



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 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)

YEAR

2026-2027

COURSE TITLE

Introduction to Interdisciplinarity and Transdisciplinarity

SEMESTER

1

PROFESSOR(S)

SZOSTAK Rick

ACADEMIC ASSISTANT(S)

STEINGASS Sebastian

COURSE TYPE

Introductory Course

MAJOR(S)

Not applicable

ECTS CREDITS

0

TEACHING HOURS

0

INDIVIDUAL & GROUP STUDY TIME

10

TUTORIAL(S)

0

COEFFICIENT

0

LANGUAGE(S)

EN

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The purpose of this introductory course is to explore the concept of interdisciplinarity and provide a detailed understanding of how interdisciplinary research can be effectively conducted. It begins by examining the nature of interdisciplinarity by defining the concept, discussing its key drivers, and analysing debates surrounding best practices. Students gain insights into the essential elements of interdisciplinarity, including the theoretical and practical context needed to engage with the more applied aspects of interdisciplinary research.

The course further delves into the interdisciplinary research process, covering topics such as asking meaningful questions, surveying existing literature, evaluating disciplinary insights, seeking common ground, employing mixed methods, and reflecting on and communicating findings. Creativity and public policy are addressed as critical components that enrich interdisciplinary work and ensure its societal relevance. In addition, the course explores the challenges of working in teams, including communication, task management, and team dynamics, while emphasising the importance of integrating experts who can bridge disciplinary divides.

The introductory course concludes by synthesising these lessons and equipping students with the conceptual understanding and practical tools needed to conduct successful interdisciplinary research.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- 1) Understand the nature of interdisciplinarity, its role in academic enquiry, and its key characteristics (A1, B7, MATA1.1);
- 2) Understand theoretical and practical considerations about the interdisciplinary research process (A1, B7, MATA2.3);
- 3) Identify and critically assess key steps in how to perform an interdisciplinary analysis, including related challenges and contributions to advancing knowledge (B5, B7);
- 4) Draw on insights from the interdisciplinary research process in the formulation of research questions and research design in European studies and beyond (B5, B7).

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

None.

TEACHING METHOD(S)

E-learning.

ASSESSMENT METHOD(S)

None.

COURSE CONTENTS

Module 1: Introduction to Interdisciplinarity

Module 2: Key characteristics of the interdisciplinary research process

Module 3: Steps for doing interdisciplinary research: Asking a good question, surveying the literature

Module 4: Mapping the disciplines and evaluating disciplinary Insights

Module 5: Seeking common ground

Module 6: Mixed methods research

Module 7: Reflect, evaluate, communicate

Module 8: Creativity

Module 9: Public policy

Module 10: Working in interdisciplinary teams

Conclusions

COURSE MATERIALS (readings and other learning resources/tools)

Course materials include videos, readings (articles and chapters), interactive materials, and quizzes.