



INSTITUTE FOR
EUROPEAN
STUDIES

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

www.ies.be

Course title:

European Security and Counter-Terrorism

Lecturer:

Prof. Dr. Raluca Csernaton

Type of course:

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

Course content:

A large proportion of studies on the EU foreign and security policy have focused on the issue of its external impact on other states or regions or within multilateral settings, where 'external impact' has generally been equated with 'success' or 'effectiveness' (Hill 1993; Ginsberg 2001; H. Smith 2002; K.E. Smith 2008; Marsh and Mackenstein 2005; Kirchner and Sperling 2007; Bretherton and Vogler 2006; Howorth 2007; Mérand 2008; Orbie 2008; Tardy 2009; Bengtsson 2010; Bindi 2010; Jørgensen, Oberthür and Shahin 2011; Koutrakos 2011; Lefebvre 2011; Marsh and Rees 2012). Some have further expanded upon the nature of this external impact by drawing upon notions such as 'civilian power Europe' (Duchêne 1972, 1973; Orbie 2006) and 'normative power Europe' (Diez 2005; Diez and Manners 2007; Manners 2002, 2006a, 2006b, 2011; Forsberg 2011). Overall, this literature has generally found European foreign policy to be lacking to a significant extent, both on the world stage and in its own neighbourhood (e.g. Henderson and Weaver 2010; Whitman and Wolff 2010; Whitman 2011). In addition, a smaller (albeit growing) number of works have examined the role of EU institutions and bureaucracies in the development of the EU foreign and security policy, including the European Commission, the European Parliament, and the Council Secretariat (Hill 1996; Nuttall 2000; Smith 2004; Crum 2006; Diedrichs 2004; Christiansen and Vanhoonacker 2008; Dijkstra 2008, 2009, 2010; Juncos and Pomorska 2010; Vanhoonacker et al. 2010). This module provides an introductory overview of the concepts and themes pertinent to the study of European Security in International Relations. It sets out to locate the European Union in the context of International Security, both in theory and practice, with a special emphasis on Counter-Terrorism. It will explore how the EU frames and conducts its international relations and examine many of the key themes in this context: the EU as a sub-system of International Relations, the EU and the process of International Relations, and the EU as a power.

The course is designed to equip the student with the necessary analytical tools to understand and evaluate all aspects of the role of the EU in the world. It provides an introduction to key aspects of the study of foreign policy with the specific objective of applying conceptual frameworks for analysis to real world phenomena.

Learning outcome:

Knowledge and Understanding

On successful completion of this module students will be able to demonstrate:

1. An understanding of the context and history of European security in the world;
2. An ability to comprehend several different EU Member States and EU institutions responses to the security threats, in particular terrorism;
3. An ability to explore the difficulties that democracies face in balancing the requirements of security and civil liberties;
4. An ability to appreciate the changing nature of security and terrorism and consider possible future directions of the phenomenon

Transferable/Key Skills and other attributes

Upon completion of this module, students will have had the opportunity to:

1. learn to manage time pressure, and make concise explanation of their arguments through the essay research and writing process, which also provides students with the opportunity to:
 - a. demonstrate the development of research skills;
 - b. demonstrate subject specific research techniques;
 - c. apply a range of methodologies to complex political problems.
2. develop their critical capabilities to assess both political and documentary evidence, and to make written arguments in a coherent, structures and persuasive way;
3. develop their IT skills (word processing and the use of the internet for research purposes);
4. perform their cultivated inter-personal skills and oral and written communication skills through seminar participation (in the standard teaching format), and increase their confidence in making oral arguments and giving short presentations before an audience. The seminar (standard teaching format) format will further encourage discussion and debate of differing viewpoints;
5. In the distance learning format of online tutorials, students will have had the opportunity to:
 - a. Perform inter-personal skills with a long-distance medium;
 - b. Enhance their written communication skills.
6. Identify and define the information required on a given topic and use research skills to identify relevant information resources.
7. Manage and critically evaluate the information found and reference appropriately.