

1. Informations générales :

Titre du cours :	Frontlines in Global Arms Regulation: Geopolitics, Actors, and Emerging Threats.		
NOM de l'enseignant-e :	Nicolas FLORQUIN, PhD Head of Data & Analytics , Small Arms Survey, IHEID, Genève. Chercheur Associé , CESICE, UGA-Sciences Po Grenoble	Semestre :	☐ Spring ☐
Public visé :	(flexible mais préférence 2ème année du fait de l'exigence méthodologique (voir section 3)) ☐ 1 ^{ère} année ☒ 2 ^{ème} année ☒ 1 ^{ère} année et 2 ^{ème} année	Langue :	☐ français ☒ anglais
Nombre maximal d'étudiant-es :	☐ 20 ☐ 30 ☒ 40 ☐ 50 ☐ Pas de maximum	Organisation du cours :	☐ 9 séances de 2h sur 9 semaines ☐ 12 séances de 1h30 sur 12 semaines ☒ 12 séances de 1h30 sur 6 semaines ☐ 6 séances de 3h sur 12 semaines

2. Résumé du cours :

This course focuses on the 'frontlines' of international conventional arms control and the challenge of illicit small arms and light weapons (SALW) proliferation in a context of growing geopolitical turbulence. It adopts a practitioner's perspective to examine global security through data collection, multi-sectoral partnerships, and multilateral policy. Students will build practical skills in data triangulation, tracing techniques, and the drafting and delivery of policy memos using real-world case studies from Ukraine, Libya, and the Caribbean.

3. Pré-requis éventuels :

No specific prior course in International Relations or Law is required. However, students should have a strong interest in global security issues and a basic proficiency in data analysis. Specifically, students should be comfortable using Excel (or similar spreadsheet software) for basic data entry, simple formulas, and creating charts to support their policy recommendations during technical exercises.

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

- Continuous assessment
- Participation and quizzes on assigned readings and lectures (20%): Engagement in discussions and short knowledge checks.
 - In-class group exercises (30%) (technical tracing or role-playing simulation): A practical group exercise on ammunition identification or tracing data analysis.
 - Final assignment (50%): A 3-page professional brief recommending a policy response to a specific proliferation or violence challenge.

5. Description détaillée du cours (facultatif)

- By taking this course, the students will be able to:
- Understand the mechanics of arms trafficking and the global SALW control architecture.
 - Gain practical experience with research methods for identifying and tracing illicit weapons and ammunition.
 - Analyse the multi-dimensional impacts of armed violence (public health, gender, socio-economic costs).
 - Produce actionable policy recommendations for a diplomatic or professional audience.

Séance	Thème	Contenu / Cas d'étude
1	Introduction	Global trends in lethal violence and SALW proliferation.
2	New technologies and emerging threats	New technologies and the rise of privately made SALW (e.g. 3D printing, drones and improvised explosive devices).
3	Geopolitics and the international conventional arms control architecture	Main instruments (UN Programme of Actions, Firearms Protocol, Arms Trade Treaty, Global Framework on Ammunition) and challenges to SALW control in a shifting geopolitical landscape.
4	Weapons instrumentality	How weapon types influence the lethality and nature of violence. Live quiz and data exercises.
5	Research methods I: Data for SALW control	SKILL DEVELOPMENT – Practical group exercise: identifying ammunition markings from images (Libya case study) to detect possible arms embargo violations.
6	Research methods II: Policy briefing	RESTITUTION – Groups present and defend the results of their analysis of the evidence to a fictitious professional audience (e.g. UN Sanctions Committee).
7	Addressing demand and the actors of proliferation	Cross-border trafficking, the collapse of state stockpiles, and the demand for illicit SALW among insurgents, militias, and civilian self-defence groups. Special focus on the Sahel and Libya.
8	Research methods III: Weapons profiling techniques and analysing illicit market price data	Case studies and exercises with data from the Middle East, Europe and Afghanistan.
9	Case study: Patterns and mechanics of arms trafficking in Ukraine	Conventional arms control in active high-intensity conflict and the benefits of mixed methods research to counter arms-related disinformation.
10	The societal impacts of proliferation and misuse	Public health perspectives on the impacts of gunshot injuries in the Caribbean and opportunities and challenges for integrating public health and law enforcement responses.
11	Policy simulation I: Drafting a policy memo	Workshop on translating technical research into a 3-page actionable policy brief for diplomats.
12	Policy simulation II: Influencing policy	Final workshop: Presenting and defending policy responses.

Preliminary selection of readings and references

- Braga, A. et al. (2021). 'Firearm Instrumentality: Do Guns Make Violent Situations More Lethal?' *Annual Review of Criminology*, no. 4: 147–164. <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-criminol-061020-021528>
- Djoughri, K and C. Watson. (2025). *Assessing Gender Responsiveness in the Implementation of Small Arms Control Action Plans*. How-To-Guide. Geneva: Small Arms Survey. <https://www.smallarmssurvey.org/sites/default/files/resources/SAS-How-to-guide-2025-Gender-Assessing-Responsiveness-EN.pdf>
- Florquin, N. (2021). 'Gun Violence: Insights from International Research.' *Global Crime*, 22(4), 288–311. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17440572.2021.1997741>
- Florquin, N. et al. (2022). *Perceptions, Vulnerabilities, and Prevention: Violent Extremism Threats Assessment in the Southern Libya Borderlands*. Genève et Addis-Abeba: Small Arms Survey et PNUD. <https://www.smallarmssurvey.org/sites/default/files/resources/SAS-UNDP-Report-ENG-WEB.pdf>
- Jenzen-Jones, N. R., and M. Schroeder, eds. (2018). *An Introductory Guide to the Identification of Small Arms, Light Weapons, and Associated Ammunition*. Handbook. Geneva: Small Arms Survey. Chapter 9: 'Analysing Arms Flows: Illicit Weapons.' <https://www.smallarmssurvey.org/sites/default/files/resources/SAS-HB-06-Weapons-ID-ch9.pdf>

- Krause, K. (2017). 'Small Arms as a Global Public Policy Challenge: A View from a Participant-observer.' *History of Global Arms Transfers*, Vol. 4, pp. 3–15.
https://www.isc.meiji.ac.jp/~transfer/papers/en/pdf/04/01_KEITH_KRAUSE.pdf
- Marsh, N. (2018). 'The Availability Puzzle: Considering the Relationship between Arms and Violence Taking Place within States.' *History of Global Arms Transfers*, Vol. 6, pp. 3–21.
https://meiji.repo.nii.ac.jp/record/12113/files/kokusaibukiitenshi_6_3.pdf
- Parker, S. and M. Wilson. (2016). *A Guide to the UN Small Arms Process: 2016 Update. Handbook*. Geneva: Small Arms Survey.
<https://www.smallarmssurvey.org/sites/default/files/resources/UNSA%20TEXT%20WEB.pdf>
- Schroeder, M. et al. (2025) *Weapons Compass: Proliferation and Control of Arms and Ammunition in Wartime Ukraine*. Geneva and Kyiv: Small Arms Survey and Center for Security Studies 'CENSS'.
<https://www.smallarmssurvey.org/sites/default/files/resources/SAS-Report-2025-Ukraine-small-arms-proliferation-final-EN.pdf>
- Small Arms Survey, UNIDIR and Instituto Sou da Paz. (2024). *The Growing and Multifaceted Global Threat of Privately Made and other Non-industrial Small Arms and Light Weapons*. Working Paper submitted to the Fourth Review Conference of the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms.
https://www.smallarmssurvey.org/sites/default/files/resources/SAS_ISdP_UNIDIR_WorkingPaper_2024_PrivatelyMadeSALW_EN.pdf
- Sobers, N. et al. (2025). 'Firearm-related Violence in the Caribbean is a Complex Systemic Issue: How do we Move towards a Solution?' *The Lancet Regional Health: Americas*.
[https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanam/article/PIIS2667-193X\(25\)00259-5/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanam/article/PIIS2667-193X(25)00259-5/fulltext)
- Watson, W. and A. Shaban. (2024). 'What Happened to Demand? Getting Small Arms Control Back on Track.' Brussels: EU Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Consortium.
<https://www.sipri.org/publications/2024/eu-non-proliferation-and-disarmament-papers/what-happened-demand-getting-small-arms-control-back-track>