SUMMER PROGRAMMES

UNDERGRADUATE MODULE SYLLABUS

GENERAL INFORMATION	
Module title	War & Diplomacy
Module code	4ZSS0180
Module level	Level 4 (First year Undergraduate UK Higher Education)
Credit value	Equivalent to 15 King's credits, 7.5 ECTS, 3-4 US Credits
Duration	2 weeks
Workload	45 contact teaching hours + 105 Independent study hours. (See detail below)
Entry Requirements	Standard entry requirements here
Mode of Delivery	Face to face, on campus
Contributing Faculty	Department of War Studies, Faculty of Social Science and Public Policy
Date last updated	Oct. 2026 (following minor modifications)

MODULE INFORMATION
Module description
This module examines the fundamental concepts of war and diplomacy, focusing both on traditional and non-traditional security threats, and engaging with diplomatic practices from

traditional and emerging actors. Many countries around the world have experienced and are currently in conflict situations. War has torn apart societies and caused devastation, death, and destruction in its wake. Diplomacy will be examined as a civilised and civilising activity for both current and future members of the international society. Its role as the 'glue' which binds states together on a day-to-day basis of discussion and argument will be emphasised. In this context diplomacy's role in maintaining and improving the quality of life for individuals and groups within societies will be a central feature of the analysis

Case study material will include examples of warfare and diplomatic interaction in the contemporary world, focusing on emerging strategic regions, and hybrid warfare, as well as new forms of diplomacy outside the traditional Liberal International Order's institutions.

Educational aims

This module aims to:

- Develop students' understanding of contemporary issues relating to war and diplomacy, including relevant theoretical approaches and their application to case studies.
- Build students' understanding of the role of diplomacy in international relations, including the practices of traditional and emerging diplomatic actors.
- Introduce students to traditional and non-traditional security threats and changing forms of conflict and diplomacy.
- Enable students to engage in informed debate on topics related to war, diplomacy and global politics.
- Guide students to assess narratives of war, identity, and politics interacting with public institutions that deal with memory, heritage and history.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the module, students will be able to:

- Explain key concepts and theoretical approaches relating to war and diplomacy in international relations.
- Analyse different approaches to diplomacy, including from emerging and non-Western actors, in managing conflict, crises and contemporary security challenges.
- Examine the role of war in shaping the balance of power and changes in international order.
- Compare the roles and practices of traditional and emerging actors in global and regional governance.
- Apply relevant concepts to analyse changes in world order and their influence on international and regional governance.
- Evaluate responses to traditional and non-traditional security threats, including in multidomain and counterterrorism contexts

Teaching methods

The module will typically consist of activities distributed as stated below. Please note that individual tutors may vary this in accordance with discipline-specific requirements.

Lectures	Seminar/ tutorials	Field/lab/studio/ supervised learning	Asynchronous	Other/private study
16 hours	20	6	3	105

Assessment

Method	Number	Duration/length	Pass mark	% of final grade of module
In-class examination	1	1 hour	40	30
Group Oral Presentation	1	15-25 minutes	40	70

Attendance requirements

Students must attend a minimum of 80% of timetabled contact hours to receive a Record of Agreed Results.

Reading list

• The Anarchical Society, Fourth Edition (2012) by Hedley Bull (available online through KCL Library)

• The Globalization of World Politics (2014) by John Baylis, Patricia Owens and Steve Smith (available in

print at Franklin-Wilkins and Maughan libraries)

• Diplomacy (2015) by G. R. Berridge (available online through KCL Library)

• The Direction of War: Contemporary Strategy in Historical Perspective (2013) by Hew Strachan (available

online through KCL Library)