POGO 750-007 The EU and European Security

Spring Semester 2020
Tuesdays, 4:30-7:10pm
Arlington, VMH 477

Draft Syllabus

We live in an age of insecurity. Threats are abundant, including the possibility (and for some the reality) of armed conflict. Yet, by historical standards, Europe has never been more peaceful—if peace means the absence of war. With the notable exception of the Balkans in the 1990s, Europe has not experienced large-scale conflict since the end of the Second World War, in 1945. The Cold War, from the late 1940s until the late 1980s, saw Europe divided into two armed camps (NATO and the Warsaw Pact), but did not escalate into hostilities, which would have been catastrophic for both sides. Since the end of the Cold War, the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, formerly under the control of the Soviet Union, have transformed themselves economically and politically along capitalist and liberal-democratic lines.

The European Union (EU), including its predecessor, the European Community (EC), has been instrumental in shaping postwar Europe—first Western Europe, before the end of the Cold War; then the Continent as a whole. Although not a military organization, the EU has helped to promote stability and security, initially by cementing a durable postwar settlement in Western Europe; subsequently by assisting countries previously under authoritarian rule, whether on the far Right or the far Left, to transition to democracy. It is hardly coincidental that those countries sought to join the EU, and that the EU leveraged their desire for membership in order to accelerate reform efforts.

Apart from enlargement policy, the EU seeks actively to enhance its member states’ security though the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and Common Security and Defense Policy (CSDP). The CFSP dates from the end of the Cold War; the CSDP from the end of the 1990s. Under the aegis of CSDP, the EU is gradually increasing its military capability and is involved in various military and civilian peacekeeping operations. At the same time, the EU is intensifying cooperation with NATO and working together with its member states to confront a myriad of security challenges, ranging from Ukraine and Russia, in the East, to Libya and the Sahel, in the South.

These initiative are taking place at an unpropitious time for the EU. The Euro and migration crises of the last few years have sapped the EU’s self-confidence, fueled Euroskepticism, and emboldened anti-liberal political parties, especially in Central and Eastern Europe. For the first time ever, a country (the UK) is about to leave the EU. Moreover, under the Trump Administration, the United States—historically a staunch supporter of European political and economic integration—is increasingly antagonistic towards the EU.
This course will explore the relationship between the EU and European Security at a time of growing uncertainty in Europe and throughout the world.

Topics include:

* The European Communities: Origin and Development of a New Security Entity
* From European Community to European Union
* Coming to Terms with Hard Power in the EC and the EU
* EU Enlargement Policy
* The Common Security and Defense Policy
* EU-NATO Relations
* The EU and the Western Balkans
* Threats to Internal EU Stability and Security: Terrorism, Migration, and Illiberalism
* Security Implications of Brexit for the UK and the EU
* EU Member State Perspectives on European Security
* The European Neighborhood Policy
* The EU, Ukraine, and Russia
* The EU and Turkey
* The EU and the Middle East
* The EU and the US
* The EU and China
* EU-Africa Relations

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Office Hours: Tuesdays before class, and by appointment.

Learning Outcomes:
Knowledge of EU institutions and operations
Knowledge of the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the Common Security and Defense Policy
Knowledge of the political dynamics of EU security and defense policy, including various national perspectives
Ability to write a research paper

Readings:
There is no required textbook for the course. Instead, Web-based newspaper and academic articles, think tank commentaries and papers, official documents and speeches, and other material will be assigned for each session of the course. An annotated list of readings will be e-mailed to students before each session.

In addition to specific readings, students should keep up-to-date with European politics and security affairs. The following sources are recommended for that purpose:
Politico (Europe): https://www.politico.eu
Financial Times: https://www.ft.com
Spiegel Online: http://www.spiegel.de/international/
The Economist: https://www.economist.com
EurActiv, https://www.euractiv.com
Social Europe, http://www.socialeurope.eu/
Strategic Europe (Carnegie Endowment), http://carnegieeurope.eu/strategiceurope/
VoteWatch Europe: http://www.votewatch.eu
EUROPPE (European Politics and Policy, LSE): http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/europolblog/
Project Syndicate: https://www.project-syndicate.org
Agence Europe: https://agenceurope.eu/fr/accueil.html (available in English through Factiva)

Students should also view the following Web sites, which focus on aspects of European security:
French Institute of International Relations (IFRI): https://www.ifri.org/en
Chatham House: https://www.chathamhouse.org/research/regions/europe
International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS): https://www.iiss.org
Carnegie Endowment: Strategic Europe: http://carnegieeurope.eu/strategiceurope
Center for European Policy Studies (CEPS): https://www.ceps.eu
Clingendael (The Netherlands Institute of International Relations): https://www.clingendael.org
European Stability Initiative (ESI): https://www.esiweb.org/

Assessment: Assessment will be based largely on a research paper on a topic pertaining to European security, chosen in consultation with the instructor. Students will discuss their research-in-progress during the semester, and will formally present their research findings toward the end of the semester. 15% of the course grade will be for the formal class presentation of the research paper, and 70% for the written paper. The remaining 15% will be for general class participation. Students will receive guidelines for the paper early in the semester.

Session 1 (January 21)
The EU and European Security Today: Challenges, Issues, Actors, and Institutions
This introductory session will discuss the security challenges facing Europe today, as well as key EU actors, institutions, and initiatives.

Readings:
Challenges and Issues
EPRS Briefing, Security and Defense, June 2019:
(This briefing paper, by the European Parliamentary Research Service, provides a good overview of the EU’s involvement in the areas of security and defense. It is a useful guide to many of the topics that will be covered throughout the semester)
Sven Biscop, “From Global Strategy to Strategic Compass: Where is the EU Heading?” Egmont Institute, December 2019:
(Sven Biscop is one of the leading, Brussels-based commentators on EU security and defense. In this short paper, he discusses the state of EU strategic thinking)
(Croatia is currently in the rotating presidency of the Council of the EU, which is not to be confused with the European Council. This document, largely a public-relations exercise, outlines
what Croatia hopes to achieve during its six months turn in the presidency. For the introductory session, please read especially pages 4-5, and 12-18)

(This EPRS paper explains the agenda of the Croatian presidency)

Actors and Institutions: European Council
What it is: https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/european-council/
(This explains the composition and nature of the European Council)

Setting the EU’s Political Agenda: https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/european-council/role-setting-eu-political-agenda/
(This outlines the European Council’s role in setting the political direction of the EU)

(The next meeting of the European Council will be in March. Usually, the annual March meeting of EU leaders focuses mostly on economic affairs, although leaders always discuss international affairs as well. This meeting page of the European Council web site will contain more information in the run-up to and immediately after the meeting itself)

Council of the EU
(The Council of the EU is distinct from the European Council. The Council—generally known as the Council of Ministers—is the institution in which national government ministers are involved in day-to-day EU policy making. As already mentioned, the presidency of the Council rotates among member states every six months)

(The EU High representative for Foreign and Security Policy called an extraordinary meeting of EU foreign ministers for January 10 in order to discuss developments in Iran and Iraq. This web site contains information about the meeting. See also the joint statement by the High Representative and the foreign ministers of France, Germany, Italy, and the UK, on 7 January 2020: https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/72749/joint-statement-high-representative-european-union-common-foreign-and-security-policy-and_en)

(The next regular meeting of the Foreign Affairs Council—the configuration of the Council in which foreign ministers meet—will be on January 20. This web site will contain information about the meeting)
Informal Meeting of Defense Ministers, 4-5 March 2020:
(National defense ministers do not constitute a formal Council configuration, but they meet informally at least every six months on the sidelines of the Foreign Affairs Council. This website will contain information about the next informal meeting of EU defense ministers)

Actors and Institutions: European Commission
Overview: https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/institutions-bodies/european-commission_en
(The European Commission is generally known as the EU’s executive body. The Commission is an important player in EU security and defense. This website explains the Commission’s composition, roles, and responsibilities)
Commissioner for the Internal Market, Thierry Breton, Mission Letter, 1 December 2019:
(A new Commission came into office on December 1, 2019. One of the commissioners, Thierry Breton, has responsibility for the internal market, including defense-related issues. This is the “mission letter” that Commission President Ursula van der Leyen wrote to Breton about his new job)

European Parliament
(The European Parliament is a key EU institution, although it is not centrally involved in EU security and defense policy. These websites explain the composition, roles, and responsibilities of the EP)
Activity report of the EP’s Subcommittee on Security and Defence (SEDE), 2014-2019,
(The EP has a sub-committee on security and defense. This document explains in considerable detail the work of the sub-committee during the last legislative cycle, 2014-2019. The document will be useful throughout the semester. For introductory purposes, however, please read pages 4-6)

European External Action Service (EEAS)
Website: https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/82/about-european-external-action-service-eeas_en
(The European External Action Service is the putative foreign service of the EU)
(The High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy heads the EEAS, chairs the Foreign Affairs Council, and is a Vice-President of the Commission)

(This is the “mission letter” that Commission President Ursula van der Leyen wrote to the High Representative, Josep Borrel, about his new job)


(These two EPRS briefing papers cover the High Representative’s confirmation hearing at the EP)

(This is a link to the hearing itself)

University Policies:

Academic Integrity: Mason is an Honor Code university; please see the Office for Academic Integrity for a full description of the code and the honor committee process. The principle of academic integrity is taken very seriously and violations are treated gravely. What does academic integrity mean in this course? Essentially this: when you are responsible for a task, you will perform that task. When you rely on someone else’s work in an aspect of the performance of that task, you will give full credit in the proper, accepted form. Another aspect of academic integrity is the free play of ideas. Vigorous discussion and debate are encouraged in this course, with the firm expectation that all aspects of the class will be conducted with civility and respect for differing ideas, perspectives, and traditions. When in doubt (of any kind) please ask the instructor for guidance and clarification.

Disability: If you have a documented learning disability or other condition that may affect academic performance you should: 1) make sure this documentation is on file with Disability Services (SUB I, Rm. 4205; 993-2474; http://ods.gmu.edu) to determine the accommodations you need; and 2) speak to your instructor bout your accommodation needs.