

JSIS Rome 2019 Courses and Task Force Descriptions

All students will take the same five credit courses (two), and one of the two Task Forces, also five credits.

Courses:

JSIS A 416: NATO: European Security Challenges in a New Era (5 credits) Lorenz

The course will begin with an historical review including the legacy of World War II, the Marshall Plan and the development of NATO since its founding in 1949. The enlargement of NATO has been viewed as a threat by Russia, and tension on that subject continues to rise. Europe is now heavily dependent on Russian energy supplies, vulnerable to economic threats, and struggling to develop a common security policy. The recent events in Libya and The Crimea present new challenges to European Security that will be covered in depth in the course. The instructor has developed a working relationship with the NATO Defense College in Rome, a full day visit to the College and regular assistance from NATO is planned.

Learning Goals: To help build an in-depth and historically informed understanding of the security challenges facing Europe in a time of new global forces and trends. Methodology: Classroom discussion, short written assignments and a final classroom role playing exercise will be used to assess student learning.

JSIS A 350 : U.S.-Europe Relations: the Global Atlantic Alliance in Crisis (5 credits) Koenig

Transatlantic relations are too often perceived through the prism of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. In fact, most effective transatlantic policy coordination in the global realm occurs outside the NATO framework, through bilateral partnership and a range of regional or global institutions. The course will examine developments since the end of the Cold War to understand how the United States and Europe have set the global agenda, establishing and maintaining norms, addressing international crises and advancing common interests. Special attention will be paid to the role of the European Union, but also to the G7/G8, the “special relationship” with the United Kingdom, and successful (e.g., the Paris Climate Accords), partially successful (e.g., the Rome Statute) and unsuccessful (e.g., the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership) initiatives. This historical context will inform examination of the current crises in transatlantic relations and the role of the U.S. and Europe in facing challenges to the global rules-based order.

Classroom discussion, outside speakers and field trips will be combined to develop student understanding. Several short policy papers and a final exam will be used to assess student learning.

Learning Goals: To help build an in-depth and historically informed understanding of the security challenges facing Europe in a time of new global forces and trends.

Task Force on NATO-Russia Challenges: Responding to New and Emerging Threats Lorenz

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) was created in 1949 by the United States, Canada, and several Western European nations to provide collective security against the Soviet Union. During the next forty years the Alliance provided for mutual defense, the expansion of democratic ideals and helped create a prosperous, peaceful Europe. After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 NATO continued as a viable organization, even expanding into Eastern Europe. But since the 2014 Russian annexation of Crimea NATO is facing unprecedented new challenges from an old adversary.

Although Russia lacks a coherent ideology comparable to the Soviet era, it has shown extraordinary success in projecting power and influence. Russia is now able to threaten its former Eastern European allies, even attempting to undermine free elections in the West. Although its economy is heavily dependent on oil and gas, Russia manages to rebuild its armed forces and conduct major exercises on the periphery of NATO. Despite all its limitations, Russia today can project power far beyond its means, focusing on critical vulnerabilities in the West.

Will NATO and the Atlantic Alliance be ready to respond to emerging and hybrid threats? This is a multidimensional problem with short and long term consequences important to the future of the US and the Western Democracies. Students will have access to the NATO Defense College in Rome for expert assistance with their research. Task Force students will be divided into five groups of two students each, tentative assignments include:

Political Issues: How can NATO maintain political unity among its members and a functional partnership with Russia? Should NATO change its role in international security? What is the future of NATO-Russian cooperation? What is the future of NATO enlargement?

Energy Issues: What current safeguards are present? What institutional safeguards can be put in place to prevent attacks on energy security? How should NATO respond to attacks on energy availability and security? Given that the EU views energy security in an economic and political context, should NATO be concerned with the potential for close cooperation between Russia and the rest of Europe?

Cyber Threats, Hybrid and Information Warfare: What forms of deterrence are effective in hybrid warfare? What lessons can be gained from Ukraine in terms of plausible deniability and indirect action? What are the most appropriate offensive and defensive policies used today? And most importantly, what NATO action can be taken to better address hybrid threats?

Students will be tasked with answering these questions along with providing a series of policy recommendations, looking ahead to the year 2025. The formal report will be completed by the end of February, and the evaluation will be scheduled in March at the UW Rome Center. The evaluation will be conducted in Rome by a senior NATO Official, last year it was the Deputy Secretary General for Operations.

Rome Winter 2019 Task Force – John Koenig Transatlantic Relations in Crisis: Options for Europe

The rules-based order created after World War II and enhanced after the Cold War is coming apart. Spiking tensions across the Atlantic, along with strategic challenges from all directions (Russia, China, terrorism) and internal dissension (Brexit, immigration, nativist political movements), have thrown Europe back on its heels. While the United States and Europe were until recently the joint proponents and custodians of the rules-based order, that order is far more critical to Europe's fortunes than to America's, and the Trump Administration's ambivalence and even hostility toward it has provoked a serious crisis. This Task Force will use a sectoral approach – security, external relations, the environment, trade and investment – to develop policy recommendations to the European Council on how to protect and advance Europe's interests in an increasingly harsh international environment. Outside speakers will contribute to the course work, which ties into the other courses offered in Rome this winter. How should Europe approach relations with Russia? What about America? Can the WTO and multilateral trade and investment regimes be advanced in the face of U.S. opposition? What about the Iran nuclear deal and the Paris climate accord? How should the European Union increase its role in defense – should it take on territorial defense tasks and even contemplate developing its own nuclear deterrent? In a series of specific recommendations to the Council President, students will offer answers to the most basic question facing Europe today: what can and should be done to preserve and advance the European project?