



INSTITUTE FOR  
EUROPEAN  
STUDIES

*Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence  
at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel*

www.ies.be

**Course title:**

European Security and Counter-Terrorism

**Type of course:**

Optional (part of the specialisation option "European External Relations and Security Policy")

**Course content:**

War and peace have the power to change world order and the daily lives we lead. This course aims to provide students with a conceptual toolkit to navigate contemporary questions in international security, focusing specifically on the issue of terrorism as well as the European Union's strategies in responding to this threat. Combining insights from history, political science, international relations and economics in an interdisciplinary spirit, this course offers students a range of lectures delivered by academics and expert policy-makers. These lectures will cover various conceptual questions (such as the causes of war, the logic of deterrence and the function of strategy) as well as geographical and thematic approaches (such as the present instability in the wider European neighbourhood, the transatlantic relationship and security in East Asia). In terms of terrorism specifically, the course will provide students with the analytical tools to systematically assess the phenomenon, its increasingly international character, and varying national and European responses to the problem.

**Learning outcome:**

Students will leave the course having acquired knowledge and skills in:

- Contemporary theoretical and conceptual debates in international security and strategic studies;
- Current trends in international security and strategy;
- Regional politics and conflicts;
- International institutions;
- The issue of terrorism and a comprehension of the main problems faced by democratic states in Europe and the European Union when responding to this threat
- An informed and critical understanding of the European Union's role in counter-terrorism policy
- Conducting policy and strategic analysis;
- Problem-solving abilities and oral and written communication skills
- Research skills