



## STUDY PROGRAMME

European Interdisciplinary Studies, Natolin campus (Advanced Academic Master)

## YEAR

2023-2024

## COURSE TITLE

**Introduction to International Security and Defense Studies: Theories and Concepts**

## SEMESTER

1

## COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

MICHTA Andrew

## ACADEMIC ASSISTANT(S)

BOURGOIS Kilian

## COURSE TYPE

Preparatory Course

## MAJOR(S)

Not applicable

## ECTS CREDITS

no ECTS

## TEACHING HOURS

10

## INDIVIDUAL & GROUP STUDY TIME

## TUTORIAL(S)

## COEFFICIENT

not applicable

## LANGUAGE(S)

EN

## COURSE OBJECTIVE

Introduce the student to the foundational concepts of International Security and Defense Studies, with an emphasis on linking theory and practice.

## COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will gain familiarity with core IR and Security Studies concepts and theories, and learn to analyze their relative strengths and weaknesses. What is the "international system?" What is the role of states and international governmental organizations (IGOs) in shaping and sustaining the system? How do non-state actors influence the system? What is the role of norms and int'l law? The course will put a premium on geopolitical constants and systemic variables, helping students to navigate the foundational concepts of geostrategy.

## RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

Dana Gold & Stephen McGlinchey, "International Relations Theory," in Stephen McGlinchey, ed. *International Relations* (Bristol, UK: E-International Relations Publishing, 2022)

Halford Mackinder, *Heartland: Three Essays on Geopolitics*.

## TEACHING METHOD(S)

The course will combine lectures and seminar discussion, emphasizing maximum engagement from the students.

## ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

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

- an online multiple-choice closed-book test (80% of the mark) at the end of the final course session - 15 minutes to answer 7 questions, and
- overall attendance (20% of the mark).

The weighted average of both assessment elements needs to be equal or greater than 50% for a student to pass the course.

Each student is entitled to re-taking the test once. The re-take test would account for 80% of the mark whilst overall attendance would account for the remaining 20%.

Since Preparatory Courses carry no ECTS credits, the final result will be present on the transcript, but will have no impact on students' final average, nor on overall grade, nor on attaining the diploma.

## **COURSE CONTENTS**

The course is organized into five two-hour sessions:

1. Core theories and concepts in IR and Security & Defense Studies.
2. The four axes of national power (economic strength, social cohesion, exercised military capabilities, and geostrategic compass/360 security optics).
3. The centrality of military power across existing and emerging domains.
4. Latent vs. actualized power.
5. Competing concepts of security and defense going forward (strategic cultures).

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

PPT slides will be available online. Readings that can't be accessed directly via URLs will be available in the library.