



## STUDY PROGRAMME

European Interdisciplinary Studies, Natolin campus (Advanced Academic Master)

## YEAR

2021-2022

## COURSE TITLE

**The Indo-Pacific Century**

## ACADEMIC ASSISTANT

NIZOWICZ Nicolas

## COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

ISLAM Shada

## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

WOŁOWIEC Jacek

## COURSE TYPE

Optional Specialist Course

## MAJOR(S)

EPAP, EUW, EHC

## ECTS CREDITS

4

## SEMESTER

2

## TEACHING HOURS

20

## INDIVIDUAL & GROUP STUDY TIME

80

## TUTORIAL(S)

## COEFFICIENT

1

## LANGUAGE(S)

EN

## COURSE OBJECTIVE

This optional course explores the EU's new strategy for a stronger profile in the Indo-Pacific and its intention to reinforce its strategic focus, presence and actions in the region. Key questions which merit reflection, critical thinking and debate include: current and future opportunities in the region for the EU, who are the key actors and how can they be engaged in a more sustainable manner and what are the key challenges facing this diverse and exciting region?

**The EU is no stranger to the Indo-Pacific, having built up a network of trade agreements and “partnership” pacts across the region over years.** The EU was early in recognizing the geopolitical significance of the rise of Asia, including the continent's growing importance as a global political, security and economic player, as well as its increased involvement in world trade and rising political clout. Over the years, the relationship has been driven by business but often clouded by politics. It includes engagement with key civil society actors. Once primarily dominated by trade and investments, the EU conversation with countries in the Indo-Pacific is becoming more multi-faceted, covering climate change, connectivity, health and security as well as human rights. In recent years, as both Europe and Asia emerge as more significant regional and global players, EU with Indo Pacific countries have gained additional momentum and significance. Both sides are paying more attention to each other not just at the governmental level but also through increased contacts between business leaders and civil society actors.

The course will look at the history of the EU's relationship with the Indo-Pacific, the dominant narratives that have steered the connections and the current state of EU engagement with the region through connectivity partnerships, trade agreements, development partnerships and strategic dialogues including on security issues, on both the bilateral and regional level but also on the global stage, especially on crucial questions linked to global governance. The course will analyse the strengths and deficits of the EU's developing relationships with China, India, ASEAN and Japan and seek insights on how these partnerships can be made more relevant to tackle 21st Century challenges including climate change, implementation of Agenda 2030, immigration and religious extremism.

## COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will acquire an in-depth understanding of the various facets of the EU's strategic presence, focus and engagement in the Indo-Pacific and how it fits in with the EU's strategy for enhanced global engagement and relevance in areas such as trade, political and strategic dialogue, security, human rights, development cooperation and humanitarian aid. Students will be able to gain insight into the challenges and opportunities that the EU faces as it seeks to develop closer ties with the Indo-Pacific and the region's role in the EU's foreign policy. Students will have an opportunity to engage in critical thinking on how the EU and Indo-Pacific countries can become stronger partners in an uncertain and rapidly-changing world.

## RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

Readings before each session.

## TEACHING METHOD(S)

The classes will be based on a series of lively and interactive lectures, group discussion and student presentations.

## ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

Students will be evaluated on the basis of a closed-book written examination (50% of the final mark), a group research paper (20% of the final mark, between 950 and 1.050 words per student participating in the group paper), a group presentation on the topic of the group research paper (20% of the final mark) and class participation (10% of the final mark). If the number of students participating to the course exceeds 20, the percentages of the class participation mark will be reallocated to the final exam. In that case, the final exam will constitute 60% of the final mark.

The in-class written exam will last for 2 hours and will include 2 essay questions from which students will be asked to choose 1. It will be a closed-book exam and students will be asked to write answers between 3 and 4 pages. Evaluation will be based on the ability to formulate original and informed opinions on the topic discussed, as well as factual knowledge on the subjects covered in the course.

The group research paper will be on a topic of choice to be determined by the students together with the Professor at the beginning of the course. It shall analyse a specific aspect of one of the broad themes which are touched upon during the course. The length of the group research paper will depend on the number of students taking part in the group.

The length of the group presentation on the topic of the group research paper shall depend on the number of students in the group, with each student having 5 minutes to present his or her part. Students making the presentation should prepare a PowerPoint presentation as well as a handout for their fellow students. Each presentation should include 2 questions for debate in the class. These questions shall serve as the starting point for a class debate on the subject of the presentation, which shall last around half an hour. The number of presentations will depend on the number of students in the class.

Class participation will be actively encouraged to stimulate debate in the course. Students will be assessed on the basis of the pertinence, precision and quantity of their interventions.

The College of Europe reserves the right to change the delivery and assessment of the course in case of circumstances beyond the reasonable control of the College (*force majeure*). Any communication from the campus administration in this regard takes precedence over the information provided in this ECTS card.

Retake examinations, i.e. exams passed in the second examination session, will have the same format as those taken during the first exam session. The only exception concerns oral exams, which are replaced in the second exam session by written exams. When a student takes an examination during the second session, the final mark for the

course is based solely on the result of the retake examination. No other element of evaluation which would have been taken into consideration in the calculation of the final mark during the first examination session will be considered in the second session.

## COURSE CONTENTS

The course will be organised around key themes of relevance and the changing history and narrative of the EU's engagement in the Indo-Pacific, with references to the wider geopolitical and geoeconomics contexts. Special attention will also be given to the question of connectivity, and the EU's relations with China, India, ASEAN, and Japan. The role of ASEM as a geopolitical forum will be discussed.

Session 1: General introduction to the EU in the Indo Pacific: the lecture will provide a general background and short history on the slow but steady geopolitical development of EU relations with the Indo Pacific over the last three decades, including key milestones and challenges during the process, the role of EU member states and the reasons to continue efforts for enhanced EU presence and role in the Indo Pacific. It will look at key developments during this period in Asia and in Europe and how these have impacted on EU-Indo Pacific relations. Key questions: how successful is the EU in establishing a distinct identity as a global actor in the Indo Pacific? What can it do better? What does the region really want from the EU?

Session 2: EU-Asia political and security cooperation: the EU's strategic partners in the region (content of the relationship), and outstanding issues (Taiwan, the arms embargo on China, the South China Sea, North Korea, etc.). Key questions: What is the value of EU partnerships in the Indo Pacific, how are they evolving? How is the EU's "soft" power perceived in Asia? What is the future of EU-Asia security cooperation?

Session 3: EU-Asia economic cooperation: the pivotal role of trade and business, the attempt to conclude FTAs and Bilateral Investment Treaties with countries across the region and their current state of play, EU development cooperation in the region. Key questions: What are the EU's trade priorities in the Indo Pacific? What is the value of EU-Asia FTAs? How effective is the EU as a development actor in the Indo Pacific?

Session 4: The EU's region-building efforts in Asia as manifested in its support of ASEAN and the growing significance of EU-ASEAN ties in EU foreign policy. Key questions: What is the significance and role of ASEAN? What are the key highlights of the EU-ASEAN relationship?

Session 5: The importance of the Asia Europe Meeting (ASEM) and its relevance as the EU seeks to compete with other "great powers" in the region: the roles and ambitions of countries such as the US as an external but vital player and of regional players such as China or India. Key questions: What is ASEM and why is it important? Can ASEM be enhanced and made more credible? Has the EU been successful in forging a unique identity as an essential partner in Asia?

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

See the bibliography on the course outline.