

### 1. Informations générales :

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|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Titre du cours :               | Understanding security policy- The case of the EU as an international security actor                                                                                                        |                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| NOM de l'enseignant-e :        | DESCHAUX-DUTARD<br>Delphine                                                                                                                                                                 | Semestre : 2            | <input type="checkbox"/> Automne<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Printemps                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Public visé :                  | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 <sup>ère</sup> année<br><input type="checkbox"/> 2 <sup>ème</sup> année<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 <sup>ère</sup> année et 2 <sup>ème</sup> année  | Langue :                | <input type="checkbox"/> français<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> anglais                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Nombre maximal d'étudiant-es : | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20 (jusqu'à 25)<br><input type="checkbox"/> 30<br><input type="checkbox"/> 40<br><input type="checkbox"/> 50<br><input type="checkbox"/> Pas de maximum | Organisation du cours : | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 9 séances de 2h sur 9 semaines<br><input type="checkbox"/> 12 séances de 1h30 sur 12 semaines<br><input type="checkbox"/> 12 séances de 1h30 sur 6 semaines<br><input type="checkbox"/> 6 séances de 3h sur 12 semaines |

### 2. Résumé du cours :

This 18-hour course taught in English offers a structured analysis of the European Union's external action, with a particular focus on security and defence issues. Its objective is to equip students with the main theoretical frameworks and analytical tools needed to understand the EU as an international actor, while engaging them with contemporary case studies (including the war in Ukraine and the war economy, as well as cybersecurity).

The course content is organized around three complementary components:

1. Theorizing the EU as an external actor and examining its role within multilateralism;
2. The emergence and development of the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), including the role of crises and Franco-German entrepreneurship, relations with major powers (particularly the United States), and the question of the EU's power capabilities;
3. New sectoral challenges, with a particular emphasis on cybersecurity and cyber defence.

The course's professional dimension is ensured through a European Council simulation exercise, during which each student represents a Member State and participates in negotiations on a specific policy issue. In 2026, the simulation focuses on the potential creation of a common European defence debt, inspired by recent debates on European financial instruments. This exercise allows students to develop negotiation skills, public speaking abilities, position-paper writing skills, and a deeper understanding of the issues addressed throughout the semester.

A targeted bibliography of key academic works on European defence is provided to ensure the course is firmly grounded in current research.

### 3. Pré-requis éventuels :

There are no formal prerequisites for this course, although a general understanding of how the EU functions and familiarity with theories of international relations would be advantageous for understanding the course material.

### 4. Modalités de contrôle des connaissances et des compétences envisagées :

Assessment combines continuous assessment and a final examination:

- 55%: simulation-related portfolio (position paper and report);
- 40%: final written examination in English (1 hour 30 minutes);
- 5%: oral participation and punctuality.

### 5. Description détaillée du cours

Each session combines lectures by the instructor with interactive group exercises based on research into documents and online sources, followed by oral presentations of findings in class. Every session also includes a structured debate on the topic under discussion.

#### Sequence 1 : Introduction to EU's external action: theorizing the EU as an external actor (I)

Introduction on how to find information on the EU as a global actor: blogs and press

Brief overview of theories to study the EU

Focus on theories to study the EU's external action and foreign policy  
The EU within international multilateralism

**Sequence 2 : Introduction to EU's external action: a focus on EU's role in international security (II)**

European defence: since when is the topic accurate ?  
Classic analysis of the EU in international security  
The question of Europeanization  
Is defence Europeanized ?

**Sequence 3 : Where does the EU's defence policy come from ? The role of crisis and the French-German tandem**

Understanding where the CSDP comes from  
Functioning of EU foreign and defence policy

**Sequence 4 : The EU, the war in Ukraine and war economy**

How does the war in Ukraine impact the EU ? (New tools developed within European defence)  
National strategic perspectives on European defence  
Main limits of EU's rearmament

**Sequence 5 : Is the EU a lamb in the international jungle ?**

How does the EU relate to power ?  
The question of the EU and its relationship with big powers  
The EU as a smart power ?

**Sequence 6 : The EU and the USA**

The historical role of the US variable within EU's security  
Assets and limits of the EU in its relationship towards the USA  
Overcoming strategic dependence ?

**Sequence 7 : The EU as a cybersecurity actor**

EU's cybersecurity architecture  
Main limits of the EU in cybersecurity and cyberdefence

**Sequence 8 : Simulation exercise : Model European Council (Plenary 1 + caucuses)**

Position paper to prepare

Plenary session 1: each country presents its position (position paper)  
Debates in caucuses

**Sequence 9 : Simulation exercise : Model European Council (Plenary 2)**

Debates and end of caucuses/ coalition meetings  
Plenary 2 and vote  
Negotiation report to be handed out after the sequence