



COURSE UNIT (MODULE) DESCRIPTION

Course unit (module) title	Code
Media and conflict	

Academic staff	Core academic unit(s)
Coordinating: Dr Nerijus Maliukevičius Other:	Institute of International Relations and Political Science

Study cycle	Type of the course unit
First	Optional

Mode of delivery	Semester or period when it is delivered	Language of instruction
In class and individual work	Autumn/ Spring Semester	English

Requisites	
Prerequisites: None	Co-requisites (if relevant): Good knowledge of English

Number of ECTS credits allocated	Student's workload (total)	Contact hours	Individual work
5	150	32	102

Purpose of the course unit		
<p>The aim of the course is to provide students with the knowledge and skills necessary to analyse information warfare (propaganda and disinformation challenges) and the processes of weaponization of the media environment.</p> <p>The course will develop the following general competencies: the ability to think critically, the ability to work in a team and cooperate with others, the ability to work and learn independently, the ability to apply acquired knowledge in practice, and the ability to communicate information and ideas. In addition, the following subject competencies are developed: basic knowledge of the origins and development of information warfare, the different concepts of information warfare and the ability to analyse and evaluate them, a basic knowledge of international and national instruments governing information security, the ability to critically analyse the discourse on information security, prevailing practices and the most recent developments in this field around the world, and to assess the impact of information security on international relations and international security processes.</p>		
Learning outcomes of the course unit	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment methods
Know and understand the origins and development of information warfare, the different concepts of information warfare, and be able to critically evaluate and compare them with each other.	Problem-based learning, active learning methods (dialogues with individual students, group discussion),	Teamwork on project, examination, active participation in seminars

Knowledge and understanding of international and national documents governing information security and the ability to assess regulatory trends.	Problem-based learning, active learning methods (dialogues with individual students, group discussion),	Discussions, exam
Critically analyse information security discourse, common practices and recent developments in information security worldwide.	Audiovisual analysis, case study, group discussion, presentation	Active participation in seminars, presentations, exam
Ability to independently assess the impact of information security on international relations and international security processes.	Project presentation, independent work, case study, group discussion	Active participation in seminars, presentations, exam

Content	Contact hours							Individual work: time and assignments	
	Lectures	Tutorials	Seminars	Workshops	Laboratory work	Internship	Contact hours, total	Individual work	Tasks for individual work
<p>The origins of information warfare.</p> <p>The importance of managing the perception of the opponent in military strategy. The origin of propaganda and the organisation of religious propaganda of the Catholic Church.</p>									<p>Compulsory course readings: compulsory course readings:</p> <p>Henrik Friman, Perception Warfare, 1999.</p> <p>Simon, H. (1987) "Making management decisions: the role of intuition and emotion", Academy of Management Executive, Feb, pp 57-64</p>
Seminar: what is information warfare?									Teamwork on project, seminar discussion. Required readings for the course: J. Arquilla, D. Ronfeldt (eds.), Athena's Camp: Preparing for Conflict in the

									Information Age, pp. 231-53, 275-95.
2. Historical examples. Part I. Conflicts leading to total war. The concept of total war and the meaning of information warfare. World War I, or why did the Americans fear British propagandists before World War II?									G. Mažeikis, Propaganda ir simbolinis mąstymas, 2010; pp. 19-75. Ph. Taylor, Munitions of the Mind, Ch. 20-21. Bastian, Information Warfare and its 18th and 19th century roots, 31-36
Seminar on Total War and Information Management - the WWI experience.									Additional Reading G. Mažeikis, Propaganda ir simbolinis mąstymas, 2010; pp. 185-269.
3. Historical examples. Part II. Information warfare during World War II: the clash of opposing strategies, visions and technologies									Analysis of lecture material, individual study of literature. Ph. Taylor, Munitions of the Mind. Cont. Hall, C. M. (2009). An Army of Spies? The Gestapo Spy Network 1933-45. <i>Journal of Contemporary History</i> , 44(2), 247–265. http://www.jstor.org/stable/40543126
Seminar: Visions and techniques of the warring sides' IW strategy - lessons for the future.									Teamwork on project, seminar preparation, seminar discussion. Additional reading: M. Martišius, (Ne)akivaizdus karas: nagrinėjant informacinį karą, pp. 259-343. Thomas, T. L. (2020). Information Weapons: Russia's Nonnuclear Strategic Weapons of Choice. <i>The Cyber Defense Review</i> , 5(2), 125–144. https://www.jstor.org/stable/26923527

<p>4. Historical examples. Part III. The fierce battle of ideas during the Cold War - American and Soviet strategies, organisation, personalities. The origins of the concept of information warfare</p>									<p>Osgood, Kenneth A. A. "HEARTS AND MINDS: THE UNCONVENTIONAL COLD WAR." <i>Journal of cold war studies</i>. 4.2 (2002): 85–107. Web.</p>
<p>Seminar: The Cold War information wars</p>									<p>Presentation preparation, seminar preparation, seminar discussion. Additional reading: M. Martišius, (Ne)akivaizdus karas: nagrinėjant informacinį karą, pp. 117-97.</p>
<p>5. Competing concepts of information warfare. Martin Libicki's first modern concept of information warfare and its critique. A model of information warfare for contemporary conflicts. John Arquilla and David Ronfeldt's war of persuasion or network warfare. The relationship of new concepts to information warfare: PsyOps, Information Operations, Cyberwar, Perception warfare.</p>									<p>Required readings for the course include J. Arquilla, D. Ronfeldt (eds.), <i>Athena's Camp: Preparing for Conflict in the Information Age</i>, pp. 141-75, 369-95, 417-39; W. H. K. Chun, <i>Crisis, Crisis, Crisis, or Sovereignty and Networks</i>, 2011, pp. 91-112. From the compendium</p>
<p>Seminar: a critique of the US approach to information warfare</p>									<p>Teamwork on project, seminar preparation, seminar discussion. Additional reading: M. Martišius, (Ne)akivaizdus karas: nagrinėjant informacinį karą, pp. 97-155.</p>
<p>6. Russia's approach. Russian experts' views on Information Warfare.</p>									<p>Analysis of lecture material, individual study of literature. From the electronic compendium Begim, "A. Surreal events, "TV zombies," and social media in postsocialist Kazakhstan" (2023). https://doi.org/10.1086/722633</p>
<p>7. Modern Information Wars. Part I.</p>									<p>Teamwork on project, seminar preparation,</p>

Assessment strategy	Weight %	Deadline	Assessment criteria
Classroom work and seminars. Teamwork on a project.	60%	During the semester	Activity - the following aspects are assessed: actively participates in the discussion and answers questions, formulates problems and questions, and critically evaluates the position of the author in question, critically evaluates their own and others' statements, and creatively find constructive solutions to the issues raised. Presentation - the following aspects of the presentation are assessed: problem formulation, a reconstruction of the concept in question, report structure, analysis, and ability to use sources and secondary literature
Written exam	40%	In session	The following aspects of the work are assessed: understanding the nature of information warfare and its role in conflict and international relations (10%), knowledge of critical concepts, trends and approaches (20%), can be critical of the issues raised (20%), recognise the historical context of a phenomenon (10%).

Author (-s)	Publishing year	Title	Issue of a periodical or volume of a publication	Publishing house or web link
Required reading				
M. Martišius	2010	(Ne)akivaizdus karas: nagrinėjant informacinį karą		Vilnius: Versus Aureus
G. Mažeikis	2010	Propaganda ir simbolinis mąstymas		VMU Publishing House http://vddb.laba.lt/fedora/get/LT-eLABa-0001:B.03~2010~ISBN_978-9955-12-575-4/DS.013.0.01.ESSPG
J. Arquilla, D. Ronfeldt (eds.)	1996	Athena's Camp: Preparing for Conflict in the Information Age		Washington, DC: Rand
Recommended reading				
D. Barnard-Wills, D. Ashenden	2012	Securing Virtual Space: Cyber War, Cyber Terror, and Risk	15 (4), pp. 1-14	Space and Culture
W. H. K. Chun	2011	Crisis, Crisis, Crisis, or Sovereignty and Networks'	28 (6), pp. 91-112	Theory, Culture & Society
R. Deibert	2011	Tracking the emerging arms race in cyberspace	67 (1), pp. 1-8	Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists
R. Deibert, R. Rohozinski, M. Crete-Nishihata	2012	Cyclones in Cyberspace: Information Shaping and Denial in the 2008 Russian-Georgian War	43 (1), pp. 3-24	Security Dialogue
L. Hansen, H. Nissenbau	2009	Digital disaster, cyber security, and the Copenhagen School	53, pp. 1155-1175	International Studies Quarterly

Jr. J. S. Nye	2010	Cyber Power		https://projects.csail.mit.edu/ecir/wiki/images/d/da/Nye_Cyber_Power1.pdf
N. Choucri	2000	Introduction: Cyber Politics in International Relations	21	International Political Science Review
A. Munoz	2012	U.S. Military Information Operations in Afghanistan Effectiveness of Psychological Operations 2001-2010		RAND Corporation, http://192.5.14.43/content/dam/rand/pubs/monographs/2012/RAND_MG1060.pdf
R. E. Hiebert	2003	Public relations and propaganda in framing the Iraq war: a preliminary review	29 (3), pp. 243-255	Public Relations Review
R. Heicker	2010	Emerging Cyber Threats and Russian Views on Information Warfare and Information Operations		Swedish Defence Research Agency, http://www.highseclabs.com/Corporate/foir2970.pdf
T. L. Thomas		Like Adding Wings to the Tiger: Chinese Information War Theory and Practice		http://library.uoregon.edu/ec/e-asia/read/tigerwings.pdf
Further reading				
M. Mueller	2010	Networks and States: The Global Politics of Internet Governance		MIT Press
A. Pinkerton, K. Dodds	2011	Weapons of mass communication: The securitization of social networking sites		Political Geography
M. Dodge, R. Kitchin	2011	Code/Space		MIT Press
S. Segaller	1998	Nerds 2.0.1 :a brief history of the Internet		New York
N. Maliukevičius	2008	Rusijos informacijos geopolitikos potencialas ir sklaida Lietuvoje		VU Publishing House

NOTE: Including Open Educational Resources in the reading list is recommended