

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:

Csurgai, Gyula (TBP, 2019). Introduction / Geographic Characteristics of the Territory / The Physical Elements and their Geopolitical Functions / Strategies of Actors. In *Geopolitical Analysis: A multidimensional Approach to Analyze Power Rivalries in International Relations*, Geneva

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:

Conway, M. (2015). Introduction/ About Foresight/ About Foresight and Strategy In *Foresight, An Introduction, A Thinking Future Reference guide* (1-14). Australia, Melbourne: Thinking Future.

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".

Required Readings:

- Fassin, D. & Pandolfi, M. (2010). Introduction: Military and Humanitarian Government in the Age of Intervention. In *Contemporary States of Emergency: The Politics of Military and Humanitarian Interventions* (9-24). New York: Zone Books.
- Makaremi, C. (2010). Utopias of Power: from Human Security to the Responsibility to Protect. In *Contemporary States of Emergency: The Politics of Military and Humanitarian Interventions* (107-128). New York: Zone Books.

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 personnel.

Required Readings:

- Taithe, B. (2016). Danger, Risk, Security and Protection: Concepts at the Heart of the History of Humanitarian Aid. In Neuman, M. & Weissman, F. (Ed.) *Saving Lives and Staying Alive, Humanitarian Security in the Age of Risk Management* (chapter 3, 37-55). Paris: Médecins Sans Frontières.
- Soussan, J. (2016). Qabassin, Syria: Security Issues and Practices in an MSF Mission in the Land of Jihad. In Neuman, M. & Weissman, F. (Ed.) *Saving Lives and Staying Alive, Humanitarian Security in the Age of Risk Management* (chapter 7, 109-127). Paris: Médecins Sans Frontières.

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:

- Deliso, C. (2017). Organized Crime, Organized Chaos, and the General Migration Economy. In *Migration, Terrorism, and the Future of a Divided Europe : A Continent Transformed* (chapter 5, 93-114). Santa Barbara, California: Praeger

Background Reading:

- Innes, A. (2015). States in a World of Asylum Seekers: Agency, Rights, Security. In *Migration, Citizenship and the Challenge for Security: An Ethnographic Approach* (90-112). Palgrave Macmillan.

Session 2: Emerging Asia and International Security

In this session, students learn about the rapidly changing security environment of emerging Asia.

Required Reading:

- Cossa, R. (2014). Security Dynamics in Asia. In Shambaugh, D. & Yahuda, M. (Ed.) *International relations of Asia* (365-392). Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield.
- Schweller, R. (2011). Emerging Powers in an Age of Disorder. *Global Governance* 17, 285-297. Retrieved from : [http://www.academia.edu/1211850/Emerging Powers in an Age of Disorder](http://www.academia.edu/1211850/Emerging_Powers_in_an_Age_of_Disorder)

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:

- Rapaport, D. (2013). The Four Waves of Modern Terror. In Hanhimaki, J. and Blumenau, B. (Ed.) *An International History of Terrorism* (282-310). London and New York: Routledge. Retrieved from: <https://www.routledge.com/products/9780415635417>
- Mohamedou, M. (2014). ISIS and the Deceptive Rebooting of Al Qaeda. *GSPC Policy Papers* (2014/5),1-5. Geneva: GCSP. Retrieved from: <http://www.gcsp.ch/News-Knowledge/Publications/ISIS-and-the-Deceptive-Rebooting-of-Al-Qaeda>

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:

- Grygiel, J. (2016). The Return of Europe's Nation-States: The Upside to the EU's Crisis. *Foreign Affairs, September/October 2016 Issue*, 1-6. Retrieved from: <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/europe/return-europe-s-nation-states>
- Vollaard, H. (2014). Explaining European Disintegration. *Journal of Common Market Issues, Volume 52, Issue 5*, 1142-1159.

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:

[Bosnjakovic, B. \(2016\). Europe Between Climate and Energy Insecurity: Geopolitical Aspects. *Journal of Maritime and Transportation Sciences, Special Edition 1*, p.29-62, retrieved from: <https://doi.org/10.18048/2016-00.29>](https://doi.org/10.18048/2016-00.29)

Session 3: Field Visit: The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OCDE): Different Economic Security Dimensions

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

Required Reading:

Davis, M., and Woodward, R. (2014). The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OCDE)? In *International Organizations, A Companion* (Chapter 10.1, 327-338). Cheltenham, UK, Northampton, MA, USA : Edward Elgar Publishing Limited

Suggested Reading:

Consolidated FATF Strategy on Combatting Terrorist Financing (2016). Financial Action Task Force (FATF). Retrieved from: <http://www.fatf-gafi.org/publications/fatfgeneral/documents/terroristfinancing.html>

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: “Goeconomics, Security, and Economic Intelligence”

This session aims at introducing the main aspects of goeconomics and economic intelligence in the evolving context of security perceptions of states.

Required Readings:

Csurgai, G. (2018). The increasing Importance of Goeconomics in Power Rivalries in the Twenty-First Century In *Geopolitics*, Volume 23, 2018, pp 38-46

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:

Cheng, S. (2018). *Embracing the BRI ecosystem in 2018. Deloitte Insights*. Retrieved from: <https://www2.deloitte.com/insights/us/en/economy/asia-pacific/china-belt-and-road-initiative.html>

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:

Barnett, J. (2010). Environmental Security. In Collins, A., *Contemporary Security Studies (Second Edition)*, (chap. 14, 218-238). New York: Oxford.

Fatheuer, T., Fuhr, L., & Unmüssig, B. (2016). The Green Economy as a Way Out of the Global Crisis? In *Inside the Green Economy: Promises and Pitfalls* (chap.5, 58-65). München: Heinrich Böll Foundation, Green books, Oekom.

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>.