



College of Europe
Collège d'Europe

Brugge



Natolin

ECTS CARD

STUDY PROGRAMME

European Interdisciplinary Studies, Natolin campus (Advanced Academic Master)

YEAR

2023-2024

COURSE TITLE

EU Internal Security: A European and National Challenge

SEMESTER

2

COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

MONAR Jörg

ACADEMIC ASSISTANT(S)

KOLASINSKI Tadeusz

COURSE TYPE

Specialist Course

MAJOR(S)

EPAP

ECTS CREDITS

4

TEACHING HOURS

20

INDIVIDUAL & GROUP STUDY TIME

80

TUTORIAL(S)

COEFFICIENT

1

LANGUAGE(S)

EN

COURSE OBJECTIVE

This course aims at providing students with an advanced understanding of the reasons and dynamics which have transformed internal security - a fundamental public good traditionally ensured by national authorities only - into an interlinked challenge for both the EU and its Member States. It will bring out the political and legal tensions between the Member States' continuing primary responsibilities for the security of their citizens and EU common objectives and policy responses. It will comprise a critical survey of the specificity of EU instruments and cooperation mechanisms in the internal security domain, with a particular emphasis on the questions of legitimacy, effectiveness and solidarity. The course will also provide students, on the basis of practical examples taken mainly from EU/Member State interaction in the fields of external border security and counter-terrorism, with analytical skills regarding the potential and limits of EU action in the internal security field usable for further research and policy recommendations.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students will acquire an advanced understanding of the reasons why internal security, traditionally only considered a national challenge, has become a challenge and domain of action also for the EU.
- Students will be able to distinguish – and critically assess - different elements of the concept of internal security at the national and the EU level as well as its objective and subjective dimensions.
- Students will be able to assess the political and legal tensions which exist between the Member States' continuing primary responsibilities the EU's common objectives and action possibilities in the internal security field.

- Students will acquire a thorough understanding of both the potential and the limits of EU responses (instruments and mechanisms) to internal security challenges and be able to use this understanding for further research and potential policy recommendations.
- Students will be able to identify, analyse and interpret internal security relevant EU legal provisions as well as major policy documents and data emanating from EU institutions and agencies (in particular Europol, Frontex, Eurojust).

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

Students should come with a keen interest in the debates on internal security in their countries of origin and be willing to enrich class exchanges with their knowledge of specific 'national' issues in the field.

TEACHING METHOD(S)

Combination of lectures, interactive class analysis of selected primary source texts and interactive class discussion of student presentations.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

Policy paper (50 %) of 2500-3000 words on an EU level or Member State level (but EU relevant) internal security issue, to be presented and discussed in class. A list of pre-defined topics will be distributed at the beginning of the course, but students can also identify subjects of their own in consultation with the professor.

2-hour written, in-class, digital, closed-book exam (50 %), with students choosing one out of three subjects proposed and being allowed to use a digital copy of the TEU and TFEU at the exam.

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. 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 start with an exploration of the concept of 'internal security' from a political philosophy, historical sociopolitical point of view. It will then identify the reasons and dynamics of the "Europeanization" of internal security since the 1970s and discuss the respective roles of Member States and the EU as providers of internal security, taking into account the Member States' constitutional responsibilities, EU competences and limitations. Special attention will be given to the tensions between national and EU action in the internal security domain and the challenges of legitimacy and solidarity at the EU level. In the third and fourth section of the course two major fields of internal security policy and action, external border management and counter-terrorism, will be analysed and assessed in some detail as major examples of the interlinked provision of internal security by the Member States and the EU. Focal points of this field analysis and assessment are threat

evolution and dynamics, policy responses (EU institutions, agencies, instruments and mechanisms) and the questions of effectiveness and added value. The course will conclude with a critical consideration of the place of internal security in the process of European integration, taking into account the special position of internal security as an 'essential state' function in the sense of Article 4(2) TEU and assessing the overall potential and limits of the EU as an internal security actor.

COURSE MATERIALS (readings and other learning resources/tools)

Students will be introduced to major electronically available sources of information on EU internal security challenges and policy responses (Council, Commission, Parliament, Europol, Eurojust, Frontex). For each session of the course one or two particularly relevant recent official documents will be made available on the Intranet for students as an introductory reading. Each session of the course will be supported by PowerPoint slides afterwards made available to the students. A selection of relevant - but not mandatory - reading is provided in the bibliography.