after:hours Centre for Languages, Culture and Communication

**Course Descriptor**

**Course Title:** Armed Conflicts and the Politics of the 21st Century

**Type of Course:** Adult Education

**Credit:** Not credit bearing

**Weekly Session Titles and Descriptions**

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| Week | Session Title |  |
| 1 | ***Historical and geopolitical contextualization 1: Introduction to Security Studies*** |   |
| 2 | ***Historical and geopolitical contextualization 2: The evolution of International Security from 1945*** |   |
| 3 | ***Conflict in focus 1: Palestine*** |  |
| 4 | ***Perspectives on Security Studies 1: The ‘neo-neo debate’*** |   |
| 5 | ***Perspectives on Security Studies 2: Neorealism*** |   |
| 6 | ***Perspectives on Security Studies 3: The evolution of warfare*** |   |
| 7 | ***Conflict in focus 2: Ukraine*** |   |
| 8 | ***The phenomenology of conflict 1: Terrorism and the prevalence of asymmetric conflicts*** |   |
| 9 | ***The phenomenology of conflict 2: Inland Empire or Freedom and Security in the ‘Homeland’*** |   |
| 10 | ***The phenomenology of conflict 3: Ethnic conflicts and genocide*** |   |

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| Course OverviewThe field of International Relations has long focused on the security of states and how best to preserve a peaceful balance of power among them. In the twentieth century, processes of decolonisation led to a dramatic increase in the number of nation states. However, when many of them achieved their independence they were left lacking the crucial infrastructures, diversified productive sectors and human capital necessary to grow and provide for their populations.On this course we will investigate the problems faced by a number of countries in the post-Second World War period as they sought to achieve stability and find their place in the world. We will consider development projects which set out to raise living standards and the problems that arose from Cold War politics as the east and west and their development agencies sought to steer newly independent states into their orbit.We will also explore geopolitical events in the post-9/11 world, asking ourselves whether everything really changed after 9/11, as some influential voices have claimed, and look at how certain groups emerged in this period to be seen as threats to the West in need of containment.Required Previous Experience (if any)NoneRequired Reading Material or Special Equipment Needed (if any)NoneLearning OutcomesAt the end of this course you will1. Have an understanding through case studies and comparison of some of the political, economic and structural problems faced by various countries in the post-Second World War period
2. Have insight into aspects of the role, success and failure of various international political, military and development agencies in the post-Second World War period
3. Have some understanding of the impact of 9/11 on global development politics.

**Possible Further Study**Further courses on the after:hours programme might be useful to you.Additional informationThis course descriptor may be subject to change during the delivery of the course, depending on the specific direction and nature of the learner cohort, and is intended to be responsive to the group dynamics as they emerge during the delivery of the course. |