IS/PSCI 3934 NATO & European Security

Virginia Tech

Spring 2025

Instructor's Contact Details

Instructor:	Prof., Dr. Yannis A. Stivachtis
Office:	528 Major Williams Hall
E-mail:	ystivach@vt.edu
Tel:	(540) 231-5816
Office Hours:	Tuesday 3:30-5:00 pm; Thursday 10:00-11:30 am or with appointment
Zoom:	https://virginiatech.zoom.us/j/8826427416

Class Information

Lectures:	Tuesdays 5:00-7:50 pm
Location:	434 Major Williams Hall or 112 Major Williams Hall

Class Information

This experiential learning course focuses on multilateral diplomacy in the framework of regional international organizations and particularly on NATO. The course examines the format and products of such a multilateral conference, decision-making process, and negotiations and utilizes mock exercises to illustrate the strategies and tactics employed by member states.

This is an experiential learning course based on the simulation of the workings of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Therefore, it requires significant student involvement. Student participation is fundamental to student and course success. Consequently, students are required to be prepared prior to coming to class to be able to participate in the simulations.

Learning Objectives

Having successfully completed this course, the student will be able to:

- Assess the effects of multilateral context on the outcome of diplomatic processes (i.e., negotiations) taking place within NATO;
- Analyze the impact of multilateral diplomacy on the governments of the member states, as well as on NATO;
- Evaluate the role of governments and the representatives of the organizations in NATO multilateral diplomatic processes; and
- Assess the impact of the decision-making structure and process on diplomatic outcomes in NATO.

Required Readings

NATO 101 Guide (it will be distributed by the instructor and will be uploaded on canvas)

Students are required to use extensively the official webpage of NATO and conduct extensive research pertaining to the positions of the countries they will represent (Greece and Croatia) during the 2025 International Model NATO.

NATO, https://www.nato.int/

NATO, https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/NATO

2025 International Model NATO https://internationalmodelnato.org/

Students should also consult the websites of the foreign ministries of the NATO member states. They might find them particularly helpful in preparing for the 2025 International Model NATO.

Suggested Readings

Students are encouraged to consult the suggested readings (please see below) to refresh their memory about how NATO works, as well as about the practical aspects of diplomacy.

Geoffrey Berridge, *Diplomacy: Theory & Practice*, 5th edition (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015).

Seth A. Johnson: *How NATO Adapts: Strategy and Organization in the Atlantic Alliance since 1950* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2017).

Stanley R. Sloan, *Defense of the West: NATO, the European Union and the Transatlantic Bargain*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2016.

Stanley R. Sloan, *Transatlantic Traumas*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2018.

William B. Truitt, *NATO Reconsidered*. New York: Praeger, 2020.

Ronald A. Walker, *Multilateral Conferences: Purposeful International Negotiations* (New York, NY: Palgrave Macmillan, 2004, 272.

Course Requirements

Students will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:

Total numbers of points: 100

Attendance:	10 points
In-class participation:	10 points
Simulation performance:	30 points
Research Papers:	40 points (2X20)
Professionalism:	10 points

Mid-term & Final Exams

There are no mid-term and final exams for this course.

Attendance Policy

Attendance is mandatory. Students will receive 1 penalization point for each class session they miss **unless a note from the Office of the Dean of Students is provided excusing the student's absence**.

Only students who are in the classroom during the first ten (10) minutes of the class will count as being present.

If a student needs to leave the class early, s/he needs to inform the instructor. Students, who 'walk out' of class without doing so, will not receive credit for attendance and participation on the day or the class section in question and will be regarded as absent.

Professionalism

Professionalism refers to appropriate behavior both in class and during the simulation.

Research Papers

Students are required to write two (2) research papers of a maximum length of 2,000 words (excluding references).

No extensions will be provided. Late submissions will receive a 1.0 penalization point per day.

Research Paper 1: To be submitted on Tuesday, March 4, 5:00 pm.

Research Topic: Identify and discuss the various positions regarding NATO expansion, which were developed in early 1990s, and explore their contemporary relevance in view of the current conflict in Ukraine.

Research Paper 2: To be submitted on Tuesday, April 22, 5:00 pm.

Research Topic: Utilizing alliance theory, assess whether the enlargement of NATO adds to its strength or makes it weaker and difficult to manage.

Author's Guidelines

A hard copy of the assignment should be submitted in class.

The first page of the assignment should include the student's full name and the complete title of the assignment as it is stated in the course syllabus.

The assignment should be typed in single space, justified and presented in Times New Roman 12 format.

The author should use APA style.

Research Paper Grading

The following criteria will be used in assessing students' research papers:

1. Definition of the topic

- Has the topic been clearly defined and directly addressed?

2. Structure of the essay

- Does the introduction present a clear statement of the issues to be covered?

- Does the essay have a clear structure or organization in which a) the main points are developed logically; and b) the relevance of the material to the theme or argument is clear?
- Is there an effective conclusion which draws together the main points?

3. Content

- Is there evidence of adequate reading and research?
- Is the breadth of coverage adequate?
- Are the issues and ideas analyzed in sufficient depth?
- Are arguments supported by evidence, examples, sources and quotations?

4. Analysis

- Are the arguments logical and consistent?
- Are opinions based on evidence and/or logic?
- Does the essay show evidence of original or independent thought?

5. Presentation

- Fluency and style of writing
- Spelling, grammar, paragraphing
- Presentation of data: effective use of figures and tables and correct use of units and quantities
- Neatness and legibility
- Sources: are sources acknowledged? Are references cited? Are references presented correctly?

Students with Special Needs

Students who need special assistance with note and exam taking should contact the course instructor within the first week of classes. However, those students should contact the relevant university office to obtain the necessary documentation before they meet with the course instructor. The instructor will do everything to address students' needs.

Course Evaluation

Toward the end of the semester, the online Student Perceptions of Teaching (SPOT) questionnaire (https://eval.scholar.vt.edu) will be used to gather feedback on particular aspects of the course and instruction. I read and consider all student comments regarding the course and instruction. For example, power point slides are posted prior to class because feedback indicated that this would help students to organize their notes.

Grade Scale

Please note that for this course the applicable grade scale is as follows:

A	93-100
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76

C-	70-73
D+	67-69
D	64-66
D-	60-63
F	0-59
F*	

Please note that grades ending at .5 will be rounded up.

* A student who receives a sanction of **F*** as their final course grade shall have it documented on their transcript with the notation "FAILURE DUE TO ACADEMIC HONOR CODE VIOLATION." You would be required to complete an education program administered by the Honor System in order to have the "*" and notation "FAILURE DUE TO ACADEMIC HONOR CODE VIOLATION" removed from your transcript. The "F" however would be permanently on your transcript."

Honor Code

Students are encouraged to complete the Academic Integrity Success Module. It may be found at this link: https://canvas.vt.edu/enroll/CE7YK9

This module covers necessary information regarding Academic Integrity at Virginia Tech that students will need throughout their time as a student. This information includes our policies and the importance of academic integrity at Virginia Tech. Even if a student has completed the module in the past, a refresher is always helpful.

Syllabus Statement

The Undergraduate Honor Code pledge that each member of the university community agrees to abide by states:

> *"As a Hokie, I will conduct myself with honor and integrity at all times. I will not lie, cheat, or steal, nor will I accept the actions of those who do."*

Students enrolled in this course are responsible for abiding by the Honor Code. A student who has doubts about how the Honor Code applies to any assignment is responsible for obtaining specific guidance from the course instructor before submitting the assignment for evaluation.

Students are strongly discouraged from misusing sites such as Chegg and CourseHero, as well as misusing ChatGPT and other Generative Artificial Intelligence. Students are strongly encouraged to consult their faculty members regarding the use of such outside materials as the misuse of these sources may constitute a violation of the Honor Code. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the University community from the requirements and expectations of the Honor Code.

All university policies and procedures apply in any Virginia Tech academic environment, and all students are expected to follow them. For additional information about the Honor Code, please visit: https://www.honorsystem.vt.edu/

Honor Code Pledge for Assignments: The Virginia Tech honor code pledge for assignments is as follows:

> *"I have neither given nor received unauthorized assistance on this assignment."*

The pledge is to be written out on all graded assignments at the university and signed by the student. The honor pledge represents both an expression of the student's support of the honor code and a commitment to uphold the academic standards at Virginia Tech.

If you have questions or are unclear about what constitutes academic misconduct on an assignment, please speak with me. I take the honor code very seriously in the course. The normal sanction I will recommend for a violation of the Honor Code is an 'F*' sanction as your final course grade. The 'F' represents failure in the course. The "*" is intended to identify a student who has failed to uphold the values of academic integrity at Virginia Tech. A student who receives a sanction of F* as their final course grade shall have it documented on their transcript with the notation "FAILURE DUE TO ACADEMIC HONOR CODE VIOLATION." You would be required to complete an education program administered by the Honor System in order to have the "*" and notation "FAILURE DUE TO ACADEMIC HONOR CODE VIOLATION" removed from your transcript. The "F" however would be permanently on your transcript.

Your written assignments may be reviewed through the University's plagiarism prevention and detection software called Turnitin- Feedback Studio, which is a resource designed to detect and prevent plagiarism. This software is a tool that works by cross-referencing submitted materials with journals, essays, newspaper articles, papers, books, the internet, and other literary works. Turintin-Feedback Studio does not identify all forms of plagiarism. The software also does not replace my judgement regarding what constitutes plagiarism.

Students enrolled in this course are responsible for abiding by the Honor Code. A student who has doubts about how the Honor Code applies to any assignment is responsible for obtaining specific guidance from the course instructor before submitting the assignment for evaluation. Ignorance of the rules does not exclude any member of the University community from the requirements and expectations of the Honor Code.

For additional information about the Honor Code, please visit: https://www.honorsystem.vt.edu/

All assignments submitted shall be considered "graded work" and all aspects of your coursework are covered by the Honor Code. All projects and homework assignments are to be completed individually unless otherwise specified.

Commission of any of the following acts shall constitute academic misconduct. This listing is not, however, exclusive of other acts that may reasonably be said to constitute academic misconduct. Clarification is provided for each definition with some examples of prohibited behaviors in the Undergraduate Honor Code Manual located at https://www.honorsystem.vt.edu/

A. CHEATING

Cheating includes the intentional use of unauthorized materials, information, notes, study aids or other devices or materials in any academic exercise, or attempts thereof.

B. PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism includes the copying of the language, structure, programming, computer code, ideas, and/or thoughts of another and passing off the same as one's own original work, or attempts thereof.

C. FALSIFICATION

Falsification includes the statement of any untruth, either verbally or in writing, with respect to any element of one's academic work, or attempts thereof.

D. FABRICATION

Fabrication includes making up data and results, and recording or reporting them, or submitting fabricated documents, or attempts thereof.

E. MULTIPLE SUBMISSION

Multiple submission involves the submission for credit—without authorization of the instructor receiving the work—of substantial portions of any work (including oral reports) previously submitted for credit at any academic institution, or attempts thereof.

F. COMPLICITY

Complicity includes intentionally helping another to engage in an act of academic misconduct, or attempts thereof.

G. VIOLATION OF UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE, DEPARTMENTAL, PROGRAM, COURSE, OR FACULTY RULES

The violation of any University, College, Departmental, Program, Course, or Faculty Rules relating to academic matters that may lead to an unfair academic advantage by the student violating the rule(s).

Instructor's Bio

Yannis A. Stivachtis is Professor of Political Science, holder of the Jean Monnet Chair, and Director of the Center for European & Transatlantic Studies (CEUTS), which is recognized by the European Commission as a *Jean Monnet Center of Excellence*.

He was awarded (2019) the *Jean Monnet Chair* in recognition of his excellence in European Studies by the Education, Audiovisual and Cultural Executive Agency (EACEA) of the European Commission. He has also been recognized as *National Security Scholar* by the U.S. Department of Defense (2014).

He is also the editor of the *Critical European Studies* book series (Routledge) and co-editor of the *Athens Journal of Mediterranean Studies*. He currently serves as Senior Advisor of the Center for European and Mediterranean Affairs (CEMA) of the Athens Institute for Education & Research (ATINER) (Greece); External Expert for the Research Executive Agency (REA) of the European Commission; External Expert of the Hellenic Authority for Higher Education (HAHE), Greek Ministry of Education; Advisory Board member of the Center for Intelligence and Security Studies, Bellevue University; and Senior Advisor of the Research Institute for European & American Studies (RIEAS, Greece).

His research and teaching interests include international relations theory (with particular emphasis on the English School of International Relations including the study of the evolution of international society and the study of regional international system/society in Europe, Eurasia, and the Middle East), Security/Strategic Studies (with emphasis on national and international security, strategic theory, and arms control and disarmament), and European Studies (including EU strategy, EU's foreign, security, and defense policy, EU's external relations and interior policies, and European organizations).

His previous appointments include Professor of International Relations, Geneva School of Diplomacy (Switzerland); Professor of International Relations, The American College of Switzerland; Visiting Professor, The American University of Paris; Visiting Lecturer, European Institute-University of Geneva; Research Fellow, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR); Research Fellow, Institute for Strategic Studies-Austrian Ministry of Defense (Austria); Research Fellow, Austrian Institute of European & Security Policy; and Research Fellow at the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

He has authored and edited several books and has published numerous journal articles and book chapters.

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213.244.140.110 (Germany)
103.122.166.55 (Australia)
149.137.40.110 (Singapore)
64.211.144.160 (Brazil)
69.174.57.160 (Canada)
207.226.132.110 (Japan)
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Join by Skype for Business
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Class Schedule

Adjustments to the assignment schedule are inevitable. The professor will make every effort to keep students abreast of changes.

Week 1:	01/21	Course introduction and expectations Introduction to NATO: History & Tasks
Week 2:	01/28	NATO History & Tasks NATO Civilian & Military Structures NATO Partnerships
Week 3:	02/04	NATO Policy-making NATO Strategic Concepts: The 2022 NATO Strategic Concept
Week 4:	02/11	NATO Past Strategic Concepts
	02/12-16	**2025 International Model NATO**
Week 5:	02/18	NATO Enlargement
Week 6:	02/25	NATO Current Operations & Missions
Week 7:	03/04	NATO Past Operations & Missions
Week 8	**Spring Break – No classes**	
Week 9:	03/18	NATO Deterrence & Defense: Military Posture and Hybrid Threats and Terrorism
Week 10:	03/25	NATO Deterrence & Defense: Capability Development, Exercises and Training
Week 11:	04/01	NATO Deterrence & Defense: Space and Integrated Air & Missile Defense
Week 12:	04/08	NATO Deterrence & Defense: Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance
Week 13:	04/15	NATO Operations & Missions: Technology & Innovation and Transportation & Logistics
Week 14:	04/22	NATO wider activities: Arms control & Disarmament
Week 15:	04/29	NATO wider activities: Science, Technology and Climate Change
Week 16:	05/06	NATO wider activities: Public Diplomacy, Gender, and human Security