

# European Security

IREF2PPK  
Syllabus for spring 2025, 2IRES

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## Course description

The aim of the course is to present the issue of European security in its complexity and context. Since this is an introductory bachelor-level course, we will extensively discuss the historical context and the evolution of European security. We will discuss the European security system since the end of the WWII, roles played by key actors and the gradual institutionalization of security and defence cooperation in various formats. While an emphasis is placed on the cooperation in the context of the EC/EU integration process, attention will be also paid to NATO and other settings shaping the security architecture of the European continent. Apart from evaluating roles, strategies and interests of various actors, we will focus on evolving threat perceptions. We will discuss how threat perceptions influence defence policies of individual states and collective strategies enacted by the EU or NATO respectively.

## Course requirements and grading

The course will take the form of weekly lectures, the teaching will take place at the MUP campus in Strašnice in a room according to the schedule. All weekly assignments and final tests will be available via **Moodle**. Go to <https://moodle.mup.cz/course/view.php?id=1117>, login with your SIS account and register for the course using password: window

There are two requirements to pass the course. For each of them you will receive points for the final assessment of the course:

### **1. Active participation**

For attending each class and participating in the discussions, you will receive 3 points for the overall assessment. Active participation during classes will be recorded from the 2nd week of the semester; you can thus earn a **maximum of 30 points**. If you cannot attend lectures over a longer period, you can apply for an **individual study plan (ISP) at the beginning of the semester**. If your ISP is approved, you will have to do an oral exam (you can receive up to 30 points for the oral exam). For the retake term (September), the same conditions apply as for the ISP, i.e., instead of active class participation, you get points for an oral exam (maximum 30 points).

### **2. Final test**

You will write the final test during the exam period **in person in Strašnice**. There will be 4 exam dates during the exam period (you have max 3 attempts). For a retake, there will be 2 exam dates in September (you have only 1 attempt for the retake). The test will cover lectures, presentations, and course literature and will consist of two parts (multiple choice and open questions). You can get a **maximum of 70 points** for the entire test.

Total points collected will be used for the final grading according to the following **grading standard**:

excellent (=1):	85-100 points
very good (=2):	73-84 points
good (=3):	61-72 points
failed:	0-60 points

### **Course content**

1. Course introduction
2. The end of the WWII and its security implications for Europe
  - Europe as a source of instability (world wars)
  - devastation of Europe, geopolitical weakening of European powers
  - end of European empires, decolonization
3. Political context of the establishment of European Communities
  - gradual elimination of enmity through economic integration
  - support for European integration from the US
  - the failure of the European Defence Community
4. NATO and the German question
  - division of Germany, Berlin crisis and the division of Europe
  - dilemma of German rearmament
  - establishment of NATO and German accession to NATO
5. Détente and European terrorism
  - separatism within European Communities
  - ideologically motivated terrorism
  - organized crime
6. The end of the Cold War and wars in former Yugoslavia
  - end of the Cold War and the peace dividend
  - dismantling of the Iron Curtain, Europe whole and free
  - troubles in paradise: violent dissolution of Yugoslavia
7. US hegemony
  - transatlantic ties and US security umbrella
  - Mars and Venus: the tale of two security cultures
  - invasion to Iraq and the transatlantic rift
8. NATO enlargement and an attempt to reset relations with Russia
  - accession of CEE countries to NATO
  - humanitarian interventions, out-of-area operations
  - Partnership for Peace and NATO-Russia Council
9. Volatile neighbourhood
  - from Maghreb, Middle East to Caucasus
  - intervention in Libya and non-intervention in Syria
  - terrorism and migration
10. Common Security and Defence Policy
  - overview of institutional developments
  - Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO)
  - EU missions and operations
11. War in Ukraine

- DCFTA, Euromaidan and the start of the war in 2014
- European attempts to mediate (Georgia 2008 and Ukraine 2014)
- 2022 invasion and the Zeitenwende
- European Peace Facility and the EUMAM

12. Future security architecture for Europe

- strategic autonomy of the EU
- capabilities – expectations gap of the EU CSDP
- European industrial defence strategy
- NATO “reborn” or “brain dead”?

**Readings**

See Moodle.