



STUDY PROGRAMME(S)

(1) EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies

(2) Transatlantic Affairs

ACADEMIC YEAR

2023-24

SEMESTER

2

COURSE TITLE

European Intelligence Analysis and Production in Practice

COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

Rubén ARCOS

COURSE ASSISTANT(S)

Aoife GRIFFIN

NATURE OF COURSE (COMPULSORY, OPTIONAL, ELECTIVE)

(1) Optional course

(2) Elective course

ECTS CREDITS

4.5

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

English

1. COURSE OBJECTIVES

This optional course provides students with an understanding of the role of intelligence in contemporary decision-making, with a particular focus on Europe and the European Union (EU). Students will receive training in analytic tradecraft and relevant techniques for the production of anticipatory, strategic and current intelligence. Through a combination of lectures, case study analyses, and active learning methods such as simulation exercises and gaming, students will be able to understand and apply a set of processes and techniques to elaborate a portfolio of analytic products from open-source information in support of EU external action. Students will learn about information sources and information evaluation, structured analysis and other analytic approaches for the production of intelligence, the role of heuristics and cognitive biases, and how to mitigate them, how intelligence analysis deals with disinformation and deception, and how to communicate analytic confidence and uncertainty in assessments to policymakers. The course emphasizes the particularities of team-working in intelligence analysis projects in the context of a multilateral environment such as the European Union. Finally, the course will reflect on technology, AI, and other drivers of change for the future of intelligence analysis. The knowledge and skills acquired in this course are transferable to many fields in the public and private sector.

At the end of the course, the student will be able to

- understand the concept of security intelligence and the importance of the intelligence function in providing awareness, in-depth understanding, and anticipation for facilitating decision making;
- know European national and transnational intelligence systems and practices;
- understand the central role of analysis in intelligence;
- know and apply different analytic disciplines, methods and techniques for the production of intelligence;



- critically analyse, assess, and explain current and emerging threats/challenges in the context of the European security environment;
- understand the importance of team-working and communication in intelligence;
- critically assess drivers of transformation for the future of intelligence analysis.

2. LEARNING OUTCOMES

The course objectives tie in with the following learning outcomes of the programme **EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies**:

- 1.1 The graduate masters the most important theoretical approaches and concepts of International Relations, EU Studies and Diplomacy Studies relevant for the analysis of the role of the European Union in international affairs.
- 1.2 The graduate can describe, explain and illustrate the current state of scientific research in the field of EU external relations in a broad sense and is able to critically assess the results of this research.
- 1.4 The graduate has acquired insights into the political, legal and economic aspects of EU external action and can use these insights to contextualise and interpret new developments.
- 1.5 The graduate is able to incorporate knowledge and understanding of various fields of EU external action and of different related disciplines (such as Political Science, International Relations, Law, Economics) at the interface between EU affairs and world politics.
- 2.1 The graduate can approach the field of national, European and international diplomacy analytically by assessing the challenges in this domain with an open mind for diversity and for complex situations.
- 2.2 The graduate has the ability to critically reflect upon problems in international and European affairs, to adopt well-informed points of view and to communicate them effectively orally and in writing, whether working independently or in a team.
- 2.3 The graduate can independently formulate a research question within the field of European affairs, find, select and critically assess relevant sources, answer the question using typical concepts and methods and present the research results in line with the ethical rules of the discipline.
- 2.4 The graduate is capable of processing a large amount of information within a short period of time and to work efficiently and effectively through planning, organising, setting priorities and meeting deadlines.
- 2.5 The graduate has the intellectual maturity and skills to function responsibly and autonomously in a professional context at national, European or international level and the capacity of suggesting possible action that contributes to problem-solving in a creative way.
- 2.6 The graduate can apply the acquired skills in the analysis and conduct of multifaceted (international) negotiations, both independently and in diverse and multicultural teams.
- 3.4 The graduate has acquired specific professional skills relevant to the practice of EU external action but also transferable to many other fields in the public and private sector.

The course objectives tie in with the following learning outcomes of the programme **Transatlantic Affairs**:

- 1.1 The graduate masters the most important theoretical approaches and concepts of, depending on his or her disciplinary focus, Economics, International Relations and Diplomacy Studies, Legal Studies and/or Political Science relevant for the analysis of transatlantic affairs.
- 1.2 The graduate can describe, explain and illustrate the current state of scientific research in the field of transatlantic affairs in a broad sense and, in line with his or her disciplinary focus, is able to critically assess the results of this research.
- 1.4 The graduate has insights into historical, political, legal and economic aspects of transatlantic affairs as well as into those policy areas that are of essential importance to transatlantic affairs. He or she can use these insights to contextualize and interpret new developments.



- 1.5 The graduate is able to incorporate knowledge and understanding of various fields of transatlantic affairs and of different related disciplines (such as Economics, International Relations, Legal Studies, Political Science) as well as to adopt both a European and a US perspective on transatlantic affairs.
- 2.1 The graduate can approach the field of transatlantic affairs in a broad sense analytically by assessing the challenges in this domain with an open mind for diversity and for complex situations.
- 2.2 The graduate has the ability to critically reflect upon problems regarding an extensive range of transatlantic affairs, to adopt well-informed points of view and to communicate them effectively orally and in writing, whether working independently or in a team.
- 2.4 The graduate is capable of processing a large amount of information and appropriately analyse relevant sources depending on his or her disciplinary focus within a short period of time and of suggesting possible actions that contribute to problem-solving in a creative way.
- 2.5 The graduate has the intellectual maturity and skills to take responsibilities and function autonomously in a professional environment at national or international level, and especially in a transatlantic context, and to work efficiently and effectively through planning, organizing, setting priorities, meeting deadlines, cooperating across cultural boundaries and networking.

3. COURSE CONTENTS

Session 1: What is intelligence? An introduction to the intelligence function for decision-making

Session 2: The key role of analysis in the intelligence function. Intelligence analysis fundamentals and analytic standards

Session 3: Approaches to intelligence analysis, analytic frameworks, and techniques

Session 4: Analytic techniques II, indications and warning, and foresight methodology

Session 5: Intelligence production and presentation. The communication of analyses, assessments and uncertainty to policy-makers

Session 6: Analysis and production simulation exercise

Session 7: The Future of Intelligence Analysis

Please refer to the intranet course page for access to the full course outline

4. TEACHING METHOD

- Interactive lectures
- Individual written assignment
- Simulation exercise

5. COURSE MATERIAL

Please refer to the intranet course page for access to the detailed reading list (required and supplementary readings) and the slides.



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ECTS CARD

6. EVALUATION

- Participation in in-class discussions and simulations (20%)
- Individual paper (30%)
- 2h written exam (50%)

In case of a second-session resit, a 2h written exam counts for 100% of the mark.