committee meetings, and general program questions. She maintains all student files, so any paperwork filed with the Graduate School should be run through her (see specific information on Graduate School forms below). It is also important to keep her informed of any changes in your status (such as new contact information, taking a semester off from study, etc.).

Angie Pfizenmaier, Administrative Specialist, Graduate School

785-532-6191

akt@ksu.edu

Angie works in the Graduate School and processes all paperwork related to M.A. students, such as the program of study and approval forms. If there are any problems with your program of study (such as not taking a course indicated on your form, not passing a required course, etc.) you will hear from her.

Coursework for your M.A. Degree

There are 18 hours of core coursework that must be completed by all Master's students. While some courses can be taken at any time during your program, others are best taken either at the start or at the end of your coursework. The core courses are:

HIST 810 or POLSC 810, Security Studies Methodology (2 hours)

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 (3 hours)

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 (3 hours)

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 (3 hours)

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 (6 hours)

You will need to take at least two courses on the history of regions of central importance to international affairs. Examples are: East Asia (HIST 850), Latin America (HIST 851), the Middle East (HIST 852), South Asia (HIST 854), or Modern Africa since 1850 (HIST 855). These can be taken at any time in your program. There are usually at least two courses to choose from each semester.

HIST 815 or POLSC 815, Research Methods in Security Studies (1 hour)

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.

The remaining 12 hours will be elective courses, chosen by the student and approved by the supervisory committee. It is advisable to discuss potential electives with your major professor before enrollment, to ensure that your electives will be approved by your committee. Examples of electives taken by previous students are below (although this list is not exhaustive by any means):

HIST 922, Seminar in American Diplomatic History
HIST 928, Seminar in American History (precise subject varies by semester)
HIST 983, Topics in Military History (precise subject varies by semester)
HIST 984, Topics in American History (precise subject varies by semester)
HIST 985, Readings in History
HIST 993, History of Military Thought

POLSC 621, West European Politics
POLSC 624, Middle East Politics
POLSC 642, International Conflict
POLSC 643, Global Human Rights
POLSC 651, International Organization
POLSC 710, Policy Analysis and Evaluation
POLSC 712, Game Theory
POLSC 731, Comparative Civil Military Relations
POLSC 754, The Professional Diplomat and Foreign Policy Formulation
POLSC 811, Seminar in International Politics
POLSC 985, Readings in Security Studies
POLSC 991, Topics in Political Science (precise subject varies by semester)

ECON 681, International Trade
ECON 890, Seminar in Economics
SOCIO 701, Problems in Sociology
SOCIO 853, International Development

Students may also use transfer credit to fulfill the electives requirement (and students going through ILE at Ft. Leavenworth routinely do this). In order to obtain credit for these transfer classes, please take a copy of the course syllabus to your major professor for review. Your supervisory committee must approve any coursework for transfer.

Forms Required by the Graduate School

Program of Study

The Program of Study form lists all of the courses that a student intends to take to complete his/her graduate program. This form should be filed with the Graduate School during the second semester of study, or after 9 hours of coursework has been completed. Most importantly, this form should be filed prior to submitting the Approval to Schedule Final Examination form. If there are transfer credits on the form, all official transcripts for that credit must be submitted to the Graduate School.

Once filled out, the Program of Study must be signed by the student, the major professor, all committee members, and the Director of Security Studies. For most students their major professor will be the current Security Studies Program Director and the remaining two members will be the professors of HIST/POLSC 815.

For all students: Graduate School student forms can now be submitted electronically from the student form dashboard at this [link](#). These forms are not savable and must be filled out completely and submitted in one session. You will need the names and email addresses of all committee members PRIOR to beginning the electronic process.

Approval to Schedule Final Exam

Our M.A. program does not have a final examination, only a research project that is written during your enrollment in HIST/POLSC 815. However, the Approval to Schedule Final Exam form still needs to be submitted to the Graduate School. This form, and the ballot that is produced upon submission of this form, are the documents that alert the Graduate School to the fact that you plan to graduate in a specified semester. You must be enrolled in at least one credit hour the semester you graduate.

In the space where it asks for the exam date and time, indicate “N/A.”

For all students: Graduate School student forms can now be submitted electronically from the student form dashboard at this [link](#). These forms are not savable and must be filled out completely and submitted in one session. You will need the names and email addresses of all committee members PRIOR to beginning the electronic process. For additional information on Graduate School requirements, please visit their website: <http://www.k-state.edu/grad/>