



Universidad
de Navarra

*The UE's Common Security and Defense Policy (RRII)
Teaching guide 2026-27*

PRESENTATION

[EU LIGHTHOUSE.png](#)

Welcome to the European Union Common Security and Defence Policy course!

Through your **active participation**, you will understand one of the more challenging international processes: how 27 countries have agreed to synchronise their security and defence together. Studying this process is beneficial for **EU and non-EU citizens alike**.

This demanding course is based on your commitment

By working on selected specialised literature **at home** you will be prepared to develop analytical competences **in class**. You will master essential concepts which will nurture informed discussions through a variety of activities. You will also learn to write the reports used in International Organisations.

We will pursue an active and practical approach.

You will perform roles that will serve you on your future work. Each session will be led by a **panel** of students, and we will extensively use Artificial Intelligence tools to broaden and deepen your understanding of IR. you will demonstrate your essential IR concepts for the FINAL EXAM which will be individual and **ORAL**.

We will encompass foreign affairs, internal and external security.

We will understand the framework encompassing the EU **Foreign Affairs, internal Security, Defence** and other policies by analysing EU legislation, polices, national positions, strategies, elements supporting decisions, We also focus on the coordination between the Justice and Home Affairs and the Security and Defence policies and analyse different ways the EU is organising itself to tackle **transnational challenges**.

The course develops defence industry and how to finance it.

Their study will provide you with an understanding of the relationships amongst Research, Technology, Development, Defence Capabilities, Defence Supply Chain, critical materials and multilateral cooperation. We will finish the course analysing the



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Strategic **Autonomy** and the elements framing the **future** of the EU CSDP.

Overall, YOU will develop an analytical perspective.

International and exchange students are encouraged and welcomed to enrol and commit to this course. Your participation provides a unique perspective in this **demanding yet rewarding course**. If you are **willing to commit yourself to work hard and to participate in our analysis in class, this is your course**.

PLEASE, remember that **NO ELECTRONIC DEVICES** are allowed in class. **Attendance is mandatory**. Students with **25% unjustified absences (6 sessions)** will NOT pass the course.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

- **Character: Mandatory.**
- **Number of ECTS credits: 6.**
- **Course:** Third course, second semester.
- **Teaching language:** English.
- **Title:** International Relations degree.
- **Module and subject:** EU Common Security and Defence Policy.
- **Professor:** Pedro Vázquez de Prada Palencia.
- **Schedule and Location:**
- **Thursday 15.30-17:30. Classroom 12. AMIGOS.**
- **Friday 08:00-10:00. Classroom 15. AMIGOS.**

GRADING SYSTEM.

ATTENDANCE. Attendance is **mandatory**. **Students with 6 or more absences will fail the course.**

EU CSDP Grading System in May:

ACTIVITIES IN CLASS: 50 % from the following concepts:

- * **Strategic Study of a EU Country:** 10%
- * **Panel / Leader** of the session: 20%
- * **Rest of participation in class** 20% (Questions, other studies, presentations, and roles in class)

FINAL EXAM (ORAL): 50 % (It is necessary to pass it).

EU CSDP Grading System in June:



Students need to pass an oral exam.

LEARNING OUTCOMES (Competencies)

BASIC, GENERIC AND SPECIFIC COMPETENCES

CB2	Que los estudiantes sepan aplicar sus conocimientos a su trabajo o vocación de una forma profesional y posean las competencias que suelen demostrarse por medio de la elaboración y defensa de argumentos y la resolución de problemas dentro de su área de estudio
CB3	Que los estudiantes tengan la capacidad de reunir e interpretar datos relevantes (normalmente dentro de su área de estudio) para emitir juicios que incluyan una reflexión sobre temas relevantes de índole social, científica o ética
CB4	Que los estudiantes puedan transmitir información, ideas, problemas y soluciones a un público tanto especializado como no especializado
CG01	Analizar, valorar y razonar las diferentes situaciones internacionales a la luz de los conocimientos adquiridos.
CG04	Usar el inglés con propiedad según la terminología científica y académica propia de la Relaciones internacionales.
CG08	Manejar con destreza las nuevas tecnologías de la información y comunicación aplicándolas a las relaciones internacionales.
CE01	Conocer los conceptos y técnicas aplicadas al análisis de los actores y relaciones internacionales
CE03	Conocer y comprender los principales elementos que definen la política exterior de los Estados



CE05	Conocer y comprender las teorías y concepciones de las relaciones internacionales en perspectiva histórica
CE06	Diferenciar las distintas competencias y funciones del Estado, las organizaciones internacionales y los actores no estatales en el sistema internacional
CE08	Conocer y comprender la situación política, social, económica y geoestratégica de cada una de las regiones a nivel internacional (Asia, América, África, Europa)
CE10	Comprender las instituciones, normas, procedimientos de decisión y políticas de la Unión Europea
CE17	Analizar los problemas jurídicos y sociales que se derivan de las relaciones internacionales en todos los ámbitos con base en el conocimiento adecuado de los principios y normas de Derecho internacional
CE19	Comprender las instituciones, normas y procedimientos de decisión en la Unión Europea y a nivel internacional en materia de seguridad y defensa

PROGRAM

Introduction.

- Methodology.
- Essential Concepts.
- European Identity.

European Union's risks, threats, and challenges.

- Definitions and Implications.
- Approaches from the EU and its Member Nations.
- Formulation of Risks, Threats, and Challenges.

Strategy formulation Logic and Concepts.

- Elements of strategy formulation.



- Concept of Interests to National Security.
- Strategy Formulation Logic.

Perspective from an EU country: Spain's approach to security and defence.

- Spain's Foreign Action Strategy 2021-2024.
- Spain's National Security Strategy 2021.

EU Security and Defence architecture from the EU *acquis communautaire*.

- EU strategic Culture
- Treaty on the European Union.
- Treaty on the functioning of the European Union.
- Responsibilities of EU institutions, bodies, organizations.
- EU policies.
- Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and CSDP.
- EU CSDP Strategic Decision-Making Process

Evolution of EU STRATEGIES.

- External: EU Security Strategy 2003,
- EU Global Strategy 2016.
- EU Security Union Strategy 2020.
- Strategic Compass 2022.

Evolution of the EU CSDP.

- Other CSDP contributors.
- EU Crisis Response Mechanisms.

EU Defence Multilateralism.

- EU and NATO cooperation.
- EU and UN cooperation.
- Other international organizations.
- Cooperation with allies and partners.

Defence Industry and Capability Development.

- Capabilities & Armament Policy.
- Areas of development.
- European Defence Action Plan.



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- European Defence Technological Industrial Base.

EU Initiatives on capability development.

- Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO).
- Coordinated Annual Review of Defence (CARD).

EU CSDP bodies, agencies, and funds

- European Peace Facility.
- European Defence Fund.
- European External Action Service.
- European Defence Agency (EDA).
- Military Organisations and the EU Military Staff (EUMS).

EU CSDP mechanisms, missions, and operations.

- CSDP Mandate.
- Military CSDP Missions and operations.
- Civilian CSDP missions.
- Civilian CSDP Compact.

Cooperation between CSDP and other policies and actors.

- Area of Freedom, Security and Justice
- Security, Defence, Justice and Home Affairs cooperation.
- EU Agencies: EUROPOL, EUROJUST.
- Security, Defence and Development nexus.
- Africa and the Mediterranean.
- Coordination with external actors.

EU Strategic Autonomy.

- Approaches
- Implications

Future of the CSDP.

- Future of the Decision-Making Processes & Relationships.
- Areas to integrate

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

To achieve objectives and competences, each student will perform the following activities:



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- Read the proposed material **ahead of the class** in order to actively participate in class.
- Take part in the **panel**, leading the discussion in class.
- Write the short analysis papers in the format used at the main International Organizations.
- Answer the short analysis exercises.
- Analyse and present one EU country (in teams of 2/3 students) from the Security and Defence Perspective.
- Study and present one EU mission or operation, or one EU capability or industrial capability.

HORARIOS DE ATENCIÓN

Prof. Pedro Vazquez de Prada is available @: **p vazquez@external.unav.es**

BIBLIOGRAFÍA