



COMILLAS

UNIVERSIDAD PONTIFICIA

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CIHS

GUÍA DOCENTE
2025 - 2026

FICHA TÉCNICA DE LA ASIGNATURA

Datos de la asignatura

Nombre completo	War and Peace in the 21st Century
Código	E000013477
Impartido en	Master in International Security Management [Primer Curso]
Nivel	Master
Cuatrimestre	Semestral
Créditos	5,0 ECTS
Carácter	Obligatoria
Departamento / Área	Departamento de Relaciones Internacionales
Responsable	María del Carmen Chas Bartolomé

Datos del profesorado

Profesor

Nombre	María del Carmen Chas Bartolomé
Departamento / Área	Departamento de Relaciones Internacionales
Correo electrónico	mcchas@comillas.edu

DATOS ESPECÍFICOS DE LA ASIGNATURA

Contextualización de la asignatura

Competencias - Objetivos

Competencias

General competences

GC1 In-depth knowledge of the main vectors of international security that shape trends in global geopolitics.

GC2 Comprehensive understanding of the impact of new security threats on the management of international security.

Specific competences

SC1 Use of advanced data analysis tools relevant to the management of international security challenges.

SC2 Ability to identify and use the information necessary for the drafting and presentation of memoranda, reports and recommendations on international security issues.

SC3 Ability to identify and work with multiple actors and institutions to address uncertainty in the global security landscape in an adaptive manner.

SC4 A systemic understanding and identification of interconnected security challenges.



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SCS Ability to conduct risk assessments at all levels of security management and governance.

SC6 Applied theoretical knowledge needed by international security professional working in different security areas.

SC7 Ability to carry out research work with academic and scientific rigour on international security topics.

Resultados de Aprendizaje

By the end of this module, students will:

- Understand the key debates associated with war and peace in the twenty-first century.
- Become familiar with the key concepts and theoretical approaches relevant to the study of war and peace.
- Understand some of the most important challenges—whether to individuals, states, and international society—stemming from war and peace.
- Be able to critically analyse and interrogate different concepts and theoretical approaches.
- Improve their writing, oral communication and analytical skills.

BLOQUES TEMÁTICOS Y CONTENIDOS

Contenidos – Bloques Temáticos

1. Foundations

- What is war? Introduction to the history, theory, foundations and debates of the discipline
- What is peace? Introduction to the history, theory, foundations and debates of the discipline
- Types of conflicts
- Theoretical approaches: International society, multipolarity and actors

2. International Cooperation, international law, and international organisations

- International organisations
- Introduction to international law: What role does it play today?
- International criminal law: Structure, cases, and debates
- International humanitarian law: Structure, cases, and debates

3. Humanitarianism and the responsibility to protect

- The origins of human rights and humanitarianism
- Peacekeeping missions
- Humanitarian interventions and the responsibility to protect (R2P)

4. Arms control and disarmament

- Origins, historical background, and theoretical debates
- Weapons of mass destruction: Nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons
- Conventional weapons and the arms trade

5. War, peace, and new technology



- New technologies, unmanned vehicles, and drones
- New challenges and opportunities: Cybersecurity, cyberwar, and cyberdiplomacy
- Theoretical debates and concepts

METODOLOGÍA DOCENTE

Aspectos metodológicos generales de la asignatura

The course "War and Peace in the 21st Century" will be taught in person and online.

The professor will give in-person classes on the different course contents. In addition to these classes, teaching will be enriched with the analysis of case studies, joint commentary of the required readings, and guest lectures. The active participation of the students in the in person sessions will be encouraged and evaluated.

The students will also be required to make a detailed study of the readings and case studies assigned by the professor throughout the course.

EVALUACIÓN Y CRITERIOS DE CALIFICACIÓN

Evaluation activity	Evaluation criteria	Weight (%)
Essay 4000 word essay. The topic and question will have to be discussed and agreed upon in advance with the lecturer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Punctuality in the delivery of the essay and adaptation of the format to the guidelines established by the lecturer.• Critical analysis of the information and materials consulted.• Use of materials derived from independent research.• Critical analysis and reflection about the material.• Correct usage of academic and official data sources	50%
Individual presentations The topic and question will have to be discussed and agreed upon in advance with the lecturer.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clarity• Terminological precision• Depth of knowledge of the chosen topic• Length of the presentation	30%
Class participation Participation in class activities during the module	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Active participation in group discussions and activities during the class.	20%

Important clarification about the evaluation

To be eligible to sit the ordinary exam session, students must not have unjustifiably missed more than one third of the classes. Failure to meet this requirement may result in the loss of both the ordinary and extraordinary exam sessions (Art. 93.1 of the General Regulations).

Plagiarism and the use of AI

Committing a serious academic offense—such as plagiarism of previously published materials, cheating during an exam or other assessed activity, or failing to respect basic rules of conduct—may lead to disciplinary proceedings and the loss of two exam sessions.

The use of AI to generate entire assignments or substantial parts thereof, without citing the source or tool used, or when not explicitly allowed in the assignment instructions, will be considered plagiarism and regulated in accordance with the University's General Regulations.



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BIBLIOGRAFÍA Y RECURSOS

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