



PRESENTATION

[EU LIGHTHOUSE.png](#)

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

There is no better area nowadays to help comprehend the complexity, volatility, and uncertainty of the international environment.

You will enjoy the active methodology, based on your participation!

The course has a far-reaching **practical approach**. You perform roles that will serve you on your future work in International Organizations. You develop **critical thinking** and other **analytical competences**, providing basic and advanced concepts through preparatory **readings at home**. They nurture informed discussions in class through a variety of exercises, presentations, and debates. You also **learn to write the papers used in the international organisations** even using **Artificial Intelligence** in some of them.

The course is even more relevant in **2025**, due to the international landscape. We consider the balance between the perceived and actual **threats, risks and challenges** to the EU.

We study the theoretical framework crucial to the formation of the European **Foreign, Security, Defence and other** policies. Thus, we analyse the European **polices**, the **national demands**, the **elements** supporting decisions, and the conduct of joint and transversal activities. 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 module also has the indispensable content on **industrial and financial** aspects. They provide you with an understanding of the



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relationships amongst Research, Technology, Development, Defence Capabilities, and their associated financial elements.

We finish the course considering the EU's Strategic Autonomy and a variety of elements which will frame the future of the EU CSDP.

Overall, YOU will develop an analytical perspective based on principles, concepts, theories, policies and strategies of the EU foreign, security, defence and internal agendas within the changing international system.

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

Attendance is mandatory. Students with **25% unjustified absences (6 sessions)** will NOT pass the course.

PLEASE, remember that NO ELECTRONIC DEVICES are allowed in class.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

- **Character:** Mandatory.
- **Number of ECTS credits:** 6.
- **Course:** Fourth 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 18.00-20:00. Classroom 01. AMIGOS.
 - Friday 10:00-12:00. Classroom 10. AMIGOS.

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 COURSE 2023-2024

Introduction.

- Methodology.
- Essential Concepts.
- European Identity.



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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 Common Security and Defence Policy (**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.



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- 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.
- 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:

- Read the proposed material ahead of the class to participate in class.
- Write three short analysis papers in the format used at the main International Organizations.
- Participate in at least 2 debates in the main roles.
- Answer 3 short analysis exercises.
- Analyse and present one EU country (in teams of 2 students) from the Security and Defence Perspective.
 - Study and present individually one EU mission or operation.
 - Study and present individually one EU capability or industrial capability.

GRADING SYSTEM.

Attendance is mandatory. Students with 7 or more absences will fail the course. The Chairperson will do the daily roll call.

EU CSDP 2024 Grading System in May:

ACTIVITIES IN CLASS: 50 % from the following concepts:

*** Strategic Study of a EU Country:** 10% (presentation: 7%; video: 3%).

*** Debates:** 10%

*** Chairperson** of the session: 10% (preparation: 5%; execution: 5%).



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* Rest of participation (Study and Presentation of missions and capabilities, fallacies, feed-back, participation): 20%

ESSAYS: 10 %.

SHORT EXAMS: 10%

FINAL EXAM: 30 % (It needs to be passed)

EU CSDP 2024 in JUNE:

Students need to present an essay and pass an exam like the final one.

Grading system:

- ESSAY: 40%
- EXAM: 60 % (It needs to be passed)

CONTACT INFO:

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BIBLIOGRAFÍA