

## International Security, Peace, and Stability

### INST-3005 (3 credits)

#### 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, taking into consideration the impact of major geopolitical and geoeconomic changes on international and regional security. The multidimensional security approach takes into account politico-military security, human security, and the links between international stability and 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. The course seeks to examine as well the impact of the Global Power Shift and emerging multipolarity on international security.

Teaching incorporates in-class lectures and field visits at international organizations and government agencies based in Geneva, Brussels and Paris. 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;
- Analyze how the Global Power Shift impacts regional and international security;
- Apply geopolitical analysis to examine conflicts and security issues;
- Demonstrate strategic foresight and risk assessment skills to build geopolitical scenarios related to the potential evolutions of security threats and conflicts in the context of Global Power Shift and Emerging Multipolarity;
- Apply geo-economic analysis skills to examine the evolving nature of power rivalries in the 21<sup>st</sup> century international system;

- Demonstrate the ability to critically assess the main factors and processes impacting the capacity of the European Union to deal with contemporary security challenges;
- 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 in the context of the Global Power Shift**

This module aims to discuss the main components of geopolitical analysis to examine current conflicts and security threats. It seeks to introduce as well strategic foresight and scenario building in the field of international relations and security.

#### Session 1: Geopolitical Analysis: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Examine Conflicts and Security Threats & Geopolitical Case Study Exercise

This session seeks to introduce the enduring and variable factors of geopolitical analysis and to examine the interactions between security and geopolitics. A geopolitical case study exercise is integrated in the second part of the session.

#### *Required Reading:*

Csurgai (2022). The Main Components of Geopolitical Analysis. In Criekemans, D. (Ed.), *Geopolitics and International Relations, Grounding World Politics Anew* (13-60). Brill, Leiden.

#### Session 2: Strategic Foresight, Risk Analysis and Geopolitical Scenario Building

The objective of this session is present the main aspects of strategic foresight, risk analysis and scenario building in the context of Global Power Shift and Emerging Multipolarity. Students will participate in a scenario building exercise on a relevant topic related to contemporary international relations.

#### *Required Reading:*

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.

### Session 3: The Geopolitics of Emotions and Cognition: How Does Psychology Influence International Relations?

This session seeks to introduce students to international political psychology. It presents how different psychological factors, like cognitive biases, emotions, or personality, can influence the decision-making process and international security. Many examples are presented to show how international security is affected by psychological factors.

#### *Required Readings:*

Fattah, K., & Fierke, K. M. (2009). A Clash of Emotions: The Politics of Humiliation and Political Violence in the Middle East. *European Journal of International Relations*, 15(1), 67–93. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1354066108100053>

Goldgeier, J. M. (1997). Psychology and security. *Security Studies*, 6: 4, 137-166.

## **Module 2: Major Issues Impacting International Security in the context of Emerging Multipolarity**

This module seeks to examine various challenges to human, state and international security. The focus is on the security challenges of delivering humanitarian emergency aid, international migration management and its security dimension and the rising power of Asia.

### Session 1: Risk Assessment in Humanitarian Action

This session aims to discuss the process of risk management in relation to humanitarian action.

#### *Required Reading:*

European Union External Action. (2021). *Ensuring the protection, safety and Security of Humanitarian Workers and Medical Personnel in armed Conflicts*. Discussion Series, Outcome document. Retrieved from:

[https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/outcome\\_document\\_-\\_discussion\\_series.pdf](https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/outcome_document_-_discussion_series.pdf)

#### *Background Readings:*

*Common Integrated Risk Analysis Model, Summary booklet*. (2013). Frontex, European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation of the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union.

[https://frontex.europa.eu/assets/CIRAM/en\\_CIRAM\\_brochure\\_2013.pdf](https://frontex.europa.eu/assets/CIRAM/en_CIRAM_brochure_2013.pdf)

Aven, T. (2016). Risk Assessment and Risk Management: Review of Recent Advances on their Foundation. *European Journal of Operational Research*.

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0377221715011479?via%3Dihub>

### Session 2: Emerging Asia, Global Power Shift, Multipolarity and Security Challenges

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

#### *Required Readings:*

- Bar, S. (2020). The Geo-Economics of Multipolarity (Chap.1, pp.3-18). In Chinoy, S.R., Panda, J.P. (Ed). *Asia Between Multipolarism and Multipolarity*. Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi, India. Retrieved from <https://idsa.in/system/files/book/asia-multipolarism-book.pdf>
- Gupta, A. (2020). India and the Multipolar World: Need for a New Narrative. (Chap.2, pp.19-30). In Chinoy, S.R., Panda, J.P. (Ed). *Asia Between Multipolarism and Multipolarity*. Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi, India. Retrieved from <https://idsa.in/system/files/book/asia-multipolarism-book.pdf>
- Yuan, J. (2020). Beijing's Vision of the Asian order: Promoting a Community of Shared Future (Chap.3, pp.19-46). In Chinoy, S.R., Panda, J.P. (Ed). *Asia Between Multipolarism and Multipolarity*. Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi, India. Retrieved from <https://idsa.in/system/files/book/asia-multipolarism-book.pdf>

### Session 3: 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:*

- Gonzalez Enriquez, C. (2022). The welcome given to Ukrainian refugees: some challenges and uncertainties. In *Real Instituto Elcano, Inicio, Future of Europe*. Retrieved from: <https://www.realinstitutoelcano.org/en/analyses/the-welcome-given-to-ukrainian-refugees-some-challenges-and-uncertainties/>
- Batalova, J. (2022). Top Statistics on Global Migration and Migrants. *Migration Information Source. Online Journal of Migration Policy Institute (MPI)*. Washington DC. Retrieved from: [https://www.migrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/source\\_images/Global\\_FRS2022-PRINT\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.migrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/source_images/Global_FRS2022-PRINT_FINAL.pdf)

### Session 4: Review and Reflection Session

This session seeks to review and discuss the main themes of Modules 1 and 2, including the critical assessment of the required readings.

#### *Assignment:*

### **ACADEMIC ESSAY**

### **Module 3: 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 have an introductory lecture in Geneva on the European Union in an evolving geopolitical and geoeconomic context and then, during their stay in Brussels, they will attend lectures at the European Union headquarters and briefings from local experts. They will also attend briefings on French foreign and security policy in Paris, given by French experts.

#### Session 1: The European Union in an Evolving Geopolitical and Geoeconomic Context

This session seeks to examine the geopolitical and geoeconomic context that impacts the current evolution of the European Union.

##### *Required Readings:*

Dumont, G.-F., Verluise, P. (2015). *The Geopolitics of Europe, From the Atlantic to the Urals*. Diploweb editions, Diploweb.com 2016-2017

Laffan, B. (2019). *Future Scenarios of the European Union*. Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute. Published online:  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190228637.013.1493>

#### Session 2: 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:*

Zoppi, M. (2020). How Many Europes? Fragmentation in the European Space since the Great Recession. *The International Spectator, Italian Journal of International Affairs*, 55:3, 35-49. Retrieved from:

<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/03932729.2020.1771053>

Lippert, B., Von Ondrza, N., Perthes, V. (2019). European Strategic Autonomy: Actors, Issues, Conflicts of Interests. *SWP Research Paper 4*, Berlin: German Institute for International and Security Affairs (1-39)

##### *Background Readings:*

European Parliament. (2023). How the European Union Works? The European Union Explained: Your Guide to the EU Institutions, Fact Sheets on the European Union. Retrieved from: <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/erpl-app-public/factsheets/pdf-chapter/en/en-chapter-1.pdf>

Eurostat. Key Figures on Europe. (2023). *Eurostat*, European Union. Retrieved from: <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/documents/15216629/17706595/KS-EI-23-001-EN-N.pdf/5df7a393-8461-9270-7eaa-91a4b1c2acc6?version=4.0&t=1707831012194>

#### Session 3: 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 Reading:*

Pepe, J.M. (2022). *Geopolitics and Energy Security in Europe*. Competence Center for Climate and Social Justice, FES Just Climate, Brussels, Belgium: retrieved from: [https://justclimate.fes.de/fileadmin/user\\_upload/images/publications/FES\\_Just\\_Climate\\_Study\\_19012023\\_Geopolitics\\_and\\_Energy\\_Security\\_in\\_Europe.pdf](https://justclimate.fes.de/fileadmin/user_upload/images/publications/FES_Just_Climate_Study_19012023_Geopolitics_and_Energy_Security_in_Europe.pdf)

Session 4: Field visit to the French Institute for International and Strategic Affairs / Institut de Relations Internationales et Stratégiques (IRIS, Paris)  
Briefing by an IRIS expert on European Defense Policy and French Defense Policy.

*Required Readings :*

Schnitzler, G. (2022). For the Sake of Autonomy: France's Defence Agenda for Europe. *Italian Institute for International Political Studies*. Retrieved from: <https://www.ispionline.it/en/publication/sake-autonomy-frances-defence-agenda-europe-34499>

Schnitzler, G. (2022). Europe Answering Paris' Call. *Italian Institute for International Political Studies*. Retrieved from: <https://www.ispionline.it/en/publication/europe-answering-paris-call-33442>

*Background Readings:*

*A Strategic Compass for Security and Defence*. European Union External Action. European Union. (2022). Retrieved from: [https://www.satcen.europa.eu/keydocuments/strategic\\_compass\\_en3\\_web6298d4e4601f2a0001c0f871.pdf](https://www.satcen.europa.eu/keydocuments/strategic_compass_en3_web6298d4e4601f2a0001c0f871.pdf)

ARES (Armament Industry European Research Group), podcast series, available at: <https://podcast.asha.co/the-ares-podcast-series>

Session 5: Review and Reflection Session

This session seeks to review and discuss the main themes of Module 3, including a critical assessment of the required Readings.

**Module 4: Economic and Environmental Security**

This module aims to discuss the influence of economic and environmental factors on national, regional, and international security.

Session 1: Development and Security

The objective of this session is to discuss the links between various socio-economic and political factors of development and security.

*Required Reading:*

Delaila, S. & Zondi S. (2020). *The Security, Governance and Development Nexus in NEPAD: A Case Analysis*. Pretoria: University of Pretoria, Department of Political Sciences. Retrieved from:

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/339228786\\_The\\_Security\\_Governance\\_and\\_Development\\_Nexus\\_in\\_NEPAD\\_A\\_Case\\_Analysis](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/339228786_The_Security_Governance_and_Development_Nexus_in_NEPAD_A_Case_Analysis)

### Session 2: Geoeconomics, Security, and Economic Intelligence in the context of Global Power Shift

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

#### *Required Readings:*

Csurgai, G. (2022). The increasing Importance of Geoeconomics in Power Rivalrie: From Past to the Present. In *Geopolitics and International Relations, Grounding World Politics Anew 8* Chapter 7, pp: 244-258). Ed. David Crieckemans. Leiden, Boston, Brill Nijhoff.

Csurgai, G. (2022). Potential Erosion of US Monetary Hegemony: Geopolitical and Geoeconomic Perspectives. In *IUG Business Review, A Journal of the International University of Geneva*, pp 39-47

### Session 3: The Belt and Road Initiative: The Silk Road of the 21<sup>st</sup> 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:*

Lind, J. (2019). *The Rise of China and the Future of the Transatlantic Relationship*, Chatham House. The Royal Institute of International Affairs, London. Retrieved from: <file:///C:/Users/SIT-AL~1/AppData/Local/Temp/2019-07-29-RiseOfChina-1.pdf>

Pantea, A. (2018). *One Belt, One Road Initiative and its Geostrategic Significance for Eastern Europe*. International Conference Knowledge-based Organization, Vol.XXIV, No1. Retrieved from: [file:///C:/Users/SIT-AL~1/AppData/Local/Temp/10.1515\\_kbo-2018-0025-1.pdf](file:///C:/Users/SIT-AL~1/AppData/Local/Temp/10.1515_kbo-2018-0025-1.pdf)

### Session 4: Field Visit to the Environment House

Students learn about the growing influence of environmental factors on the stability and security of states and human communities.

#### *Required Reading:*

Ide, T., Johnson M.F., Barnett, J., Krampe, F., Le Billon, P., Maertens, L., von Uexkull, N., Velez-Torres, I. (2022). *Environmental Politics, The Future of Environmental Peace and Conflict Research*. Retrieved from: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/epdf/10.1080/09644016.2022.2156174?needAccess=true&role=button>

#### *Background Reading:*

Zhironkin, S., Cehlar, M. (Ed). (2022). *Green Economy and Sustainable Development. Switzerland*. MDPI. Retrieved from: <https://mdpi->

[res.com/bookfiles/book/4995/Green Economy and Sustainable Development.pdf?v=1687164457](https://res.com/bookfiles/book/4995/Green_Economy_and_Sustainable_Development.pdf?v=1687164457)

### Session 5: Review and Reflection Session

This session seeks to review and discuss the main themes of Module 4, including the critical assessment of the required readings.

## **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 “Geopolitics/Security” or “Middle East and Security Challenges”. 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. Students have to integrate a minimum of ten academic references.

#### Final Exam (45%):

Students respond to essay questions related to Modules 3 and 4. They have to respond to two essay questions. Recommended length for each essay question is 2 ½ -3 pages (total of about 5-6 pages). Students can consult the SPS syllabus to see the bibliography, and the program calendar. But it is not an open book exam: students cannot use their notes, the required readings or other materials. For this exam, students are encouraged to integrate lectures, briefings and readings and to provide illustrations (concrete examples) to support their 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.

#### **SIT Policies and Resources**

Please refer to the [SIT Study Abroad Handbook](#) and the [Policies](#) section of the SIT website for all academic and student affairs policies. Students are accountable for complying with all published policies. Of particular relevance to this course are the policies regarding: academic integrity, Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act

(FERPA), research and ethics in field study and internships, late assignments, academic status, academic appeals, diversity and disability, sexual harassment and misconduct, and the student code of conduct.

Please refer to the SIT Study Abroad Handbook and SIT website for information on important resources and services provided through our central administration in Vermont, such as [Library resources and research support](#), [Accessibility Services](#), [Counseling Services](#), [Title IX information](#), and [Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion](#) resources.