



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

Security and Conflict Management

SEMESTER

2

COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

SHEA Jamie

ACADEMIC ASSISTANT(S)

KOLASINSKI Tadeusz

COURSE TYPE

Specialist Course

MAJOR(S)

EUW

ECTS CREDITS

4

TEACHING HOURS

20

INDIVIDUAL & GROUP STUDY TIME

80

TUTORIAL(S)

COEFFICIENT

1

LANGUAGE(S)

EN

COURSE OBJECTIVE

The course will examine the current international security environment, the specific threats and challenges that it has given rise to thus far, and the impact and effectiveness of NATO, the EU and other security organisations in responding to these challenges. The approach will be to analyse the issues from the perspective of policy makers and to discuss the merits of different policy options that these policy makers have at their disposal.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of the course the students should be able to analyse and critically reflect on the following questions:

- how can Europe rebuild its military forces to face the full spectrum of threats : national versus multinational efforts? How can the EU help NATO to acquire more capabilities and what is the scope for EU led operations?
- how can Europe improve its resilience and supply chain and energy security against systemic shocks? how serious is hybrid warfare and what are the responses to it?
- how can the EU and its partners re-energise diplomacy and crisis mediation to resolve the conflicts - active or frozen - around its periphery : from Ukraine to Libya. What have been the successful and unsuccessful examples of European crisis management?
- what is the shape of modern warfare and what impact are disruptive technologies such as artificial intelligence, space weapons and hypersonic missiles having on military operations?
- if nuclear weapons are proliferating and coming closer to being used, how can NATO and the EU reinforce nuclear deterrence and reassurance?

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

None.

TEACHING METHOD(S)

Lectures and in-class discussion.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

The students will be assessed by two following means:

- A 10-minute, video briefing on a chosen policy option to present to other class participants and Professor Shea during the course – topics will be communicated to the class (30%).
- Final exam (70%): the digital, written, closed-book, in-class 2-hour exam; students will need to answer two out of eight questions.

COURSE CONTENTS

First part: The course will look first at the international security environment and ask why it has deteriorated so much in recent years. Could this deterioration have been avoided if the west (defined here as North America and Europe) had adopted different strategies and policies? Or have the authoritarian regimes with their willingness to use coercion, military force and hybrid warfare tactics been so determined to challenge the rules based order that different western policies would not have produced a different result? The NATO enlargement debate and its impact on Russia will be a test case here. The course will look at the major threats facing NATO and the EU. How are they evolving and likely under current trends to evolve in the future?

Second part: The second part of the course will look at the security solutions that NATO and the EU, in the first instance, have devised to counter the challenges and how successfully they are being implemented. The respective roles of NATO and the EU will be examined and how effective their cooperation has become. Other institutions that impact on western security objectives such as the UN, OSCE or regional and bilateral security frameworks will also come into the picture where relevant. In particular the course will focus more specifically at the implementation of NATO's new Strategic Concept (June 2022) and the EU's Strategic Compass (March 2022).

COURSE MATERIALS (readings and other learning resources/tools)

Please consult the course outline.