UNIVERSITY of BRADFORD

Module Descriptor

Module Details	
Module Title	Technology, Violence and War
Module Code	PES6027-B
Academic Year	2024/5
Credits	20
School	School of Social Sciences
FHEQ Level	FHEQ Level 6

Contact Hours	
Type	Hours
Lectures	16
Seminars	6
Directed Study	178

Availability	
Occurrence	Location / Period
BDA	University of Bradford / Semester 2

Module Aims

This module is concerned to engage with current debates on the relationship between society, science, technology and violence. It builds (but is also self-contained with no prerequisites required) on the Level 5 Security Module and it encourages reflection on methodological, theoretical and analytical issues that shape the ways in which security is thought about and practiced in contemporary global politics. The principal focus of the module will be on the security implications of contemporary scientific and technological innovations, an approach that facilitates analysis of the key technologies in modern warfare such as space technology, precision guidance, drone warfare, nanotechnology, cyberwarfare, dual-use, biotechnology as well as developments relating to biological, chemical and nuclear weapons and the risks of proliferation.

It aims to develop a detailed and sophisticated understanding of the academic and policy literature on the relationship between society and science and technology with reference to armed conflict and security risks.

Outline Syllabus

The module will consider the application of particular scientific and technological developments and the way understandings of military technological categories (e.g. military precision) have been socially constructed. The module will be devoted to exploring the legal, normative and strategic debates over the use of modern and emerging technologies by security actors (e.g. state militaries, state intelligence services, insurgents, terrorist or criminal groups). This will include examination of the security, policy and governance implications of new developments in fields such as drone warfare, space technology, cyber-warfare, dual-use, biotechnology as well as developments relating to biological, chemical and nuclear weapons.

Students will be required to work in groups to produce an assessed group presentation. Different groups will be asked to examine different issues and questions raised (e.g. the ethical, legal, normative, policy, human security, economic, geo-strategic issues raised.

Learning Outcomes

Outcome Number	Description
01	Identify, explain and critically analyse the relationship between developments in Security theorising about the links between science, technology, society, violence and war and their historical context.
02	Apply and critically analyse concepts and methods relevant to studying the relationship between science, technology, society, violence and war, the technological dimensions of contemporary warfare and the risks of the proliferation of technology relating to weapons of mass destruction.
03	Apply and critically analyse concepts, theories and methods used in the academic and policy literature on the development, implementation and effectiveness of the normative, legal and institutional frameworks of arms governance.
04	Explain and critically analyse complex concepts and theories in a concise, confident and accurate manner.
05	Systematically review academic debates, clearly distinguishing and explaining the main contending theoretical perspectives, showing awareness of key differences in reasoning.
06	Exercise sophisticated critical judgement, through distinguishing strengths and limitations in academic theories and research evidence.
07	Recognise and discuss relationships between knowledge practices and the forms and operations of power.
08	Use concepts and theories to investigate a case study that amplifies relevant issues and debates pertinent to the study of science, technology, violence and war.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy
Learning will emerge through: lectures, discussion seminars, group work, assessed presentations and extensive reading. Formative assessment will be undertaken through class and individual discussions of plans for assessed presentations and essays. Summative assessment will be through (i) an assessed group presentation (ii) an essay on a topic covered in the module.

Mode of Assessment			
Type	Method	Description	Weighting
Summative	Presentation	Group Presentation (20 Mins) (SUPPLEMENTARY: Individual 10 min presentation)	20%
Summative	Coursework - Written	Essay (3400-3600 words)	80%

Reading List
To access the reading list for this module, please visit https://bradford.rl.talis.com/index.html

Please note:
This module descriptor has been published in advance of the academic year to which it applies. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information is accurate at the time of publication, but minor changes may occur given the interval between publishing and commencement of teaching. Upon commencement of the module, students will receive a handbook with further detail about the module and any changes will be discussed and/or communicated at this point.

---

https://bradford.ac.uk