



ECTS CARD

STUDY PROGRAMME

European Interdisciplinary Studies, Natolin campus (Advanced Academic Master)

YEAR

2023-2024

COURSE TITLE

NATO and European Defense Policy

SEMESTER

2

COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

TARDY Thierry

ACADEMIC ASSISTANT(S)

STEINGASS Sebastian

COURSE TYPE

Core 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 aims to understand and critically analyze the contemporary role of NATO and how this impacts the EU's own defence policy. The objective is to have students acquire knowledge and critical thinking about NATO's and the EU's current security agendas, policies, debates and challenges.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- Identify and understand the role and evolution of NATO over the last 30 years, with a particular focus on the way the Atlantic Alliance has adapted to the end of the Cold War and embraced new mandates/missions;
- Identify and understand how the EU has built its own defence identity through the development of the Common Security and Defence Policy;
- Identify and understand how the Alliance and the EU operate as intergovernmental institutions (based on member states policies), and how they interact with each other;
- Identify and understand the role of the Alliance in the current European security environment and its place in transatlantic relations, with a special focus on NATO's response to the 2022 Russian war against Ukraine;
- Analyze and present the main policies and challenges that NATO and the EU are facing while implementing their respective strategic-level concepts (NATO's Strategic Concept and the EU's Strategic Compass);
- Offer a critical perspective on NATO's and the EU's evolutions and current mandates.

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

A general monitoring of current European security developments, with a particular focus on NATO's activities and the situation in Ukraine as well as the European Union's security and defence agenda:

NATO, '2022 Strategic Concept', 29 June 2022,

https://www.nato.int/nato_static_fl2014/assets/pdf/2022/6/pdf/290622-strategic-concept.pdf

Vilnius Summit Communiqué, North Atlantic Council, Vilnius, 11 July 2023,

https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/official_texts_217320.htm?selectedLocale=en

European Council, 'A Strategic Compass for the EU', 21 March 2022,

https://www.eeas.europa.eu/eeas/strategic-compass-eu-0_en

Sebastian Clapp, 'Russia's war on Ukraine: NATO response', European Parliamentary Research Service, April 2022,

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/ATAG/2022/729380/EPRS_ATAG\(2022\)729380_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/ATAG/2022/729380/EPRS_ATAG(2022)729380_EN.pdf)

TEACHING METHOD(S)

The course will be composed of 8 sessions. Following an introductory session delivered by the professor (3h), each of the 6 following sessions (of 2h30 each) will be built as follows:

- Introduction by the professor (30-40 min)
- Students' presentation on an assigned topic (a two-student presentation of 15 min, i.e. each student speaks for 7-8 min)
- Comments on the presentation by the professor and a Question & Answer session with the presenters (20-30 min)
- Debate on the topic of the session with the entire class (45 min)
- Conclusion by the professor (15 min)

At the end of the course, the professor will deliver an overall conclusion (2h).

Required readings will be assigned for each session.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

Students will be assessed based on three different components:

- Oral presentation (30%)
- Oral participation in class debates (10%)*
- Final exam: 3h, **closed-book**, digital, in-class, written examination (60%)

* Class participation can be part of the course assessment elements only for courses with fewer than 20 participants, excluding students who registered additionally according to article 20 of the Dispositions particulières. If there are 20 or more participants, the assessment of this course will be based on the following assessment elements (as defined above): Oral presentation (40%) and written exam (60%).

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 deals with how the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union (EU) adapt to the contemporary security environment. The European security order has been shattered by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. NATO and the EU have been at the forefront of the international response to the war, while their own inter-institutional relationship was also impacted. The Course will examine this new context (NATO's New Strategic Concept, defence posture, and enlargement; EU's Strategic Compass and response to the Ukraine war), while also considering a number of longer-term trends affecting NATO's and the EU's respective agendas. In particular, the Course will look into the Alliance's evolution over the last twenty years (US policy and transatlantic relations, NATO's move from crisis management back to collective defence) and how this has impacted the EU's own aspiration to a Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP operations, PESCO and European Defence Fund, Strategic Autonomy debate, etc.).

COURSE MATERIALS (readings and other learning resources/tools)

See Course Outline.