

INAF 5409/PSCI 4809: Security Challenges from the Baltics to the Eastern Mediterranean

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Course Description

This course aims to explore the contemporary security challenges in NATO's eastern and southern flanks, from the Baltic Sea to the Black Sea and the Eastern Mediterranean. The course is structured around three seas that face considerable security challenges; the Baltic Sea, the Black Sea, and the Eastern Mediterranean. We will explore those challenges (from military confrontation to cyber and information warfare, from energy geopolitics to terrorism to refugees) and the policies/strategies of the major state and non-state actors involved. The course includes a crisis simulation/wargame that will enable the students to put their newly acquired knowledge and skills to use.

We will use a hybrid of asynchronous and synchronous approaches to online teaching. In the first 4 weeks (Week 1 to Week 4) there will be videos, podcasts, and other material that you can follow on your own in addition to the readings below. They will be made available on cuLearn before the class time. We will also have live Q&A sessions on the readings as well as interviews/guest lectures (live or pre-recorded) with scholars working on the topics under discussion, depending on the availability. Week 5 and Week 6, including the wargame/crisis simulation will be synchronous (live).

Learning Outcomes:

1. Understand the most important security issues and the policies and strategies of major actors in the Baltics, the Black Sea, and the Eastern Med.
2. Acquire knowledge of recent developments in the field and able to reflect on the future developments in these regions.
3. Describe, understand, and analyze the security challenges in the regions under investigation.
4. Understand and critically analyze the policies of major actors in the relevant regions.
5. Acquire hands-on experience in dealing with geopolitical and geoeconomic events in the real world through crisis simulation and policy brief writing.

Week 1

1.1 Introduction

Nicholas Burns and Douglas Lute. 2019. NATO at Seventy: An Alliance in Crisis. Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School, available at <https://www.belfercenter.org/sites/default/files/files/publication/NATOatSeventy.pdf>

1.2 Traditional Security Challenges to NATO's Eastern and Southern Flanks

De Pedro, Nicolás, and Francis Ghilès. 2017. War in peacetime.: Russia's Strategy on NATO's Eastern and Southern Flanks. CIDOB. https://www.cidob.org/en/publications/publication_series/monographs/monographs/war_in_peacetime_russia_s_strategy_on_nato_s_eastern_and_southern_flanks

Sten RYNNING. 2019. NATO's Futures: the Atlantic Alliance between Power and Purpose NDC Research Paper No. 2 - March 2019, available at <http://www.ndc.nato.int/download/downloads.php?icode=583>

Week 2

2.1 Below the Threshold: Subversion, Disinformation, and Hybrid Warfare

Breitenbauch, H. and Byrjalsen, N., 2019. Subversion, Statecraft and Liberal Democracy. *Survival*, 61(4), pp.31-41.

Ben Connable et.al. 2020. Russia's Hostile Measures: Combating Russian Gray Zone Aggression Against NATO in the Contact, Blunt, and Surge Layers of Competition. RAND Corporation. (https://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/research_reports/RR2500/RR2539/RAND_RR2539.pdf)

2.2 Securing the Baltics: Deterring Russian Aggression in the Eastern Flank

Stephen J. Flanagan et.al. 2019. Deterring Russian Aggression in the Baltic States Through Resilience and Resistance. RAND Corporation. https://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/research_reports/RR2700/RR2779/RAND_RR2779.pdf

Veebel, Viljar. 2019. "Researching Baltic security challenges after the annexation of Crimea", *Journal on Baltic Security* 5, 1: 41-52, doi: <https://doi.org/10.2478/jobs-2019-0004>

Week 3

3.1 Black Sea Security - Re-emergence of Security Competition

Flanagan, Stephen J. and Chindea, Irina. 2019. Russia, NATO, and Black Sea Security Strategy. RAND Corporation.

(https://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/conf_proceedings/CF400/CF405/RAND_CF405.pdf)

Melvin, N.J., 2018. Rebuilding Collective Security in the Black Sea Region. Stockholm. Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), available at

https://www.sipri.org/sites/default/files/2018-12/sipripp50_0.pdf

3.2 Securing the Southern Flank – Dealing with Diverse Threats

Marquina, A. 2019. NATO'S Southern Flank and the threat of disruption. J Transatlantic Studies 17, 223–237. <https://doi.org/10.1057/s42738-019-00017-x>

Meral, Ziya. 2019.VI. NATO and its Southern Flank, Whitehall Papers, 95:1, 81-90, DOI: 10.1080/02681307.2019.1731212

Ülgen, Sinan, and Can Kasapoğlu. 2016. A Threat-based Strategy for NATO's Southern Flank. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

https://carnegieendowment.org/files/NATO_Southern_Flank.pdf

Week 4

4.1 Trouble in the Horizon? Geopolitics of Energy in the Eastern Mediterranean

Winrow, G.M., 2018. Discovery of Energy Reserves in the Levant and Impacts on Regional Security. Uluslararası İlişkiler Dergisi, 15(60), pp.45-57.

Tziarras, Zenonas (ed.) (2019) The New Geopolitics of the Eastern Mediterranean: Trilateral Partnerships and Regional Security, Re-imagining the Eastern Mediterranean Series: PCC Report, 3. Nicosia: PRIO Cyprus Centre.

<https://www.prio.org/utility/DownloadFile.ashx?id=1796&type=publicationfile>

4.2 Take home midterm exam

Week 5

5.1 Workshop: How to write policy briefs

5.2 Introduction to Wargaming - Tutorial

Week 6

6.1 Wargame/Crisis Simulation (crisis scenario TBD)

6.2 Wargame debriefing and course wrap-up. Policy Briefs are due.

Evaluation

Midterm (45%): There will be a take-home midterm exam on Week 4 of the course that will cover all the subjects prior to the exam. More information will be provided in due course.

Wargame participation (15%): We will do a crisis wargame/simulation exercise (topic to be announced) in Week 6 of the course that will enable you to put your newly acquired knowledge into practice in a simulated international crisis. The simulation will take place online. Details of the wargame will be provided in due course. Taking active part in the simulation is required and expected.

Policy Brief (40%): You will be writing a policy brief (around 3000 words) for NATO's North Atlantic Council (NAC) on a security issue relevant for the course. You have to confirm your policy brief topic with me by the date of the mid-term latest. There will be a session/workshop on how to write a policy brief in Week 5 where you will also receive peer-feedback on your proposed policy brief topic. Policy briefs are due the last day of classes. Further guidance will be provided in due course. There will be no final exam.

Carleton University's grading system will be used to for the evaluation.

cuLearn

This course uses cuLearn, Carleton's learning management system. To access your course on cuLearn go to <http://carleton.ca/culearn>. For help and support, go to <http://carleton.ca/culearnsupport/students>. Any unresolved questions can be directed to Computing and Communication Services (CCS) by phone at 613-520-3700 or via email at ccs_service_desk@carleton.ca.

Communications

Please do not hesitate to contact the instructor if you have any questions or concerns. Please use your Carleton email account for all course-related correspondence and make sure to include "INAF 5409" in the subject line. Students are encouraged to check cuLearn and their Carleton email account regularly for all course-related correspondence and announcements.

Copyrights

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Plagiarism

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;

- using another's data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course. The Academic integrity policy can be accessed at <http://www2.carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity>.

Complementarity: Students are encouraged to build up expertise in areas that may cross multiple courses. It is acceptable to write assignments on related topics. However you may not simply cut and paste your work from one assignment to another, or essentially submit the same work for two or more assignments in the same or different courses. If you plan on writing on related topics in different courses, you must inform the instructors and discuss what will be acceptable in terms of overlap, and what is not. Failure to notify the faculty members will be viewed unfavorably should there be a suspicion of misconduct.