

Course Outline
Centre for Russian and Central Asian Studies
School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Programme: M.A. Course (optional)

Course Title: **Non -Traditional Security in Russia**

Course Teacher: **Dr. Vaishali Krishna**

Credit: **4**

Course Code: IA542

Course Duration: **One Semester**

Semester: **Monsoon Semester**

Contact Hours: **4 per week**

Instructional Method: **Lectures/Tutorials**

Evaluation Method: **Sessional Work and End Semester Examination**

Course Statement

Since the end of the Cold War, the concept of security has expanded beyond military concerns to encompass non-traditional aspects, often referred to as non-traditional security (NTS). This includes a wide range of human security issues, such as climate change, resource shortages (including energy and food), infectious diseases, natural disasters, transnational crime, human and drug trafficking, and mass migration. These challenges stem not only from state insecurities but also from the influence of non-state actors, who can destabilize governments and create both traditional and non-traditional security threats. Addressing these non-traditional security issues remains a key area for global cooperation, offering a unifying force in an evolving global landscape.

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union, Russia faced several significant challenges, including migration, color revolutions, cyber and information security, terrorism, and violent extremism. The Russian Empire and later the Soviet Union were multi-ethnic, containing many non-Russian populations. After the Soviet Union dissolved, millions of ethnic Russians found themselves in newly independent states that lacked governance experience and where many people had little connection to their new national borders, complicating their ties to Moscow. While many Russians returned to Russia following the collapse, a significant number remained in what came to be known as the "near abroad," contributing to ethnic and political tensions in the newly independent countries. In this context, Russia is actively engaged in addressing various non-traditional security challenges through both bilateral and multilateral initiatives to tackle the emerging threats.

Course Objectives

1. To introduce the theoretical framework and concept of non-traditional security.
2. To understand various approaches to security focusing on non-traditional aspects.
3. To examine the non-traditional security threats to Russia and its responses.
4. To explore Russia's bilateral and multilateral initiatives to address issues related to NTS.
5. To foster critical thinking skills through the analysis and evaluation of primary and secondary sources to locate Russia's NTS challenges in the context of post-Soviet developments.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of the course the students will be able to:

1. Acquire an in-depth knowledge of traditional and non-traditional security concepts.
2. Understand the importance of complexity and interrelatedness of both traditional and non-traditional security threats particularly in Russia.
3. Identify and interpret Russia's response to NTS challenges.
4. Analyse the role of Russia's bilateral and multilateral initiatives to deal with non-traditional security threats and challenges.

Evaluation Methods

Mid semester evaluation (50%)

*Term paper-30%, Examination-20%

End Semester evaluation (50%)

>End semester examination (50%)

*SIS Research Manual should be used as a guide for written assignments. Available at [https://www.jnu.ac.in/sites/files/SIS Research Manual 0.pdf](https://www.jnu.ac.in/sites/files/SIS%20Research%20Manual%200.pdf)

Course Content

Unit 1: Introduction to Non-Traditional Security Concept

This unit will introduce the non-traditional concepts of security with a focus on post-cold war NTS threats at global, regional and local levels. It will also cover the role played by the United Nations Security Council with regard to non-traditional security.

It will include:

- a) Non-Traditional Concepts of Security
- b) Post-Cold War Global and Regional NTS threats
- c) NTS Threats at Local level
- d) United Nations Security Council

Essential Readings:

Buzan, Barry. (1987). *People, States and Fear: The National Security Problem in International Relations*, New Delhi: TransAsia Publishers.

Cook, Alistair. (2017). Non-Traditional Security and World Politics. In Beeson, Mark & Bisley, Nick (Eds.), *Issues in 21st Century World Politics* (pp.38-51). New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Masys, Anthony J. (Ed.). 2016. *Exploring the Security Landscape: Non-Traditional Security Challenges*. Singapore: Springer.

Nation, Craig R. (1992). *Black Earth, Red Star: A History of Soviet Security Policy, 1917-1991*. New York: Cornell University Press.

Additional Readings:

Cabellero-Anthony, Mely. (2010). Non-Traditional Security Challenges, Regional Governance, and the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC). *Asia Security Initiative Policy Series: Working Papers* 7, 1-14.

Smith, Dan. (2019). Climate Change and Non-Traditional Security Threats. *Journal of Strategic Studies*, 42(6), 763-775.

Srikanth, D. (2014). Non-traditional security threats in the 21st century: A review. *International Journal of Development and Conflict*, 4 (1), 60-68.

Unit 2: Understanding Non-Traditional Approaches to Security

This unit will deal with the various approaches to the understanding of non-traditional security. It will include:

- a) a) Constructivist approach to Security
- b) b) Critical approach to Security
- c) c) Post-constructivist Approach to Security

Essential Readings:

Cho, Young Chul. (2009). Conventional and Critical Constructivist Approaches to National Security. *The Korean Journal of International Studies*, 7(1), 75-102.

Caballero-Anthony, Mely. (2016). *An Introduction to Non-Traditional Security Studies: A Transnational Approach*. Sage Publications.

Mallavarapu, Siddharth. 2008. *International Relations Theory and Non- Traditional Approaches to Security*. New Delhi: WISCOMP.

Shepherd, L. J. (Ed.). (2013). *Critical Approaches to Security: An Introduction to Theories and Methods*. Abingdon: Routledge.

Additional Readings:

Floyd, Rita and Croft, Stuart. (2011). European Non-Traditional Security Theory: From Theory to Practice. *Geopolitics, History and International Relations*, 3(2),152–179.

Hameiri, Shahar and Jones, Lee. (2013). The Politics and Governance of Non-Traditional Security. *International Studies Quarterly*, 57 (3), 462-473.

Hough, P., Pilbeam, B. and Stokes, W. (2021). *International Security Studies: Theory and Practice*. Abingdon: Routledge.

Unit 3: Non-Traditional Security Threats to Russia

This section will cover various non-traditional security issues and threats to Russia with a focus on energy security in terms of its availability and sustainability, cyber and information security in the air, land and maritime space, health security issues, drug trafficking and illegal migration from neighboring regions as well as the impact of climate change on human security.

The Unit will include:

- a) Energy Security
- b) Cyber and Information Security
- c) Health Security
- d) Drug and human trafficking and Illegal Migration
- e) Climate Change and Non-traditional Security Threats

Essential Readings:

Eriksson, J. & Giacomello, G. (2022). Cybersecurity After COVID-19: The Next Generation of Non-Traditional Threats. *Journal of Cyber Policy*, 7(1), 12-25.

Koser, Khalid. (2021). Migration and Security: Key Issues and Challenges in the Post-COVID-19 Era. *Journal of Global Security Studies*, 6(2), 234-248.

Shaw, R & Gurtoo, A. (Eds.). (2022). *Global Pandemics and Human Security: Technology and Development Perspective*. Singapore: Springer.

Swain, A & Ojendal, J. (2021). *Routledge Handbook of Environmental Security*. Abingdon: Routledge.

Svyatets, Ekaterina. (2016). *Energy Security and Cooperation in Eurasia: Power, Profit and Politics*. Abingdon: Routledge.

Additional Readings:

Baldwin, David A. (2021). Economic Security and Non-Traditional Security Threats: A Reassessment. *Journal of International Relations and Development*, 24(3), 410-426.

Masys, Anthony J., Izurieta, R. and Ortiz, Miguel R. eds. 2020. *Global Health Security: Recognizing Vulnerabilities, Creating Opportunities*. Singapore: Springer.

Slayton, Rebecca. (2021). The Problem with Cyber Norms: The Power and Limits of Global Cybersecurity Norms. *Journal of Cybersecurity*, 7(1), 1-15.

Unit 4: Russian Responses to NTS Challenges

This Unit will cover the developments in Russian policies and planning including the security policies specific to non-traditional security challenges. It will also discuss Russia's approach to bilateralism and multilateralism as part of responses to tackle the non-traditional security challenges.

The Unit will include:

- a) Developments in Russian Policies and Planning
- b) Russian Security Policy specific to NTS Challenges
- c) Russia's Approach to Bilateralism on NTS Threats
- d) Russia's Approach to Multilateralism on NTS Threats

Essential Readings:

Crutcher, Michael H. (Ed.). (2013). *Russian National Security: Perceptions, Policies, and Prospects*, CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform

Kanet, Roger E. & Piet, Remi. (Eds.). (2014). *Shifting Priorities in Russia's Foreign and Security Policies*. Burlington: Ashgate.

Snetkov, Aglaya. (2015). *Russia's Security Policy under Putin: A Critical Perspective*. Abingdon: Routledge.

Additional Readings:

Jonsson, Oscar. (2019). *The Russian Understanding of War: Blurring the Lines between War and Peace*, Washington DC: Georgetown University Press.

Blakkisrud, H. and Rowe, Elana W. (Eds.). (2018). *Russia's Turn to the East: Domestic Policymaking and Regional Cooperation*. Singapore: Palgrave Macmillan.

Cimbala, Stephen J. (2013). Russian Threat Perceptions and Security Policies: Soviet Shadows and Contemporary Challenges. *The Journal of Power Securities in Post-Soviet Societies*, 14/15. <https://doi.org/10.4000/pipss.4000>

Unit 5: Russia's Bilateral and Multilateral Initiatives

This Unit will explore Russia's bilateral and multilateral efforts to address non-traditional security (NTS) challenges. It will focus on Russia's cooperative initiatives with specific countries, including India and China, as well as its engagement with key multilateral institutions such as the UN Security Council (UNSC), WHO, and the WTO. Additionally, the role of regional organizations like the SCO, BRICS, RIC, and G20 will be examined. The core of this section will analyze how these initiatives contribute to mitigating NTS challenges in Russia.

This Unit will include:

- a) Developments in Russia's Bilateral Initiatives
- b) Cooperation with Multilateral Institutions
- c) Development Partnership with UN Organizations
- d) Role of Regional Organisations

Essential Readings:

Galleoti, Mark. (Ed.). (2016). *The Politics of Security in Modern Russia*. Abingdon: Routledge.

Pradhan, R. & Kakoty, S. (2024). *Security Integration in the Post-Soviet Space and Collective Security Treaty Organisation: Road Map for Future Cooperation*. Singapore: Springer Nature.

Stronski, P & Sokolsky, R. (2020). *Multipolarity in Practice: Understanding Russia's Engagement with Regional Institutions*. Washington DC: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Weiss, Thomas G. & Abdenur, Adriana E. (Eds.). (2016). *Emerging Powers and the UN: What Kind of Development Partnership?* Abingdon: Routledge.

Additional Readings:

Akaha, Tsuneo and Anna Vassilieva. (Eds.). (2014). *Russia and East Asia: Informal and Gradual Integration*, Abingdon: Routledge.

Arbatov, Alekseĭ Georgievich et.al. (Eds.). (1999). *Russia and the West: The 21st Century Security Environment*, Armonk: M.E. Sharpe.

Srinivas, J. (2022). *Future of the BRICS and the Role of China and Russia*. Singapore: Springer Nature.

Note: New Readings will be introduced by the course teacher from time to time.