The educational program of the course

Qualification – Master of Arts
Form of study – full-time education
The course «Global Security Topical Issues: Weapons of Mass Destruction, Cyberthreats, Terrorism and Organized Crime» is elaborated in accordance with the MGIMO Educational Standard for Master’s Program in International Affairs.

**Author:** Sergey Veselovskiy, Ph.D. in Political Science, Associate Professor

Director of the MGIMO Library Marina Reshetnikova

The program was approved by the Department of World Politics on August 31, 2018, protocol № 1-08/2018 (2018-2019)

Head of Department Prof. Marina Lebedeva
PART 1. COURSE DESCRIPTION AND TEACHING METHODS

1.1 General Information
Type of Course: Elective
Level of Course: Master of Arts
Year of Study: 2nd
Number of ECTS credits allocated: 2.0
Name of lecturer and office hours:
   Sergey Veselovskiy, Ph.D. in Political Science, Associate Professor
   Department of World Politics
   Office hours: Monday 17.30-19.30 (by appointment only)
   E-mail: veselovskiy.mgimo@gmail.com

1.2 Course aims and learning outcomes:
The course is centered around four topics of nontraditional international security threats agenda: safeguard and proliferation of weapons of mass-destruction, contemporary cybersecurity threats, the rise of Islamist terrorism in the XXI century and illicit international organized crime activities.

From Iran to North Korea, from the New START treaty to Syria's chemical stockpile, nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons are on the political agenda around the world. The course will explore the policy and academic aspects of WMD use, construction, and proliferation, both by state and non-state actors. It also will give an understanding of the global efforts to control their spread and reduce their danger.

The second part of the course will examine the current international cybersecurity environment, the main principles of cybersecurity, as well as the predicted future of cybersecurity threats. Students will understand the interconnectedness between policy and technology, as well as the efforts to combat contemporary cybersecurity threats.

The course will also examine fundamental questions about the political phenomenon known as terrorism. It will explore multiple theories on political violence, what the various forms of political violence are, why terrorism constitutes a distinct form of political violence, and how nations respond to terrorism. Students will gain insight through the review of research on the causes of political violence, its consequences, major terrorist organizations background and the evolution of modern terrorist threat.
In the fourth and final part the course will provide a general overview of transnational crime and narcotics and its effects on political, economic, and social development of countries around the world. It will cover the definitional problem of transnational organized crime, its different manifestations, interconnections between organized criminals and respectable organizations and people. Students will also explore the legislative and policy issues and measures that could help minimize the organized crime problem.

**Course objectives are the following:**

- familiarize the students with the concept of weapons of mass destruction;
- explain the contemporary problems of WMD nonproliferation;
- define the main cybersecurity threats;
- understand the difficulties of fighting cyber security threats in the current international environment;
- define terrorism as a distinct act of political violence on national and international levels;
- familiarize with different modern terrorist groups and their motivation for committing terrorist acts;
- get acquainted with the main efforts in fighting terrorism at the global level;
- explore the different types of transnational crime and their peculiarities;
- understand the problems of fighting transnational organized crime on political as well as legislative level.

**Learning outcomes:**

Students will acquire the following intellectual skills:

- familiarize with key academic literature on problems of contemporary nontraditional international security threats;
- know key data and most up to date information on contemporary nontraditional international security threats;
- learn to understand the main development trends in the field of WMD proliferation, cybercrimes and cybersecurity, terrorism and organized crime;

Students will also acquire the following practical (professional) skill:

- learn to formulate their own proposals for the use of appropriate measures in the fight of nontraditional international security threats.
1.3. Course requirements
Students will be required to attend at least 90% of classes (15 out of 17) and be prepared for in-class discussion of the week’s topic. Conscientious reading of the assigned materials is also mandatory.

Students will also be required to take three in-class tests based on lectures, class discussions and readings (see 2.4 for details).

1.3.1. Academic Etiquette
Students are required to behave in a courteous manner and maintain a professional demeanor at all times (both in person and in virtual communication). Side conversations in class are disruptive and show a lack of respect for your fellow classmates and for the instructor. Please keep mobile phones on silent or vibrate mode and keep in mind that use of electronic devices (phones, laptops, tablets etc.) may be prohibited at my discretion at any time and are banned during in-class tests.

1.4. Grading plan
The final grade is calculated based on three test’s results, as well as in-class activities.

PART 2. COURSE CONTENTS

2.1. Types of Work

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Types of Work</th>
<th>Academic Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total workload</td>
<td>144</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total for lectures and seminars</td>
<td>30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lectures</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Seminars</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homework, preparation for lectures, seminars and tests</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation</td>
<td>Three In-Class Tests</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## 2.2. Course outline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Outline</th>
<th>Lectures</th>
<th>Seminars</th>
<th>Homework</th>
<th>Academic Hours per Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Course Introduction. What is International Security</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. The concept of WMD threat: Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Weapons</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>3. Countering the WMD Threat</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>4. Aspects of Nuclear Proliferation</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Nuclear Proliferation: the cases of Iran and North Korea</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Introduction to the Cyberspace Domain, Cyber Conflict and Cyber Crime</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. Cyber Operations and Cyber War</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Presumed Cyber Warfare: Case Studies of China, Russia, Iran and North Korea</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. Theory of Political Violence. The Definition of Terrorism</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
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<td>10. Strategies if Terrorism</td>
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<td>8</td>
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<td>11. The Islamic Terrorist Threat: from Al-Qaeda to the Islamic State</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
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<tr>
<td>12. The Global War on Terror and its Provisional</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>8</td>
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Results

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.3. COURSE CONTENTS

**Topic 1. Course Introduction. What is International Security?**

The establishment of security studies. The concept of international security threat. The difference between national, international and global security threats. The difference between the narrow and broad scope of international security in the academic discourse.

The studies of nontraditional security threats in international relations.

*Required readings:*


**2. The Concept of WMD Threat: Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Weapons.**

The development of state chemical weapons programs in the XX century. Cases of chemical’s weapons use in the last decades.

The difference between biological and chemical weapons. Terrorist’s interest in biological weapons.

Radiological, biological and chemical weapons: the differences and similarities.

Why states seek to acquire nuclear weapons. State proliferation of nuclear weapons: the case of AQ Khan.
Required readings:

1. Dolnik, Adam. 13 Years since Tokyo: Re-Visiting the Superterrorism Debate // Perspectives on Terrorism. – 2008. – Iss.2. – Vol.2.

Additional Readings:


3. Countering the WMD Threat.

The necessary tools for effectively countering WMD. The major nonproliferation treaties: Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention, and the Chemical Weapons Convention. The Problem of their effectiveness.

What can the international community do to more effectively deal with WMD proliferation?

Required readings:


4. Aspects of Nuclear Proliferation.

Required readings:

Additional readings:
5. Nuclear Proliferation: cases of Iran and North Korea.


Required readings:


6. Introduction to the Cyberspace Domain, Cyber Conflict and Cyber Crime

Cyber conflict as a topic of study. Cyberspace analogy to the “natural” physical domains of land, sea, air, and water.

The impact of cyber crimes on the challenge of addressing state-based cyber threats.

Addressing cyber crime: the role of governments and corporations/private sector entities.
**Required readings:**


**7. Cyber Operations and Cyberwar.**

The notion of “cyberwar”: from the alleged Russian hacks against the DNC to the cyber operations associated with the War in Iraq.


**Required readings:**

1. Arquilla, John. Cyber war is already upon us // Foreign Policy. – 2012. – March/April.
2. Chernenko, Elena. Political Cyberwar on Doorstep // Russia in Global Affairs. – 2017. – Iss.1.
5. Rid, Thomas. Cyber war will not take place // Journal of Strategic Studies. – 2012. – Vol.35. – Iss.1.

**8. Presumed Cyber Warfare: Case Studies of China, Russia, Iran and North Korea.**

Possible use of cyber weapons by China in a conflict with the US.

Russian alleged cyber operations alongside physical operations in Georgia and Ukraine.
Development of sophisticated cyber capabilities by Iran and North Korea’s. Had the United States and/or Israel not allegedly engaged in CNA operations against Iran (e.g. Stuxnet), how would Iran have developed its cyber capabilities?

Required readings:


Terrorism as a form of political violence.

Persistent difficulties and dilemmas in defining terrorism. Distinctions as a path to working out a definition of terrorism. Definitions of terrorism within the United Nations. The most commonly used definitions of terrorism and their relation to diverse violent political behaviors.

Required readings:

10. Strategies of Terrorism.

Terrorism activities strategies. How terrorism shape domestic and foreign policy.

Major theories regarding psychological, economic, societal, and political factors that lead individuals to join terror groups and use terror violence to achieve political goals.

The rationale behind terrorist activity. Exploring the possible link between poverty, level of education and terrorism.

Required readings:


Additional readings:


11. The Islamic Terrorist Threat: from Al-Qaida to the Islamic State.

The role of Al-Qaeda as an Islamist’s foreign fighters base during the war in Afghanistan in the 1980-ies. The evolution of Al-Qaeda in the 1990-ies. September 11 terrorist attacks and the US response.

The civil war in Syria as a catalyst for the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant. The current situation in Syria and Iraq. The possibility of the Islamic State to further propagate in different regions of the world.

Required readings:


12. The Global War on Terror and its Provisional Results
The military actions undertaken by US military in Afghanistan. The retreat of the Taliban and Al-Qaeda fighters to Pakistan territory. The evolution of Al-Qaeda and the eventual death of Osama bin Laden.

The US invasion of Iraq and its costly mistakes. The fall of the Saddam Hussein regime and the atomization of Iraq.

Other nonmilitary measures undertaken to stop terrorist activities since September 11th 2001.

Required readings:

What constitutes “organized crime” and its peculiarities. Why organized crime is flourishing and the world is losing control on international illicit activities.

The different illicit international activities: human trafficking and corruption, tobacco smuggling and organized crime, drugs and money laundering, informal financial networks.
Required readings:


Political and administrative problems of fighting transnational crimes. Examining different national cases of fighting transnational crime and main achievements on the international level.

Required readings:


2.4. QUESTIONS FOR TESTS

In-Class Tests

The test will have two versions with an equally distributed types of questions. It will contain 10 theoretical and practical questions on reading material, lectures and class discussions. Fully correct answers to a question will be awarded 10 points. For partially correct answers, the number of points may vary from 1 to 9. Incorrect answers will receive 0 points. The overall result of the midterm test consists of the total score for all the 10 questions summed up.

The test will include:

A. Open questions (Example: Define the notion of «organized crime »);
B. Question on the knowledge of a specific historical date or figure (Example: Which terrorist group is responsible for the highest number of terrorist attacks in 2016?).

Sample Examination questions

1. The difference between traditional and nontraditional security issues.
2. Security threats on the national, regional and international levels.
3. Difference between different types of WMD.
4. Main WMD non-proliferation treaties.
5. The main problems of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.
7. Conflict over the Iranian nuclear program.
8. Conflict over the North Korean nuclear program.
10. The role of government and private sector in countering cyber crimes.
11. Examples of contemporary cyberwarfare.
13. Cyberwarfare case studies: a critical overview of the China, Iran, Russia and North Korean cases.
14. Terrorism as a peculiar form of political violence.
15. The problem of defining terrorism.
17. Factors that lead individuals to join terrorist groups.
18. Al-Qaeda as a terrorist organization: roots and evolution.
20. The military operation in Afghanistan and Iraq and their consequences.
21. Nonmilitary measures undertaken since September 11, 2001 to stop terrorist activities.
22. The problem of defining organized crime.
23. Different types of international illicit activities and their peculiarities.
24. Political and administrative problems of fighting transnational crime.

2.5. TYPES OF EXCTACURRICULUM WORK
1. Reading the assigned material;
2. Studying for the three in-class test.

2.6. TEST TIMING
Test will be taken in-class on the 5th, 9th and 14th class. The tests will be announced a week before they will be taken.

2.7. READING LIST
Required reading:

Main readings:

Additional Readings:
4. Arquilla, John. Cyber war is already upon us // Foreign Policy. – 2012. – March/April.


17. Dolnik, Adam. 13 Years since Tokyo: Re-Visiting the Superterrorism Debate // Perspectives on Terrorism. – 2008. – Iss.2. – Vol.2.


34. Kearns, Erin M., Conlon, Brendan, & Young, Joseph K. Lying about terrorism // Studies in Conflict & Terrorism. – 2014. – Vol.37. – Iss.5.


