



THE ARMS TRADE AND GLOBAL (IN)SECURITIES

3rd year option

Prof. Anna Stavrianakis

MODULE CONVENOR

- My name is Anna Stavrianakis; you can contact me on A.Stavrianakis@sussex.ac.uk
- I research the international arms trade, UK arms export policy and international arms control as vectors of security, insecurity and militarism. I've been working on these topics since 2003.
- I work a lot with NGOs, campaigners, journalists and MPs – you will hear lots of stories about how activists try and generate change on the arms trade! I will bring real-life examples and that experience into the classroom.





CORE QUESTION

What is the role of the arms trade in global (in)securities?

ABOUT THE MODULE

Focus on:

- Global networks of arms production: countries, companies, brokers
- Global patterns of arms transfers: who supplies what weapons, where, and with what effects?
- Power and politics in the arms trade and efforts to control it
- Significance of the arms trade for global (dis)order
- Critical perspectives on international politics

SAMPLE SYLLABUS

Week 1 Introduction to the global arms trade

Week 2 Transformations in the global arms trade

Week 3 From empire to global Cold War

Week 4 From wars on/of terror to the end of liberal world order

Week 5 The global war economy and varieties of empire

Week 6 US/EU: Arming the wars in Yemen, Gaza, Ukraine

Week 7 Russia: Arming the wars in Ukraine, Syria and Myanmar

Week 8 China: Arming the wars in Sudan, DRC, Ethiopia

Week 9 Iran/UAE: Arming the wars Yemen, Gaza and Sudan

Week 10 Control, regulation, abolition?

Week 11 Essay prep week

Indicative syllabus: actual content subject to change

EXAMPLE

ARMING THE WARS IN YEMEN AND GAZA

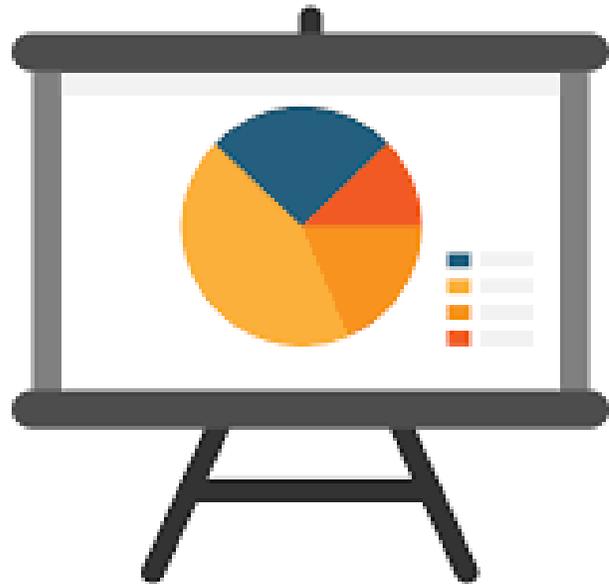


YEMEN AND GAZA

- Who is arming the wars in Yemen and Gaza?
- Who/what is being made secure and who/what is being made insecure by war and violence?
- What opposition and resistance has there been to the arms trade?
- Would ending western arms sales to the Saudi-led coalition or Israel have stopped the war?
- How do the Houthis, Hamas and other armed groups get their weapons?

SEMINAR FORMAT

- Weekly 3-hour seminar (with breaks!)
- Combination of small group and individual work, class discussions, some lecture material
- We will use policy documents, NGO reports, journalism, videos as well as scholarly literature
- We will combine empirical analysis of specific cases with theoretical and conceptual analysis of the meaning and significance of the arms trade for global (in)securities

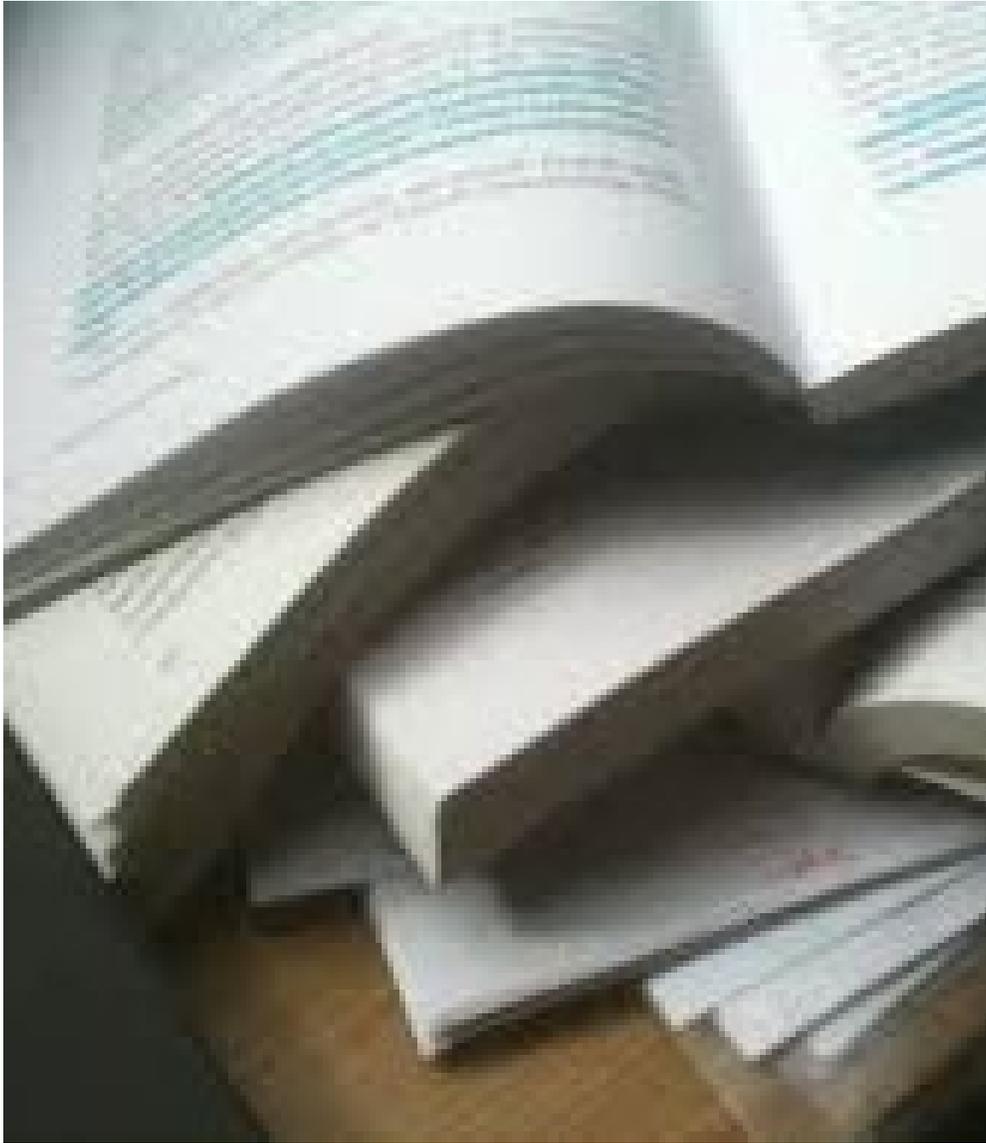


ASSESSMENTS

In-class presentation during term
Worth 30% of your mark

This will take the form of a group presentation, simulation, role play or debate on one of the weekly topics.

We will work together to find a format that allows everyone to participate.



ESSAY

3500-word essay on one of our topics

Worth 70% of your mark

Due in Assessment Block 2 (May)

SAMPLE RESOURCES!

- 7 Myths that Sustain the Global Arms Trade,
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sj1pEofz8uQ&feature=youtu.be>
- How the Military Pollutes Our Planet and Gets Away With it,
<https://www.doubledown.news/watch/2021/november/8/how-the-military-pollutes-our-planet-and-gets-away-with-it>
- Demilitarise Education, @dED_ucation
- European Network Against Arms Trade,
<http://enaat.org/arms-trade-research>

INDICATIVE READINGS

El Shewy, Mohamed, Mark Griffiths, Craig Jones (2025) "Israel's War on Gaza in a Global Frame," *Antipode* 57(1): 75-95

Dana, Tariq (2020) "A Cruel Innovation: Israeli experiments on Gaza's Great March of Return," *Sociology of Islam*, 8(2): 175-198

Cooper, Neil (2018) "Race, Sovereignty and Free Trade: Arms Trade Regulation and Humanitarian Arms Control in the Age of Empire," *Journal of Global Security Studies*, 3(4): 444-462

Musa, Shavana (2017) "The Saudi-Led Coalition in Yemen, Arms Exports and Human Rights: Prevention Is Better than Cure," *Journal of Conflict and Security Law* 22, no. 3 (2017): 433-462

Dunbar-Ortiz, Roxanne (2018) *Loaded. A Disarming History of the Second Amendment* (San Francisco: City Light Books)

Stavrianakis, Anna (2020) "Requiem for Risk: Non-knowledge and domination in the governance of weapons circulation," *International Political Sociology*, 14: 233-251

De Waal, Alex (2023) "Sudan's next stop: regional proxy war?" 3 August 2023, <https://responsiblestatecraft.org/2023/08/03/sudans-next-stop-regional-proxy-war/>