



Course Syllabus  
**Critical Security Studies and Technology**

Kritiska säkerhetsstudier och teknologi

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<b>Course Code</b>	2FS009	<b>Main Field of Study</b>	Systems Science for Defence and Security
<b>Valid from Semester</b>	Spring 2022	<b>Department</b>	Department of Systems Science for Defence and Security
<b>Education Cycle</b>	Advanced level	<b>Subject</b>	Systems Science for Defence and Security
<b>Scope</b>	7.5	<b>Language of Instruction</b>	The teaching is conducted in English.
<b>Progression</b>	A1N	<b>Decided by</b>	The Research and Education Board's Course Syllabus Committee at the Swedish Defence University
<b>Grading Scale</b>	Fail, Pass, Pass with Distinction	<b>Decision date</b>	2021-01-01
<b>Revision</b>	1.2		

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#### Entry Requirements

- A bachelor's degree with a minimum of 180 credits,
- at least 15 credits in the field of Defense, Crisis management and Security,
- and knowledge corresponding to English B / 6.

#### Course Content and Structure

The aim of this course is to give an introduction to foundations, current issues and different approaches of Critical Security Studies CSS that are applicable in the defense sector. The course is focused on socio-technical perspectives where the interaction of humans and technology is intertwined with a variety of perspectives, values and elements that together forms its own unique ontology. The course also covers the connection between technology and security where technical objects and defense systems are perceived both as that which give us security and as a threat.

The course is divided into five themes:

1. Introduction and general orientation to critical theory and its connection to safety and technology.
2. What is 'Security'? Including the instrumental view vs the emancipatory view. 'Securitization' theory – security as socially constructed.
3. Feminist and postcolonial perspectives. Intersectional perspectives on safety. The power dimension – dominance and oppression.
4. Surveillance technology: Panopticon and surveillance.
5. Current security issues including sustainable development.

Each theme begins with lectures interspersed with independent literature studies and ends with a seminar. Together, lectures and seminars provide students with a basis for the final written assignment in essay form.

#### Intended Learning Outcomes

After completed course the student should be able to:

##### Competence and skills

- critically review and discuss contemporary security issues from a critical security perspective.

##### Judgement and approach

- critically reflect on security as a social construction,
- independently analyze scientific and empirical issues related to technology and security.

**Type of Instruction**

Seminars

Lectures

Independent Study

**Assessment****Individual essay**

Scope: 7.5

Grading Scale: Fail, Pass, Pass with Distinction

At the end of the course, an individual essay is written about a current problem in a security technology context that is analyzed against the background of critical theory.

The examiner may decide that supplementary work is required in order for a pass grade to be achieved. Examination papers submitted late will not be graded, unless there are special reasons, which have been approved by the examiner.

Supplementary assignments are to be submitted no later than five working days after the notification of results and the supplementary assignment for the examination in question, unless there are special reasons, which have been approved by the examiner.

**Grading**

Grading takes place through a three-grade grading scale: Fail (F), Pass (P) and Pass with Distinction (PwD).

Grading criteria are reported at the latest at the start of the course.

**Restrictions in Number of Examinations**

The number of examinations is not limited.

**Restrictions Concerning Degree**

The course cannot be included in a degree with another course whose content fully or partially corresponds to the content of this course.

**Transitional Provisions**

When the course is no longer given or when the course content has changed substantially, the student has the right to be examined once per semester during a three-term period in accordance with this syllabus.

**Miscellaneous**

The course is given within Defence and Security Systems Development - Master's Programme. The course may also be given as a single-subject course or in other Master's Programmes.

If a student has a decision from the Swedish Defense University on special educational support due to a disability, the examiner may decide on alternative forms of examination for the student.

On the completion of the course, an evaluation will be conducted under the auspices of the course director, which will form the basis for any changes to the course.



Reading List  
Critical Security Studies and Technology

Kritiska säkerhetsstudier och teknologi

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<b>Course Code</b>	2FS009
<b>Revision</b>	1.2
<b>Reading List Valid from Date</b>	2022-08-31
<b>Reading List Decided Date</b>	2022-08-30

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Litterature

Books

McCarthy, D.R. (2017). Technology and World Politics. Routledge: London

Peoples, C., & Vaughan-Williams, N. (2020). Critical Security Studies (Second Edi). New York: Routledge.

A selection of scientific articles and book chapters.