TEACHING GUIDE - 2026-2027

International Security

UGRA_005437

Departments	Department of Society, Politics and Sustainability, Global Governance
Teaching Languages	English
ECTS	4
Teacher responsible	Nicole Marae Finnemann - nicolemarae.finnemann@esade.edu

Course Goals

Learners who complete the course successfully should be able to:

1. Identify the key concepts, actors and debates — classic and contemporary — in the field of international security.
2. Discuss different conceptualizations and theoretical approaches to security, along with their underlying assumptions and implications. Discuss how these conceptualizations affect global politics.
3. Critically analyze how security is defined, who it protects, how it is governed, and through what practices.
4. Analyze and critically assess real-world cases.

Previous knowledge

Relevant prior coursework varies by institution.

Prerequisits

No formal prerequisite is specified in the shared syllabus outline.

Teaching methodology

Teaching activities are selected by each institution and may combine conceptual study, discussion, and analysis of real-world cases.

Description

Course contribution to program

International security asks who is protected, from which threats, and by whose decisions. The course connects theories of power, conflict, and cooperation to choices affecting states, people, and institutions.

Short description

This course examines foundational questions, classic and contemporary debates, and real-world cases in international security.

Activities

Other
Activities may include reading, discussion, and analysis of real-world security cases; specific methods vary by institution.

Content

#	Topic
1	What is (international) security?
2	What counts as a security threat and who decides?
3	Who is the referent object of security?
4	Who produces security?
5	Traditional and contemporary wars
6	Nuclear threats and non-proliferation
7	Non-state actors and their role in international security
8	Other topics such as migration, environmental security, and cybersecurity

Assessment

Tool	Assessment tool	Category	Weight %
Written and/or oral exams	Written exam	Retake and ordinary round	40.00%
In-class analysis and discussion of issues	Continuous assessment	Retake and ordinary round	60.00%

PROGRAMS

GBL24-Double Degree in Business Administration and Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order (Undergraduates: Business)

GBL24 Year 3 (Mandatory)

GDL20-Double Degree in Law and Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order (Undergraduates: Law)
GDL20 Year 3 (Mandatory)

GDL23-Double Degree in Law and Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order (Undergraduates: Law)
GDL23 Year 3 (Mandatory)

GEL19-Bachelor in Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order (Undergraduates: Law)
GEL19 Year 3 (Mandatory)

GEL23-Bachelor in Global Governance, Economics and Legal Order (Undergraduates: Law)
GEL23 Year 3 (Mandatory)