The Political Economy of European Security
[Arms, Business and Politics in the 21st century]

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Sciences Po Saint-Germain
Master’s of European and International Affairs
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Topic

Who governs the defence industry in Europe—democratically elected political actors or the lobbies that form part of what is called the ‘military-industrial complex’? Are France, Germany and the UK’s decision-making shaped by the same political economy? Why does a State sometimes decide to acquire armaments such as a combat aircraft, tank or drone, sometimes through European co-operation, and sometimes through a transatlantic partnership with the USA? How does the state regulate the arms trade and why do some states regulate more than others? Etc.

This seminar focuses on the political economy of European security which is the study of State-defence industry relationships in Europe. There is a wide literature in the field of international relations theory on political-military coalitions that involve governments and their armies in the context of peacekeeping operations or wars (Prof. Thomas Lindemann's seminar). Nevertheless, interdependent relations that bring together states and private companies to produce armaments to meet the needs of states’ armed forces are less well known. This seminar is dedicated to these power relations that shape security and defence policies in Europe and refers to the literature in political economy.

Aim and approach

The objective of this seminar is to prepare students for a professional experience (in the form of an internship) by giving them the means to develop practical skills. Such practical skills are indispensable to the development and implementation of international public action, based on the body of knowledge produced by the field of political science. To this end, this course presents a body of knowledge that constitutes a resource for understanding the forms and transformations of political economy in the
European security arena and for understanding how decisions are made and implemented, i.e. its governance. This knowledge is mobilized through several practical exercises in order to reinforce those skills that are essential to act in and have an influence on the international public sphere of action: working in English and in teams, seeking verifiable information through cross-references, producing rigorous and original analyses, developing creative strategies, taking the initiative, and adapting oneself to an often chaotic and sometimes conflictual work environment.

This seminar promotes a sociologist and comparative approach to the political economy of European security. The sociological approach analyses the political economy of European security by studying the actors (civilian and military, State and industry, national and international) that determine decision-making, the relationships that these actors maintain and the practices that determine their action. The comparative approach to defence procurement policies in Europe studies this phenomenon as another sector of international public policy, i.e. one that is influenced by certain structural political dynamics. For example, these dynamics might include the reconfiguration of the role of the State, the internationalisation of companies, the liberalisation of markets, inter-state negotiations, international trade regulations, or bureaucratic confrontations.

Collaboration between students within the course is encouraged. ‘Collective play’ could be one of the adages of this course: ‘play’ because we learn better and more if we have fun, and ‘collective’ because the course is about learning by and with one’s colleagues, by being collectively active during and between classes. This working spirit aims to strengthen students’ professional attitudes by discouraging a focus on scoring and instead redirecting their attention on the exercises and readings proposed.

Assessment

The knowledge and skills developed during the seminar are assessed through two mandatory exercises, an individual one and a collective one.

For the drafting of these two papers, the formal rules are as follows:
- Times New Roman, 12-point font, single-spaced, justified text, default margins,
- Each note must be followed by a bibliography,
- Footnotes and bibliography must comply with the rules of use (for this purpose, see note: How to reference a research paper? Footnotes and bibliography),
- The first and last names of students must appear at the top left-hand side of the page,
- The document must be paginated at the bottom right-hand side of the page.
1) Drafting a paper (50%)

Each student chooses one of four different options:

- A policy paper
- A speech
- A factsheet/summary sheet
- A review article

This paper written in English or French must not exceed 1,500 words (four pages), without footnotes and bibliography (plus or minus 10%). This note should be sent before Tuesday, February 4 at 9 pm. Each hour of delay will result in a penalty of one point.

**Policy paper**

The objective of a policy paper is to advise a stakeholder in the field of armaments policy. The introduction to the policy paper presents the problématique, its context and the main policy challenge that result from it. Then, the development can be structured in two or three parts. Each part presents a strategy (what to do?) or a scenario (what will happen?). The last part should present a few recommendations/guidelines.

→ Beyond the respect of the rules of form, three criteria are taken into account to evaluate this paper: the coherence, originality and realism of the strategies, scenarios and recommendations.

**Speech**

The purpose of a speech is to craft a narrative on a strategic issue related to the field of armaments policy. The objective of this exercise is twofold: to get a message across and to use the power of words to do so.

→ Beyond the respect of the rules of form, three criteria are taken into account to evaluate this paper: the quality of the drafting, the originality and realism of the speech.

**Factsheet/Summary sheet**

The aim of a factsheet/summary sheet is to highlight and to explain a strategic issue in an educational way based on definitions, key figures, diagrams, tables, references, etc. Anything that can simplify (without being simplistic) a complex issue so that it is understandable by as many people as possible (how to make a first year student understand this political challenge?). These factsheets will be proposed to the OERI to upload them on the website.

→ Beyond the respect of the rules of form, three criteria are taken into account to evaluate this paper: the quality of the writing, the problematization and the originality of the paper.
Review article

In all scientific journals of political science, researchers can publish articles, book reviews, and review articles. The objective of the review article is to formulate an analysis based on the evaluation of two or three bibliographic references (articles or books) that relate to the same subject of study. The first part of a review article presents the argument and results of the scientific articles or books selected. The second part outlines the contributions and limitations of each bibliographic reference. In this second part, additional references can be mobilized to support your demonstration and formulate a research agenda.

→ Beyond the respect of the rules of form, three criteria are taken into account to evaluate the review article: the clarity of the presentation of the arguments resulting from the bibliographical references discussed, the originality and the scientific relevance of the theoretical and methodological discussion.

2) Drafting of a position paper in a team and in 24h (50%)

A group of six or seven students writes a position paper in English or in French that aims to define the position formulated by an actor according to a major political issue that is summarized in the form of a scenario by the professor. In this scenario, each group of students embodies one type of actors that make up the defence industry: politicians, civil servants, military and industrialists. The position paper is structured in three parts: the first part (the shortest) summarizes in one paragraph the strategy to be developed to achieve a clearly defined objective; the second part (the longest) develops the contextualized implementation of the strategy by revealing its strengths; the third part highlights the risks of this strategy, in order to anticipate the reactions of other actors. This last part should include a section that briefly defines the structure of the discourse ('language elements') to be followed when dealing with the media.

To carry out this work, each group of students has 24 hours from the moment the professor sends the scenario electronically. The composition of each group is decided by the professor and not by the students. During the exercise time, the professor does not answer any questions (except for the first thirty minutes). Depending on the students’ schedule, this simulation will be carried out the third or fourth weeks of January 2020. The objective of this exercise is threefold: to use the knowledge presented in the first six sessions of the seminar, to work as a team in a stressful situation and to develop a strategy by implementing a set of skills. The position paper should not exceed 2,000 words (5 pages) without footnotes and bibliography (plus or minus 10%). Each hour of delay will result in a penalty of one point.

→ Three criteria are taken into account to evaluate this exercise: the coherence, originality and realism of the strategy developed.
General Reminders

- Students are advised to arrive on time and to activate the ‘silent’ mode of their mobile phones before entering the seminar,
- In addition, students are reminded that the act of plagiarizing is heavily sanctioned. In such a case, the student will receive a zero mark, which will be reported to the Sciences Po Saint-Germain’s administration,
- During some of the courses, students will be strongly advised not to use their computers to allow for greater concentration on the course material,
- Students are also advised to prepare for this seminar by regularly following international political news (see the section ‘specialised information sources’).
- The Chatham House rules must be scrupulously respected during stakeholder conferences:
  - ‘When a meeting, or part thereof, is held under the Chatham House Rule, participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker(s), nor that of any other participant, may be revealed’.
Programme

Session 1 (12.2) – Introduction: Arms, Business and Politics in the 21st century

Elective readings


Session 2 (12.9 – Cancelled) – Who governs the defence industry in Europe?

Compulsory readings


Elective readings


Session 3 (12.16) – The civilian-military relationships in France: Opening the black box

Guest
General Henri Bentégeat, Former Chief of French Defence Staff

Compulsory reading

Elective readings

Session 4 (1.6) – The differentiated integration of defence companies in Europe

Guests
Renaud Bellais, MBDA
Axel Nicolas, GICAT

Compulsory reading

Elective readings


**Session 5 (1.13) – Arms trade and export control**

**Guest**

Lucie Béraud-Sudreau, IISS (12-1.30pm, D11-12)

**Compulsory readings**


**Elective readings**


**Session 6 (1.20) – A new arms race? International perspectives on arms policy in the 21st century**

**Guest**

Youness Boujra (tbc)
Compulsory readings

Elective readings
Session 7 (1.27) – Nuclear deterrence, non-proliferation, disarmament?

Compulsory readings

Elective readings

Catch-up Session (2.3)

Session 8, Part 1 (2.6, 12.45-2.15pm, Cocteau Amphitheatre)

Guests: Jean-Vincent Holeindre and Aurélie Biard, Minister of Defence
No compulsory reading

Session 8, Part 2 (2.10) – Conclusion: Back to the simulation and mapping out research avenues

No compulsory reading
Bibliography

Books and articles


Scientific Journals

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Critique internationale</th>
<th>* International Organization</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cultures et Conflits</td>
<td>* Journal of Common Market Studies</td>
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<td>Études internationales</td>
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<td>European Journal of International Relations</td>
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<td>* Gouvernement et action publique</td>
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* International Security  
* World Politics
**Scientific Gateways**

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<td>JSTOR</td>
<td>The Scholarly Journal Archive</td>
<td><a href="http://www.jstor.org">http://www.jstor.org</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>PERSEE</td>
<td>Portail de revues scientifiques en SHS</td>
<td><a href="http://www.persee.fr">http://www.persee.fr</a></td>
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**Scientific Associations**

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<tr>
<td>AEGES</td>
<td>Association pour les études sur la guerre et la stratégie</td>
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**Think Tanks**

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<tr>
<td>AFRI</td>
<td>Annuaire français des relations internationales</td>
<td><a href="http://www.afri-ct.org">http://www.afri-ct.org</a></td>
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<td>CEPS</td>
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<td>CER</td>
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<td>Chatham House (The Royal Institute of International Affairs)</td>
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**Specialized Information Websites**

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