College of Europe
Collège d'Europe

Brugge | Natolin

ECTS CARD

STUDY PROGRAMME(S) / STUDY TRACK(S)	YEAR
Master of Arts in European Interdisciplinary Studies Master of Arts in European Interdisciplinary Studies (Study Track: European Security and Strategy) Master of Arts in Transatlantic Affairs (Study Track: European Interdisciplinary Studies) Master of Arts in Transatlantic Affairs (Study Track: European Interdisciplinary Studies - European Security and Strategy)	2026-2027

COURSE TITLE	SEMESTER
Elementary Foundations in Economics and Econometrics	1

PROFESSOR(S)	ACADEMIC ASSISTANT(S)
CHRISTIE Edward Hunter	SACCO ZAUT Andrea

COURSE TYPE	MAJOR(S)	ECTS CREDITS
Introductory Course	Not applicable	0

TEACHING HOURS	INDIVIDUAL & GROUP STUDY TIME	TUTORIAL(S)	COEFFICIENT	LANGUAGE(S)
6	6	0	0	EN

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course provides students with a narrow and targeted introduction to economics and econometrics, selected for its direct relevance to defence, international security, and geoeconomics.

The course has three small blocks. First, a presentation of the concepts of strategic goods and strategic capabilities. Second, a focus on the microeconomic logic needed to understand security-related shocks, such as a sudden cut-off in the supply of energy or of critical/rare minerals, and how such shocks propagate through markets. Third, a basic introduction to what regression analysis can do, why it is essential to empirical economic studies (including defence economics), and how to interpret a simplified table of regression results.

The course is designed to lay essential groundwork for the Professor's own second-semester course in Defence Economics, and to provide a complementary foundation for courses in geoeconomics.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

1) List examples of strategic goods and examples of strategic capabilities and explain why they are deemed strategic (A5, B5, B8);
2) Give a qualitative description, from a microeconomic perspective, of how a security-related supply shock (e.g. a cut-off in energy supplies or in critical/rare minerals) may affect prices, quantities, and the behaviour of economic actors (B5, B8, MATA2.4);
3) Explain, at a basic level, the purpose and logic of regression analysis (B5, B8, MATA2.4);

4) Read and interpret a simplified table of regression results, including distinguishing statistically significant from non-significant variables and identifying basic sample-selection issues (B5, B8, MATA2.4).

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

None.

TEACHING METHOD(S)

Lectures.

ASSESSMENT METHOD(S)

None.

COURSE CONTENTS

1: Introduction: why economics and econometrics matter for the study of security and defence

2: Strategic goods: why are certain goods – such as crude oil or critical minerals – deemed 'strategic'

3: Strategic capabilities: how certain industrial and defence capabilities underpin national power

4: Microeconomics of supply shocks: markets, prices and quantities under disruption

5: Introduction to regression analysis: purpose and basic logic

6: Reading a regression table: coefficients and statistical significance

7: Basic sample-selection issues in applied econometrics

8: Bridging to Defence Economics and to Geoeconomics

COURSE MATERIALS (readings and other learning resources/tools)

Intergovernmental Forum on Mining, Minerals, Metals and Sustainable Development (IGF). *Critical Minerals: A Primer*. Geneva: IGF, 2022. https://www.igfmining.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/critical-minerals-primer-en-WEB.pdf.

Perkins, Joe, and Clemence Rainaut. "The Simple Economics of Energy Prices." *Compass Lexecon* (blog), February 22, 2023. https://www.compasslexecon.com/insights/publications/the-simple-economics-of-energy-prices.

Bakija, Jon. "A Non-Technical Introduction to Regression." *Department of Economics Working Paper*, Williams College, August 2013. https://web.williams.edu/Economics/wp/Bakija-Non-Technical-Introduction-to-Regression.pdf.

Miller, Steven V. "Reading a Regression Table: A Guide for Students." *Steven V. Miller* (blog), August 2014. https://svmiller.com/blog/2014/08/reading-a-regression-table-a-guide-for-students/ .