

Syllabus – Elective Course

Course title:

European Security and Conflicts

Credits:

6 ECTS credits

Teaching language:

English

Target students:

Undergraduate students from all study areas with an interest in/who would like to learn about the security in Europe.

Teacher in charge of the course:

Sergi Kapanadze

Course will be taught by Dr Sergi Kapanadze - a Professor of Peace Studies, International relations and European integration at the Ilia State University (Tbilisi) and a Jean Monnet Chair at the Caucasus University (Tbilisi), where he runs the Jean Monnet Center of Excellence – EUTRANSPOL. In 2016-2020, Dr Kapanadze was a vice-speaker of the Parliament of Georgia from the European Georgia party. Before joining politics, he served as the director of GRASS and a dean of the School of Governance at the Caucasus University (2013-2016) and a Dean of the Faculty of Political and Social Sciences at the Tbilisi State University (2013). In 2015-2016 he was a member of the OSCE Panel of Eminent Persons on European security. Dr Kapanadze has previously held the post of deputy Foreign Minister (2011-2012) and other senior posts in the foreign service of Georgia, during which he led Georgian delegations in various negotiations with Russia, the European Union and the United States. He holds PhD in International relations from the Tbilisi State University (2011) and MA in International Relations and European Studies from the Central European University (2003, Budapest, Hungary). He was awarded a Presidential Order of Excellence in 2011 and holds the diplomatic rank of Envoy Plenipotentiary.

COURSE PRESENTATION

Prerequisite:

To take this course, the students should have a good university level and should normally have completed at least one semester at university. They must have some ability to work as a group and be able to communicate easily in English at a standard university level. In other respects, the course is intended to serve a mix of profiles and learning backgrounds for a more diverse international learning experience. It is a bonus, if students are interested in international affairs, European security and politics.

Content:

This course will provide students with an overview of the discussions over the European Security particularly after the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Post-war settlement of this conflict will definitely have implications for wider European security architecture. This course will focus on the ongoing (and former) debates over the European security architecture and outline main disagreements between the West, Russia and the states in-between. Main objective of the course is to familiarize the students with the philosophical and diplomatic disagreements on European security and the main reasons of the conflicts in Europe, with a view of wider European security architecture.

Topics to be covered will normally include:

1. **Introduction**, description of the course and main activities.



Brief overview of the current security arrangements in Europe (EU, NATO, OSCE, bilateral agreements, nuclear agreement, START, CFE, Open Skies, Vienna Document, NATO-Russia Council).

2. **Historical debates about European security** (USSR vs. US/NATO/EUROPE) (Stalin's and Khrushchev's visions vs Adenauer/De Gaulle/Kennedy visions; Creation of CSCE, Common European Home proposal and Gorbachev/Reagan, nuclear disarmament and arms control).
3. **Modern debates about the European security** (1990s, 2000s, 2010s) (Kozyrev's proposal, NATO-Russia Council, European Security Treaty proposal, 2021 proposals from Russia and NATO/USA, clash between the principles of territorial integrity and self-determination, right to chose alliances and not expanding one's security at the expense of the security of the others'.)
4. **NATO, EU and European Security**: (Enlargements of the 1990s and 2000s, Open Door Policy, enhanced partnerships, Black Sea dimension, security of the Eastern flank, EU's Eastern Partnership policy, EU's military capabilities, EU's role in conflict resolution, NATO-EU cooperation and coordination).
5. **Conflicts in Europe: Russia and Georgia** (origin of the conflicts in Abkhazia and South Ossetia, war in the 1990s, resolution efforts, Geneva International Discussions, August 2008 war, current state of affairs, occupation vs. annexation vs. agency).
6. **Conflict in Europe: Moldova and Nagorno Karabakh** (origin of the conflicts in Transnistria, war in the 1990s, resolution efforts, 5+2 talks, Russian military presence in Transnistria, role of Ukraine and EUBAM, current state of affairs after the war in Ukraine, origin of the conflict in Nagorno Karabakh, war in the 1990s, war in 2020, developments post 2022; conflict resolution efforts and Minsk Group format, role of Russia, EU and US in the NK conflict; failure of international organizations, role of Turkey, security dilemma in the South Caucasus).
7. **Conflicts in Europe: Conflicts in the Balkans** (Breakup of Yugoslavia, ethnic tensions and conflicts, Bosnian war and Dayton Agreement, Serbia and Kosovo, role of international organizations in conflict resolution, military efforts from outside and interventions by the great powers like US/EU/Russia, Kosovo's UDI and recognition since 2008, EU's diplomatic role and prospects of future resolution, current state of affairs).
8. **Conflicts in Europe: Ukraine and Russia** (Russian interests in Ukraine, Ukrainian quest for independence since the 1990s, Maidan of 2004 and Euromaidan of 2014, legal basis for Russian presence in Crimea; Budapest Memorandum, Russian claims in Ukraine, illegal annexation of Crimea and occupation of Donbas, 2014-2021 build-up and failed Minsk agreements, negotiation formats of OSCE/TCG and Normandy 4, buildup to the war in 2022, outbreak of full-scale war).
9. Failure of international organizations (OSCE) and actors (EU) in conflict resolution and prevention.
10. **War in Ukraine** (run-up and preparation; military situation; evolution of the situations on Eastern, Southern and Northern fronts, perspectives of diplomatic solutions, Western military and financial support of Ukraine, diplomatic successes of Ukraine, changed European security order, Russian propaganda and message box, legal disputes and possibility of tribunals).
11. **Future of European Security** (various scenarios of future European security, changed role of international actors and entities, changed role of NATO and EU, decline of Russian attractiveness, rise and fall of propaganda).
12. **How the theories of international relations explain the debates over European security** (visions of Neorealism, offensive and defensive realisms, constructivism, liberalism on the war in Ukraine and the future of European security).
13. **Final Exam and debrief/discussion** (Kahoot quiz online).

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the course, the students should be able to:

Understand:

- The main components of European security currently and historically.
- The main debates on European security.
- The main processes leading to the war in Ukraine.
- The main reasons why the conflicts in Europe started.
- The main actors in European security.
- Various scenarios of how the European security could evolve.



Describe:

- The main instruments and treaties on which current European security is based.
- The main arguments of each conflicting parties in the major parties in Europe.
- The main reasons for the successes and failures of international organizations in conflict prevention and resolution.

WORKLOAD

French contact hours = 60 minutes (in some countries/institutions, 1 contact hour = 45-50 minutes)

Form	Number of hours	Comments
Face-to-face, in-class, on-site learning	39 hours	There will be 12 3 hour long lectures, including a final exam, which will be held in class, but online.
Approximate personal work/homework	15 hours	here will be a number of written and reading assignments given to the students during this course. Students will have to read several book chapters, articles and first hand documents pertaining to European security.
Student total workload	54 hours	This does not cover a trip to Brussels, where the students will be given the opportunity to visit a think tank (CEPS – Center of European Policy Studies) and listen to the expert discuss the current security situation in Europe, as well as the relevant person in the European Commission, who is working on the security policy of the European Union, particularly on the Eastern flank of Europe.

EDUCATIONAL METHODS

Lecture, discussion, presentations, sharing of experiences, group work, on-site education.

RESOURCES

All course materials will be supplied in class.

ASSESSMENT

Form	Number	Comments
Continuous assessment (20%)	1	Students will have to write one discussion paper about the current aspects of European security. Students are free to choose a topic of their interest, based on the materials and food for thought, provided to them by the course instructor on Day 1.
Short article reviews (30%)	1	Three articles will be given to the students for a short review of 500 words. Each will be assessed with 10 points.
Final exam (40%)	1	In class KAHOOT quiz based on the topics we have covered in class.
Student participation (20%)	1	Attendance, participation in group discussions.

This syllabus is based on information available at the time of publication (January 2025). Changes may occur.

For updated information about course content, please contact us: lilleprograms@univ-catholille.fr