International Security, Peace, and Stability

INST 3005 (3 Credits / 45 hours)

Switzerland: International Studies and Multilateral Diplomacy

This syllabus is representative of a typical semester. Because courses develop and change over time to take advantage of unique learning opportunities, actual course content varies from semester to semester.

Description
This course provides a thorough background in international security studies. The multidimensional security approach takes into account politico-military security, human security, and the links between international stability and sound economic and sustainable development. It not only addresses national security strategies but also the roles of intergovernmental and regional organizations, as well as non-governmental agencies in helping to prevent and manage conflict and build peace. The course also addresses environmental security.

Teaching incorporates in-class lectures and field visits at international organizations based in Geneva, Paris, and Brussels, including United Nations and European Union agencies. The course draws on the resources of leading academics and institutions, as well as insiders’ firsthand experiences. Review and reflection sessions are organized on a regular basis to help students synthesize and create connections among lectures, presentations, and readings.

Learning Outcomes
The International Security, Peace, and Stability course comprises 45 hours of instruction (3 credits). Upon completion of the course, students will be able to:

• Apply interdisciplinary analytical frameworks to examine the main factors impacting Security, Peace, and Stability in the contemporary international system;
• Comprehend and contrast different national and regional perspectives on security;
• Apply geopolitical analysis and strategic foresight skills to analyze conflicts and relevant security issues and their potential evolutions on different geographic scales;
• Demonstrate the ability to critically assess the main factors and processes impacting the capacity of the European Union to deal with contemporary security challenges;
• Apply geo-economic analysis skills to examine the evolving nature of power rivalries in the 21st century international system;
• Demonstrate the ability to critically assess the main factors and processes impacting environmental security.

Language of Instruction
The course is taught in English, but students will be simultaneously learning French and expected to engage community members in this language (to the best of their abilities) when the
opportunity arises. Students are also expected to read the French press and academic articles in French related to the course.

**Course Requirements**
Daily Class Schedule and Office Hours are provided on the program calendar.

**Course Schedule**
Students will be provided a detailed course schedule during orientation on the program. Please be aware that topics and excursions may vary to take advantage of any emerging events, to accommodate changes in our lecturers’ availability, and to respect any changes that would affect student safety. Students will be notified if this occurs.

**Module 1: Geopolitical Analysis, Strategic Foresight, and Security**
This module aims to introduce the geopolitical analysis method to examine current conflicts and security threats and the possible evolution of these in the future.

**Session 1: Geopolitical Analysis: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Examine Conflicts & Security Threats**
This session seeks to introduce the enduring and variable factors of geopolitical analysis and to examine the interactions between security and geopolitics.

*Required Reading:*

**Session 2: Interactive Geopolitical Case Study Exercise: Analysis, Foresight & Strategic Choices**
The objective of this session is to practice geopolitical analysis by examining a case study situation. Students will use geopolitical and strategic foresight analysis to make an assessment, build scenarios and implement strategic choices.

*Required Readings:*

**Module 2: Humanitarian Intervention and International Security**
This module grapples with the challenges of international humanitarian intervention in the context of regional and global security. The module also aims to introduce students to the role and strategies of main actors in international security and humanitarian intervention.

**Session 1: Western Military Interventions and their Consequences on Regional and International Security**
This session seeks to examine the controversies of western led military interventions in the name of humanitarian principles in the “Greater Middle East region”, and the impact of these interventions on the emergence of the so-called “Islamic State”.

Copyright © SIT, a program of World Learning
Required Readings:

Session 2: NGOs and Humanitarian Emergency Aid: Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) / Doctors without Borders
This session aims to discuss the approach of MSF in humanitarian emergency situations and the security of humanitarian personal.

Required Readings:

Assignment:
Academic Essay

Module 3: Major Issues Impacting International Security
This module seeks to examine new challenges to international and state security. The focus is on the challenges of terrorism, current issues in international migration and the rising power of Asia.

Session 1: Migration and Security
This session aims to examine the links between migration and security and discusses the challenges for states and international organizations to manage migration flows.

Required Readings:

Background Reading:
Session 2: Emerging Asia and International Security
In this session, students learn about the rapidly changing security environment of emerging Asia.

Required Reading:

Session 3: Challenges of Terrorism to International Security and Stability
The objective of this session is to discuss the challenges of contemporary terrorism to regional, national and international security.

Required Readings:

Session 4: Review and Reflection Session
This session seeks to review and discuss the main themes of Modules 1, 2 and 3, including the critical assessment of the required readings.

Module 4: European Security Challenges - Study trip to Brussels & Paris
This module seeks to examine the role of the European Union in international security management in its evolving geopolitical environment. Students will attend lectures and briefings during the study trip in Brussels and Paris.

Session 1: Field visit to the EU Commission
Students learn about the institutional structure of the EU Commission and its role to develop and implement strategies to deal with the major security issues challenging the European Union.

Required Readings:

Session 2: Geopolitics of European Energy Security
The objective of this session is to discuss the main aspects of European Energy Security in an evolving geopolitical context.

Required Readings:
The objective of this field visit is to discuss with experts the role of the OECD in economic security.

Required Reading:

Suggested Reading:

Session 4: Review and Reflection Session
This session seeks to review and discuss the main themes of Module 4, including a critical assessment of the required Readings.

Module 5: Economic and Environmental Security
This module aims to discuss the influence of economic and environmental factors on national, regional, and international security.

Session 1: “Geoeconomics, Security, and Economic Intelligence”
This session aims at introducing the main aspects of geoeconomics and economic intelligence in the evolving context of security perceptions of states.

Required Readings:

Session 2: “The Belt Road and Initiative: The Silk Road of the 21st Century”
This session seeks to examine the main aspects of the Belt and Road Initiative and its impact on security and peace in the Eurasian region.

Required Readings:

Session 3: Field Visit to the Environment House: Environmental Security
Students learn about the growing influence of environmental factors on the stability and security of states and human communities (UN Environment Program/UNEP).

Required Readings:


**Session 4: Review and Reflection Session**
This session seeks to review and discuss the main themes of Module 5, including the critical assessment of the required readings.

**Assignment:**
Final Exam

**Evaluation and Grading Criteria**
An essay, a final exam, and participation constitute the course requirements. In all exercises, students are asked to reflect analytically and to integrate the briefings, lectures, readings, as well as review sessions.

**Description of Assignments:**

**Academic Essay (35%):**
Students write a critical paper in which they provide a well-documented analysis on a specific theme related to Module 1 “Geopolitics/Security” or Module 2 “Humanitarian Intervention and International Security”. The objective of the essay is to study a problem in the field of international security, peace and stability and to develop a coherent argumentation and analysis in an essay format. The structure of the essay is as follows: a title, an introduction which defines the problem and the research question, the discussion of the topic divided into sections with subtitles, conclusions and a bibliography. The suggested length of the essay is 8 pages (times new roman 12, double spaced) excluding the title page and bibliography. Student have approximately three weeks to complete their research and edit their papers. Students have to integrate a minimum of ten academic references.

**Final Exam (45%):**
Students respond to essay questions related to Modules 3, 4 and 5. Students have to respond to two essay questions. Recommended length for each essay question is 2 ½ -3 pages (total of about 5-6 pages in Times New Roman, 12, 1 ½ spaced). Students can consult the SPS syllabus to see the bibliography, and the program calendar/Paris Brussels study trip program to remember the organizations they visited or the names of the speakers. But it is not an open book exam: you cannot use your notes, the required readings or other materials. For this exam, you are encouraged to integrate lectures, briefings and readings. Please also provide illustrations (concrete examples) to support your argumentation.

**Oral Presentation (10%):**
Students are required to make a 5-minute oral presentation (followed by a 5 minute Q & A period) on a topic related to the course during one of the review and reflection sessions.

**Participation (10%):**
Attendance, punctuality, interest in the subject, discussion, questions, and completion of reading assignments are absolutely essential for passing the International Security, Peace and Stability Course.
Assessment:
Academic Essay 35%
Final Exam 45%
Oral Presentation 10%
Participation 10%

Grading Scale
94-100%   A  Excellent
90-93%    A-
87-89%    B+
84-86%    B  Above Average
80-83%    B-
77-79%    C+
74-76%    C  Average
70-73%    C-
67-69%    D+
64-66%    D  Below Average
below 64  F  Fail

Expectations and Policies
- Show up prepared. Be on time, have your readings completed and points in mind for discussion or clarification. Complying with these elements raises the level of class discussion for everyone.
- Have assignments completed on schedule, printed, and done accordingly to the specified requirements. This will help ensure that your assignments are returned in a timely manner.
- Ask questions in class. Engage the lecturer. These are often very busy professionals who are doing us an honor by coming to speak.
- Comply with academic integrity policies (no plagiarism or cheating, nothing unethical).
- Respect differences of opinion (classmates’, lecturers, local constituents engaged with on the visits). You are not expected to agree with everything you hear, but you are expected to listen across difference and consider other perspectives with respect.

Please refer to the SIT Study Abroad Student Handbook for policies on academic integrity, ethics, warning and probation, diversity and disability, sexual harassment, and the academic appeals process.

Disability Services: Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Disability Services at disabilityservices@sit.edu for information and support in facilitating an accessible educational experience. Additional information regarding SIT Disability Services, including a link to the online request form, can be found on the Disability Services website at http://studyabroad.sit.edu/disabilityservices.