

1. BASIC DETAILS

Subject	Security and Defense Alliances
Qualification	Bachelor's Degree in International Relations
School/Faculty	Economics, Business, and Communication Sciences
Year	Third
ECTS	6 ECTS
Type	Mandatory
Language(s)	English
Modality	Campus-based
Semester	S5
Academic year	2025/2026
Coordinating professor	PhD Gabriela Brochner

2. PRESENTATION

The subject “Security and Defense Alliances” provides a basic approach to the security and defense perspective from the viewpoint of international relations. Among other aspects, various conceptualizations of “security and defense” will be studied, as well as the most important international security organizations, key actors in today's international society.

Students will gain an understanding of the nature, meaning and objectives of the institutional system of this type of organization, the different legal norms that govern them and the basic principles behind the main international security organizations.

3. COMPETENCIES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

Basic competencies:

- BC1: Students have demonstrated knowledge and understanding in the field of study based on general secondary education and, although they are aided by advanced textbooks, this also includes certain aspects that require cutting-edge knowledge in their field of study.
- BC2: Students know how to apply their knowledge to their work or career in a professional manner and they have skills that are typically demonstrated by developing and defending arguments and solving problems within their field of study.)
- BC3: Students are able to gather and interpret relevant information (normally within their area of study) to make judgments, including reflecting on significant social, scientific or ethical issues.

Cross-cutting competencies:

- CC1: Independent learning. Ability to choose the strategies, tools and moments they consider most effective for learning and independently putting into practice what has been learned.

- CC9: Skills in interpersonal relationships. Ability to relate positively with other people through verbal and non-verbal means, through assertive communication, understanding this as the ability to express or transmit what is wanted, what is thought or felt without disturbing, attacking or hurting the feelings of the other person.
- CC16: Decision-making. Ability to make a choice between existing alternatives or ways to effectively resolve different situations or problems.
- CC18: Use of information and communication technologies (ITC). Ability to effectively use information and communication technologies as a tool for the search, processing and storage of information, as well as for the development of communication skills.

Specific competencies:

- SC1: Knowledge and understanding of the historical evolution of international society.
- SC4: Knowledge and understanding of the role of international organizations today – their functions, objectives and internal organization.
- SC7: Knowledge of how to relate and discuss the problematic origins of international instabilities: conflicts, inequalities, exclusion, environment, pressure groups and public opinion, among others.
- SC9: Ability to recognize global, universal and cosmopolitan perspectives in the study of the actors, institutions, structures and transactions that constitute international relations.
- SC23: Ability to contribute to the promotion of peace policies and proposals for peaceful solutions to conflicts.

Learning outcomes:

- LO1: Students will know and understand the basic concepts of existing international security and defense organizations.
- LO2: Students will understand the dimension of security in its various facets as the engine of international society and the legal framework on which it is based.
- LO3: Students will be able to make use of different sources and channels of information.
- LO4: Students will understand the functioning of both national and international institutions.

The table below shows the relationship between the competencies developed in the subject and the learning outcomes pursued:

Competencies	Learning outcomes
BC1, BC2, BC3, CC1, CC9, CC16, SC1, SC4, SC7, SC9	LO1: Students will know and understand the basic concepts of existing international security and defense organizations.
BC1, BC2, BC3, CC9, CC16, CC18, SC1, SC7, SC9, SC23	LO2: Students will understand the dimension of security in its various facets as the engine of international society and the legal framework on which it is based.
BC1, BC2, BC3, CC9, CC16, CC18	LO3: Students will be able to make use of different sources and channels of information.
BC1, BC2, BC3, CC1, CC9, SC1, SC4, SC7, SC9, SC23	LO4: Students will understand the functioning of both national and international institutions.

4. CONTENTS

- The conceptual framework of security and defense. The concept of collective security, the concept of cooperative security. Human security.
- Study of the main organizations focusing on security and collective defense (Atlantic Alliance, European Union, Transatlantic Relations, OSCE, European Security Alliance).
- Command structure, functions and evolution of objectives and operational strategies.
- Spanish security and defense policy.
- Internal security and cooperation with intelligence services.

5. TEACHING-LEARNING METHODOLOGIES

The types of teaching-learning methodologies to be applied are as follows:

- Cooperative learning
- Problem-based learning
- Master classes

6. EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Each of the educational activities to be carried out together with the number of hours students will dedicate to it is described below:

Campus-based modality:

Educational activity	Number of hours
Master classes	35
Written reports and documents	13
Asynchronous master classes	12
Academic tutorials	10
Resolution of case studies (fictitious and real)	25
Independent work	50
Knowledge integration test	5
TOTAL	150

7. ASSESSMENT

The assessment systems, as well as their weight in the total grade of the subject, are listed below:

Campus-based modality:

Assessment system	Weighting
Evaluation exercises through theoretical knowledge tests (with open questions on a topic, or objective and direct questions on a specific aspect of the subject, or objective test-type questions) or practical (with problems or cases to be solved, to answer them, reflecting in a practical way, the theoretical and practical knowledge of the subject).	50%
Oral presentations	20%
Case study	30%

When you access the subject in the Virtual Campus, you will be able to consult in detail the assessed assignments that you must perform, as well as the submission dates and the assessment procedures for each of them.

Observations on the evaluation system:

- The continuous evaluation system will be applied per subject throughout the different Learning Units, weighting and assessing in an integral way the results obtained by the student through the indicated evaluation procedures.
- The evaluation concludes with a recognition of the level of learning achieved by the student and is expressed in numerical grades, in accordance with the provisions of current legislation.

7.1. First exam sitting

In order to pass the subject at the first exam sitting, you must achieve a grade that is greater than or equal to 5 out of 10 in the final grade (weighted average) in the subject.

In any case, you will need to obtain a grade greater than or equal to 5 in the final exam, in order for this to count toward the average calculated with the rest of the assignments.

7.2. Second exam sitting

In order to pass the subject at the second exam sitting, you must achieve a grade that is greater than or equal to 5 out of 10 in the final grade (weighted average) in the subject.

In any case, you will need to obtain a grade greater than or equal to 5 in the final exam, in order for this to count toward the average calculated with the rest of the assignments.

Any assignments not passed at the first exam sitting must be resubmitted after having received the corresponding corrections by the professor, as well as any that were not submitted.

8. SCHEDULE

This section indicates the schedule with submission dates for the subject's assessed assignments:

Assessed assignments	Date
Assignment 1	Week 3
Assignment 2	Week 6
Assignment 3	Week 9
Assignment 4	Week 12
Assignment 5	Week 15
Assignment 6	Week 18
Assignment 7	Week 18

This schedule may be modified for logistical reasons related to the assignments. Any modification will be notified to the student in a timely manner.

9. BIBLIOGRAPHY

The recommended bibliography is as follows:

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10. EDUCATIONAL GUIDANCE, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION UNIT

From the Educational Guidance and Diversity Unit we offer support to our students throughout their university life to help them reach their academic achievements. Other main actions are the students inclusions with specific educational needs, universal accessibility on the different campuses of the university and equal opportunities.

From this unit we offer to our students:

1. Accompaniment and follow-up by means of counselling and personalized plans for students who need to improve their academic performance.
2. In terms of attention to diversity, non-significant curricular adjustments are made in terms of methodology and assessment for those students with specific educational needs, pursuing an equal opportunities for all students.
3. We offer students different extracurricular resources to develop different competences that will encourage their personal and professional development.
4. Vocational guidance through the provision of tools and counselling to students with vocational doubts or who believe they have made a mistake in their choice of degree.

Students in need of educational support can write to us at:

orientacioneducativa@universidadeuropea.es

11. SATISFACTION SURVEYS

Your opinion matters!

The Universidad Europea encourages you to participate in our satisfaction surveys designed to identify strengths and areas for improvement regarding teaching staff, degree programs and the teaching-learning process.

Surveys will be available in the survey space on your virtual campus or via your email.

Your opinion is needed to improve the quality of the degree.

Thank you very much for your participation.