TRANSATLANTIC SECURITY RELATIONS AFTER THE END OF THE COLD WAR

A) The academic level of the course: Lower and upper division: a course could be offered to undergraduates and graduates.

B) The appropriate academic disciplines: International Relations, International Security, Political Science

C) The course should be offered to undergraduates and graduates studying international relations, international security or related programs (e.g. European integration). Students of other disciplines (not connected with political science in general), but interested in the problems of the course, should be also encouraged to apply.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The main aim of the course is a theoretical and empirical analysis of transatlantic security relations after the end of the Cold War. The issue of transatlantic bargain within NATO will be of prime importance. The problem of the European pillar in NATO as well as the independent role of the European Union in international security will be discussed. Case-studies concerning reactions of the United States, NATO, the European Union and its Member States towards important international crises will be especially taken into consideration.

The whole course is divided into ten sections.

• The first section has an introductory character explaining the course rationale and the conceptual framework of transatlantic security relations.
• The second section focuses on main theories and concepts of the transatlantic relationship and NATO as its main institutional vehicle. It examines three main theories looking from different perspectives on the transatlantic relationship: neo-realism (power, an anarchic structure of the international system), liberal institutionalism (security governance, interdependence, cooperation, a role of institutions) and the theory of security community together with social constructivism (a role of ideas and norms, common identity).
• The third section analyzes the origins and development of transatlantic security relations during the whole period of the Cold War (1945-1989/1991). The main stress is put on such issues like a transformation of American power and its foreign policy after the II World War, the origins of NATO and its development, the process of European integration and the American-European bargain through the Cold War. A number of contemporary questions concerning transatlantic security relations, as for example, the problem of burden-sharing, have been contentious problems since the formation of the Atlantic Alliance.
• The fourth section explains the changing nature of European security after the end of the Cold War (1989/1991) due the disappearance of the bipolar
superpower conflict. The section will analyze the transformation of NATO after the end of the Cold War. It will deal with new means of cooperation between NATO and Central and East European countries developed at the beginning of the 1990s. It will also discuss the problem of NATO enlargement, especially arguments in favor and against an accession of former members of the Warsaw Pact and its impact on European security and relations with Russia. The special emphasis will be put on the process of transformation of NATO’s post-Cold War strategy and its desire to define a new rationale for its existence by accepting out-of-area missions.

• The fifth section focuses on foreign, security and defence policy of the EU as initiated by the Maastricht Treaty and developed by the subsequent treaties (Amsterdam, Nice and Lisbon). Decisions of the European Council of 1999 to establish the Common Security and Defence Policy will be also examined. The initial institutional triangle (EU-WEU-NATO) will be discussed as well as the final inclusion of the WEU bodies and functions into the EU. The special emphasis will be put on present NATO-EU relations, including the so-called “Berlin Plus” arrangements allowing the EU to make use of NATO assets and capabilities for EU-led crisis management operations.

• The sixth section examines American and European responses towards the wars in the former Yugoslavia in the 1990s. They highlighted the lack of cohesion within the European Union and of the capacity to deal with the serious conflicts. Moreover, they proved the leadership of the United States and NATO in resolving armed conflicts.

• The seventh section is dedicated to one of the most important crises in transatlantic relations which concerned the response to terrorist attacks in the United States on 11 September 2001. Adoption of the Bush doctrine and a declaration of the war on terrorism led to serious divisions among Europeans and a dispute between the United States and some European countries (mainly Germany and France). The case of the American-led intervention in Iraq in 2003 will be analyzed.

• The eighth section examines the reactions of NATO member states to the Arab Spring of 2011 and the war in Syria. It shows the policy of the most important players (primarily the USA, Great Britain and France) towards security threats in North Africa and the Middle East which resulted in creation of the so-called Islamic state and the terrorist attacks in France in 2015. The refugee crisis in Europe will be also analyzed.

• The ninth section takes the issue of transatlantic relations in the context of policy towards Russia as a country in decline but seeking to rebuild its international position. Approaches of the United States, NATO and the European Union and its Member States towards Russia will be examined. The Ukrainian crisis will be a case study of policy towards Vladimir Putin’s Russia.

• The tenth section addresses global strategies of the EU and the US and the
future of transatlantic relations. The following problems will be examined: the transformation of the world order, the role of the United States and the European Union as global players and opportunities for cooperation between America and Europe in the context of unilateral or multilateral solutions to global problems.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES
(1) Understanding the determinants of development of transatlantic security relations in the post-Cold War period.
(2) Analyzing transatlantic security relations using knowledge of history and understanding of theories.
(3) Developing knowledge of key players’ policies (states and international institutions).

LEARNING OUTCOMES
Students will be able to:
(1) analyze global and transatlantic security, positions of key player as states and international institutions;
(2) conduct research on global and transatlantic security;
(3) use theoretical knowledge to solve specific security problems and to made political recommendations.

EVALUATION PROCEDURE
The final grade will be calculated according to the following percentages:
Attendance: 20%
Taking sides assignments: 20%
Participation in discussions: 20%
Take-home final examination: 40%

Attendance: participation in classes is mandatory except for illness or other justified cases.

Taking sides assignments: Each student will submit one taking sides assignment on a specific topic. In each paper students will present arguments for and against a given thesis and assess their importance. Papers should address the following questions:
1. Does NATO can still be an effective military alliance after the Cold War?
2. Does the European Union, developing its capacities in the Common Foreign and Security Policy, including the Common Security and Defence Policy, can become an institutional counterweight to NATO?
3. Can the United States, becoming the only superpower after the Cold War, afford to develop a unilateral approach in its foreign policy?
4. Is a new Cold War between the United States and Russia inevitable? 5. Is terrorism the most serious contemporary threat to transatlantic security?

Participation in discussions: Students will be encouraged to take part in class discussions. Debates will be based inter alia on taking sides assignments.

Take-home final examination: Take-home final exam will be given out near the end of the course. The papers should be sent as a Word file by e-mail.

TEACHING METHODS
Lectures, in-class discussions, writing - taking sides assignments and take-home final examination.

SYLLABUS

1. Introduction to the transatlantic relationship
2. Conceptualizing the transatlantic relationship and NATO
   (1) Main theories and concepts.
   (2) Neo-realism.
   (3) Liberal institutionalism.
   (4) The theory of security community and social constructivism (Karl Deutsch; Emanuel Adler, Michael Barnett).
3. The institutionalization of transatlantic security relations during the Cold War
   (1) The origins of NATO and the transatlantic bargain.
   (2) The origins of European integration: the establishment of economic Communities and a failure of political integration.
   (3) The development of NATO and its strategies. (4) The American-European bargain through the Cold War.
4. The changing nature of European security and the transformation of NATO after the Cold War
   (1) The new world order and the security architecture in Europe.
   (2) Cooperation with Central and East European countries in the 1990s.
   (3) The process of enlargement of NATO.
   (4) NATO’s post-Cold War strategy and out-of-area operations.
5. The European Union as the European pillar within NATO
   (2) The rebirth of the Western European Union and its relations with the European Union and NATO.
   (3) The establishment of the Common Security and Defence Policy by the
European Council (1999) and taking over the functions of the Western European Union (WEU).

6. The wars of the former Yugoslavia (1991-2001) and American-European relations
   (1) The break-up of the conflict and main wars in the former Yugoslavia.
   (2) The role of international institutions (the European Union, the Western European Union and NATO) in solving the conflicts.
   (3) The question of European or American leadership.

7. 9/11 terrorist attacks: the United States, Europe and the transatlantic bargain in the 21st century
   (1) The America’s war on terrorism and the European Union response.
   (2) The Afghanistan war and the role of European countries and NATO.
   (3) The dispute over the Iraq war and its impact on transatlantic and intra-European relations.

8. The Syrian crisis and the activities of ISIS
   (1) The Arab Spring (2011) and its internal and geopolitical implications.
   (2) The rise of ISIS (Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) in 2014 and the war in Syria.
   (3) The threat of terrorism in Europe.
   (4) The refugee crisis in Europe.

9. The United States, NATO, the European Union and relations with Russia
   (1) The demise of Russia and its aspirations of becoming a global power.
   (2) American and European policy towards Russia: ambiguity and a lack of coherence.
   (3) The Ukrainian crisis and the annexation of Crimea and the attitude of the USA and the EU.

    (1) The world order and its future.
    (2) The role of institutions in transatlantic relations.
    (3) The EU as a partner for the USA.
    (4) The transformation of American power.
    (5) Different strategies: unilateralism vs. multilateralism.
    (6) The USA and the EU: an attitude towards the rise of China.