



STUDY PROGRAMME

1. POL
2. MATA

ACADEMIC YEAR

2021 - 2022

SEMESTER

Second

COURSE TITLE

European Security Matters: Crisis Management, Deterrence and Defence, Emerging and Unconventional Threats

COURSE PROFESSOR

Dr Alison WESTON

COURSE ASSISTANT

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NATURE OF COURSE (COMPULSORY, OPTIONAL)

Research Seminar

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

English/French

ECTS CREDITS

15 ECTS

1. COURSE OBJECTIVE

The aim of the Research Seminar is to guide and assist students in their research for the Master's thesis (see course outline). The Research Seminar accompanies the students throughout the process of researching for and writing their thesis. The main 'learning outcome', i.e. the expected result of the seminar, is a completed thesis that meets the requirements of the Department. Of course, the seminar per se cannot 'guarantee' a satisfactory thesis since the final product is expected to be an independent piece of work by the students, who always bear the ultimate responsibility for its quality.

2. LEARNING OUTCOMES

The research seminars are not content-related as such: they all offer similar methodological guidance and support to groups of students who focus on a common topic.

Every seminar is supervised by a professor, assisted by an academic assistant, and focuses on a research area. The seminars alternate plenary sessions, bringing together the professor and all the students of the seminar to discuss research methods, and individual meetings during which students present their research project and discuss the progress of their work with the professor and the academic assistant.

These course objectives therefore link up with the programme-specific learning outcomes applicable to the master's thesis:



POL:

1. Students possess a pluri-disciplinary understanding of European integration, allowing them to understand fully the nature, dynamics and functioning of the EU system.
2. Students have a general knowledge of the main components of the EU political system: institutions, actors, decision-making procedures, competences and policies.
3. Students comprehend the disciplinary knowledge and theories specific to EU studies.
4. Students possess an in-depth knowledge of fundamental aspects of the EU political system (institutions, actors, policies etc.).
5. Students recognize the normative assumptions and implications of theories of European integration.
6. Students can communicate in both French and English in an academic or professional context.
7. Students can recognize, contextualize, explain, and interpret political, societal and economic phenomena in European integration. They can assess events, governance problems and political crises.
8. Students can analyse the process and actors of EU policy-making at different levels of governance and can reflect on potential developments.
9. Students can transform a complex problem into a research question, mobilize theories, develop a research design, and conduct empirical work to provide solutions in an analytical and balanced way.
10. Students can flexibly apply theories and analytical frameworks from different disciplinary perspectives to the main issues of EU politics and policies.
11. Students are able to analyse, in a limited amount of time, complex and new issues, by finding and investigating various sources of information and delivering an analytical and critical synthesis.
12. Students are capable of working as part of a complex project, individually or collectively, and they develop skills of planning, organisation, prioritisation and time management.
13. Students can communicate clearly and effectively, through oral presentations or written documents, to different kinds of audiences.
14. Students are capable of evolving in a multi-cultural context and of taking into account the variety of political systems, institutional logics and cultural backgrounds.

MATA:

1. The graduate masters the most important theoretical approaches and concepts of, depending on his or her disciplinary focus, Economics, International Relations and Diplomacy Studies, Legal Studies and/or Political Science relevant for the analysis of transatlantic affairs.
2. The graduate can describe, explain and illustrate the current state of scientific research in the field of transatlantic affairs in a broad sense and, is, in line with his or her disciplinary focus, able to critically assess the results of this research.
3. The graduate has good knowledge of, depending on his or her disciplinary focus, the political and/or legal systems, the decision-making processes, the economic structures and the main internal and external policies of the European Union and the United States.
4. The graduate has insights into historical, political, legal and economic aspects of transatlantic affairs as well as into those policy areas that are of essential importance to transatlantic affairs. He or she can use these insights to contextualize and interpret new developments.
5. The graduate is able to incorporate knowledge and understanding of various fields of transatlantic affairs and of different related disciplines (such as Economics, International Relations, Legal Studies, Political Science) as well as to adopt both a European and a US perspective on transatlantic affairs.
6. The graduate can approach the field of transatlantic affairs in a broad sense analytically by assessing the challenges in this domain with an open mind for diversity and for complex situations.
7. The graduate has the ability to critically reflect upon problems regarding an extensive range



- of transatlantic affairs, to adopt well-informed points of view and to communicate them effectively orally and in writing, whether working independently or in a team.
8. The graduate can independently transform complex transatlantic issues into a research question within the broader field of transatlantic affairs and, depending on his or her disciplinary focus, find, select and critically assess relevant sources, answer the question using appropriate concepts and methods and present the research results in line with the ethical rules of the chosen discipline.
 9. The graduate is capable of processing a large amount of information and appropriately analyse relevant sources depending on his or her disciplinary focus within a short period of time and of suggesting possible actions that contribute to problem-solving in a creative way.
 10. The graduate has the intellectual maturity and skills to take responsibilities and function autonomously in a professional environment at national or international level, and especially in a transatlantic context, and to work efficiently and effectively through planning, organizing, setting priorities, meeting deadlines, cooperating across cultural boundaries and networking.

3. COURSE CONTENTS

The seminar's topics deal with all aspects related to foreign policy and security in a broad sense and comprehensive perspective. The focus is Europe, with special emphasis on the EU and its role, but more general foreign policy and IR issues may also be dealt with (as well as related "domestic" issues) insofar as they form the basis for or have a direct impact on Europe's security. In particular, all issues concerning the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) or the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) of the European Union, including their interaction with NATO, will be considered as relevant.

4. TEACHING METHOD(S)

The seminar includes two main components: lecture and advice. It is opened and introduced by a plenary session in which general comments on research and methodology are made. Subsequently, regular individual meetings with the students are envisaged to advise them on the choice of their topic (relevance and feasibility), their research plan and the presentation of the results. A final plenary session will also be organised in March, for which each student is expected to present his/her topic, findings and questions to their classmates in a discussion guided by the Professor. Further individual meetings will follow up until the deadline for handing in the thesis.

The main assignment is the thesis itself. Advice is given on readings (both theoretical and empirical), research methodology and progress as well as on potential interviewees. The March presentation will not be assessed separately but is considered as an integral part of the RS and an essential step towards the completion of the thesis.

5. COURSE MATERIAL

No specific materials are envisaged for this Seminar. Students will write their master thesis using the sources of their choice, on which the professor can advise.

6. EVALUATION

The criteria for assessment include both content and form: relevance and originality of topic, methodology, consistency and structure, analytical capacity and quality of argumentation, use of relevant material, validity of conclusions, formalities (footnotes, bibliography), style and presentation.