Course Description

Over the past two centuries, the Western powers across the Atlantic Ocean have shaped international relations and global politics. Founded in the heydays of the Cold War, NATO is undoubtedly the most successful alliance in the world's history.

Since the end of the Cold War considerable fluctuations have shaped and continue to
reshape relations between North America and Europe -- from NATO's enlargement to Central and Eastern Europe and NATO's role in securing stability in the Balkans, through September 11, the War in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Middle East turmoil, Russia's aggression in Ukraine, and the rise of China. The global economic crisis that hit Europe and America particularly tested the Atlantic community and it seems that Europe has never recovered since. The economic crisis has underscored the shifting global balance of power away from the Atlantic powers to Asia, while the global economic repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic are still evolving. It has become popular to proclaim the end of the Transatlantic partnership and focus attention on the rise of emerging powers in what now is increasingly common to call the Indo-Pacific. Notwithstanding, U.S. and Europe demonstrated considerable resolve to Putin's Ukraine gambit in a manner that took even China by surprise.

While President Biden's election revitalized the Transatlantic bond, North America's relations with Europe remain characterized by a broad range of common values and interests, alongside different outlooks, and not insignificant disputes. President Trump's imprint remains a vivid reminder how this relationship can easily sour. Despite the emergence of new centers of power in global politics and the constant concerns of the possible "End of the West", the nature and scope of transatlantic relations will continue to have a distinctive mark on world affairs. The basic question is: what role could the best alliance in history play today and in the foreseeable future? To offer plausible answers to this question and other policy issues, the purpose of the course, held with active student participation, is to review and analyze the main political and strategic issues on the transatlantic agenda and the role of this relationship on the world stage.

Course Goals
The objective of this course in International Relations, held with active student participation, is to review and analyze the main political and strategic issues on the transatlantic agenda and the role of this relationship on the world stage. By studying evolving power relations and the dynamic role of interests and values that shape transatlantic relations, students will gain an understanding of contemporary international affairs.

Grading
The course encourages active student participation, which would benefit from paying ongoing attention to current events.

Therefore, in addition to regular readings – as outlined below – students will benefit tremendously from following news on transatlantic affairs, particularly through major global news outlets such as New York Times (international.nytimes.com), The Economist...
(www.economist.com), Foreign Policy (www.foreignpolicy.com), Financial Times (www.ft.com), Foreign Affairs (www.foreignaffairs.com), and Politico EU (www.politico.eu/).

Other useful sources are:

- Carnegie Europe's "Strategic Europe" Blog (http://carnegieeurope.eu/strategiceurope)
- German Marshall Fund of the United States – research and publications (gmfus.org)
- Atlantic Council of the U.S. – "NATOSource" (http://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/natosource)

Ahead of each class, the lecturer will provide when possible asynchronous review assignments – essentially “offlining” parts of class by utilizing useful documentaries and video clips. The viewing of the items will be guided; with background in class – before and after – and with key questions/issues to follow as you view the items. **To be clear – the asynchronous items are as required readings.**

Students interested in presenting a topical op-ed/blog/analysis in the class are encouraged to do so in coordination with the lecturer.

**Attendance** is required. To be clear, class discussions may extend beyond the readings and raise analytical issues.

The **final paper assignment (100% of the final grade)** will assess the knowledge of students with regards to the course discussions and readings and analytical skills. In the final paper, students will answer two of four essay questions (1,200-1,500 words each). The essay questions will be published at the end of the semester and will include specific instructions. The final date of submission will be announced. Students will submit their papers electronically via Moodle (WORD files only). Exemplary questions will be published on the course website. Late submissions with no appropriate reason will not be marked.

---

**Conduct and Academic Integrity**

Meaningful learning can only happen in an environment of trust, integrity, and mutual respect. The vast majority of student conduct themselves accordingly and take for-granted the specific instructions that appear below.

According to the university’s disciplinary regulations, each assignment must be personally authored by the submitting student. Notwithstanding, students are allowed to work in groups on the assignment before beginning to write them, but each student must write
the assignment herself (or himself). Submitted assignments with very similar phrasing will be disqualified and could lead to disciplinary action. Furthermore, a completed assignment shared with other students and used for the purpose of copying – will be disqualified. In addition, false reporting or presenting fabricated information regarding an assignment and/or for the purpose of obtaining a postponement or exemption is a violation of the disciplinary code. Violations will lead to disciplinary action.

---

**Reading List**

**COURSE STRUCTURE AND READINGS**

The following bibliography is listed according to the course structure and themes and divided between mandatory and elective reading. Most of the readings are available on the course website.

As the course deals with current events, readings are subject to updating during the course of the term.

**Introduction**

**The Historical Evolution of the Most Successful Alliance: The Atlantic Alliance and Winning the Cold War**


**Elective Reading**


**Theoretical Review – The Atlantic Community: Alliance, International/Multilateral Regime, or Security Community?**


Thomas Risse, "Determinants and Features of International Alliances and Structural
THE POST-COLD WAR ERA (1990-2010): THE FIRST TWO DECADES

The 1990s: “A Europe, Whole, Free, and at Peace”?


Elective Reading


The Atlantic Community in the First Decade of the 21st Century and the War on Terror in Afghanistan – “Out of Area”, “Out of Reach” or “Out of Touch”?


Elective Reading


Trying to Fix the Middle East: Two Decades of Promoting Peace, Democracy, and Regional Cooperation (1990s–2000s)


Nathalie Tocci, “The EU, the Middle East Quartet, and (In)effective Multilateralism,” Mercury E-paper No. 9, 2011.

Elective Reading

Völker Perthes, America’s “Greater Middle East” and Europe: Key Issues for Dialogue, Middle East Policy, Vol. 11, No. 3, Fall 2004.


THE ATLANTIC COMMUNITY ON THE WORLD STAGE

Dealing with a Resurgent Power: The Atlantic Alliance and Russia

Putin’s Testing: From Georgia to Crimea – And NATO’s Response


War in Ukraine 2022


**Elective Reading**


**The U.S.–China Rivalry and the Transatlantic Partnership**


**Elective Reading**


The “Southern Flank”: U.S., Europe, and the Middle East

Becca Wasser et al. *Crossroads of Competition: China, Russia, and the United States in the Middle East*, RAND, 2022, pp.21-68.


Elective Reading


NATO’s Brave New World: Adapting to New and Emerging Challenges in Face of Internal Divisions


Elective Reading


**The Future of the Transatlantic Partnership: Key Drivers**


**Elective Reading**


**Israel and the Atlantic Community & Course Wrap-Up**


Tommy Steiner, “Broadband Diplomacy and the NATO-Israel Advance,” *inFocus Quarterly*, Fall 2016.

Tommy Steiner, “The Future of Israel’s Strategic Relations with Europe,” *inFocus Quarterly*, March 2015.

**Elective Reading**

Tommy Steiner, “The "Level of Ambition" in NATO-Israel Relations: Amidst Middle East Turmoil and NATO’s New Strategic Concept and Partnership Policy,” Unpublished Paper,
September 2011.


Uzi Arad, Matthew Mark Horn, and Tommy Steiner. 2008. Statement for the Record Submitted to the Joint Hearing on “Israel and Europe: Strengthening the Partnership.” Before the Subcommittees on Europe and on the Middle East and South Asia, Committee on Foreign Affairs, US House of Representatives, July 9.

Emanuele Ottolenghi, *Squaring the Circle? EU-Israel Relations and the Peace Process*, Brussels: Centre for European Studies, 2010