



College of Europe
Collège d'Europe



Natolin

ECTS CARD

STUDY PROGRAMME(S) / STUDY TRACK(S)

Master of Arts in European Interdisciplinary Studies (Study Track: European Security and Strategy)
Master of Arts in Transatlantic Affairs (Study Track: European Interdisciplinary Studies - European Security and Strategy)

YEAR

2026-2027

COURSE TITLE

Making Sense of Military Strategy

SEMESTER

1

PROFESSOR(S)

MILEVSKI Lukas

ACADEMIC ASSISTANT(S)

KIVI Emmi-Ilona

COURSE TYPE

Contextual Course

MAJOR(S)

Not applicable

ECTS

0

TEACHING HOURS

8

INDIVIDUAL & GROUP STUDY TIME

8

TUTORIAL(S)

0

COEFFICIENT

0

LANGUAGE(S)

EN

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Military strategy is the threat or use of force for political purposes. It is a unique phenomenon and way of rigorous imaginative thinking which can be difficult to understand and, as a skill, to acquire. This contextual course will therefore act as an introduction to strategy to make sense of it. In doing so, we will: define and discuss definitions of strategy and the various logics underpinning strategy as a way of thinking and practice; consider the interdisciplinary dimensions which always relate to strategy in theory and practice; how to study strategy; as well as how various forms of military power (land, sea, air, nuclear, cyber) fit into strategy. To contextualize strategy, we will also take a step back to consider the challenges of conceptualizing and practicing grand strategy. We will end with a discussion of the case of the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

1. Understand the concept of strategy and its basic component parts (B6, ESSST3, ESSST4, MATA 1.1, MATA 2.4);
2. Analyze the real world practice of strategy (B6, ESSST3, ESSST5, MATA 1.1, MATA 2.4).

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

None.

TEACHING METHOD(S)

Seminar format for directed discussions.

ASSESSMENT METHOD(S)

The course will be assessed on a pass/fail basis based on:

1. A digital onsite multiple-choice, closed-book test (80% of the final score) at the end of the final course session - 15 minutes to answer 7 questions, and
2. overall attendance (20% of the final score).

The weighted average of both assessment elements needs to be equal to or greater than 50% for a student to pass the course. Each student is entitled to retake the test once. The retake test will account for 80% of the final score, while overall attendance will account for the remaining 20%.

COURSE CONTENTS

Defining and understanding the multiple logics of strategy

Dimensions of strategy

How to study strategy

Strategy and power

Grand strategy

Case: the Russian invasion of Ukraine

COURSE MATERIALS (readings and other learning resources/tools)

Reading list in the Course Outline.