



College of Europe  
Collège d'Europe



NatoLin

## ECTS CARD

### STUDY PROGRAMME(S) / STUDY TRACK(S)

Master of Arts in European Interdisciplinary Studies  
Master of Arts in Transatlantic Affairs (Study Track: European Interdisciplinary Studies)

### YEAR

2026-2027

### COURSE TITLE

**The Paris Peace Conference of 1919-20**

### SEMESTER

1

### PROFESSOR(S)

BUTTERWICK-PAWLIKOWSKI Richard

### ACADEMIC ASSISTANT(S)

SACCO ZAUT Andrea

### COURSE TYPE

Simulation Game

### MAJOR(S)

Not applicable

### ECTS CREDITS

0

### TEACHING HOURS

10

### INDIVIDUAL & GROUP STUDY TIME

10

### TUTORIAL(S)

0

### COEFFICIENT

0

### LANGUAGE(S)

EN

### COURSE OBJECTIVES

In this simulation game students take on the roles of the victorious Allies, defeated Central Powers and aspirant new or restored nation-states at the Paris peace conference of 1919-20. Following the First World War (1914-18), statesmen and diplomats from across the globe gathered in Paris to draft, negotiate and impose the treaties of Versailles with Germany, of St.-Germain-en-Laye with Austria, of Neuilly-sur-Seine with Bulgaria, of Trianon with Hungary, and of Sèvres with the Ottoman Empire. However, the Allies' attempt to partition the Ottoman Empire was only partially successful, and a further treaty was signed with the new Turkish state at Lausanne in 1923. They also had to reckon with many faits accomplis, especially in Central and Eastern Europe. The 'Versailles order' is often presented as a failure, particularly in Western Europe; the causes of the Second World War are sometimes located in the attempt to replace multi-national continental empires with nation-states according to the principle of national self-determination. In contrast, some have argued that the problem with Versailles was the failure to enforce it rigorously. Moreover, several member states of the EU recovered or gained their independence in 1918, and so the Paris conference is generally seen in a positive light, by, for example, Poles and Czechs.

### LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- 1) Acquire an in-depth understanding of the problems of peace-making at the Paris conference, a crucial moment in modern European and global history (A1);
- 2) Empathize with persons and communities that are not their own (B2, MATA 2.5);
- 3) Apply skills in teamwork and negotiation (B1, B3, B7, MATA 2.1);
- 4) Master briefs and presenting and defending cases orally (B4, B5, B8, MATA 2.4).

## RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

Besides familiarizing themselves with the game scenario, which will be supplied in advance, all participants should read the chapter and the relevant chapters of the book below. They should in addition read more widely.

## TEACHING METHOD(S)

Preparatory lectures (four hours), followed by simulation game of the peace conference lasting six hours, the conference will consist of plenary sessions, committee work and informal negotiations and lobbying. Each delegation will receive its own objectives and the degree to which it achieves them will be judged using a points system.

## ASSESSMENT METHOD(S)

None.

## COURSE CONTENTS

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## COURSE MATERIALS (readings and other learning resources/tools)

SHARP, A., 'Peacemaking After World War I' in G. Martel (ed.), *A Companion to Europe, 1900-1945*, Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2011, pp. 261-276 PDF;

MACMILLAN, M., *Peacemakers: The Paris Peace Conference of 1919 and its Attempts to End War*, London, 2001 [37646];

Further readings in the course outline;

A general scenario and timetable, as well as secret objectives for each delegation will be provided in advance.