Master of Arts – International Relations

Sustainable Development Management Institute (SDMI) is a community of students and scholars dedicated to understanding the rapidly changing patterns of today's global world. The expertise of our faculty covers a wide range of themes in International Relations theory, international history, global political economy, security, war and peace studies, the historical sociology of international relations, law, ethics and gender. The geographical scope of our research and teaching includes Europe and North/South America, the Middle East, Asia, Oceania and the former USSR.

We are one of the world's leading centres for research and graduate training in International Relations. We are also unique in combining the general theoretical and empirical study of international and global politics with a focus on political dynamics and developments.

SDMI focuses on:

- sustain and develop scholarship, research, teaching and training in Politics and International Relations, which:
  - aspires to best practice in all its activities;
  - reflects its scholarship and research in its teaching;
  - provides lifelong learning skills appropriate to the disciplines;
  - is informed by developments in the other Social Sciences and in the Humanities;
- achieve a reputation for excellence in teaching at all levels through:
  - maintaining stimulating, generic and subject specific undergraduate teaching;
  - enhancing the postgraduate teaching quality;
  - ensuring that its students are equipped with skills which are both relevant and transferable;

The programme has three principal objectives. The first is to provide all students with a basic grounding in the modern theory of international relations, and the different approaches that may be taken to the subject. The second is to enable them to gain a detailed knowledge of those aspects of international relations and strategic studies in which they wish to specialise. The third is to provide them with the conceptual, methodological and empirical background necessary to undertake research into the subject.

Organisation

Duration : 2 years - ECTS : 120 credits
Bilingual Program: French and English and a third language

1ˢᵗ Semestre	Ects	2ⁿᵈ Semestre	Ects
IR 311 - Research Methods in International Relations	4	IR 321 - Global Governance, Environment and Development	4
IR 312 - Diplomatic Practice	4	IR 322 - The European Union	4
LAW 313 - International Law	4	IR 323 - Politics and International Relations of the Middle East	4
IR 314 - International Organisation and Foreign Policy	4	IR 324 - Conflict Resolution and Transformation	4
IR 315 - International Peacekeeping	4	IR 325 - Strategy Theory	4
IR 316 - Theory and Practice of Modern Warfare from 1939	4		
IR 317 - States, Markets and Globalisation	4		
LAN 318 - Language	2	Internsip of 3 Months	10
60 ECTS			

(1ˢᵗ YEAR)

3ʳᵈ Semestre	Ects	4ᵗʰ Semestre	Ects
IR 411 - Researching Security and War	4		
IR 412 - Globalisation: Its Meanings, Causes and Consequences	4		
IR 413 - Conflict, International Intervention and Global Governance	4		
IR 414 - International Political Economy and the 'Digital Age'	4	Internsip of 6 Months	30
IR 415 - Conflict Management in Contemporary Conflicts	4		
IT 416 - Interpretations of Information, Technology and Organisations	4		
IR 417 - Theorising Security and War	4		
LAN 418 - Language	2		
60 ECTS			

(2ⁿᵈ YEAR)

Conditions to get the degree

- Student must to follow regullarly all the coures - He/She had to attend their class work, project; exams required in each course - He/She must to get at least 12/20
- Attend and realize Internships in company or Public administration - Memory
- Student must get the TOEIC with 750 points or an equivalent in french

Tuition fee   *8700 euros per year*

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Major Approaches to the Study of International Relations

This module offers an introduction to some of the key theoretical and methodological issues involved in doing empirical research in international relations, and in the social sciences more generally. With this broad aim in mind, the first three sessions explore contending philosophical approaches (positivism, realism and hermeneutics), and the following three consider a series of theoretical issues that each relate to empirical research within international relations (the relationship between structures and agents, the nature of language, and the nature of historical enquiry). The final sessions focus on various qualitative and quantitative approaches to the study of international affairs, seeking to relate the theoretical issues touched on in the earlier sections of the course to empirical enquiry and analysis.

Research Methods in International Relations

This module provides an appreciation of the main foci in this field. After locating international relations in the context of cognate disciplines, and surveying the development of the subject, it examines the major areas of enquiry, which include: Neo-liberalism, Neo-realism, world systems analysis and globalisation. It assesses the impact of these contrasting approaches for how we have come to understand and explain international relations.

Diplomatic Practice

This module examines the organisation of diplomatic missions abroad, the functions of diplomacy, specially economic and cultural diplomacy; negotiations; communication; conflict management and the impact of technology on diplomacy.

Approaches to Peace Studies

By the end of the course the successful student should have an advanced knowledge and critical understanding of the main currents of thought in Peace Studies, including an idea of past debates and current research themes. In particular, they should have an appreciation of the approaches within various traditions in Peace Studies to the major questions in peace studies: What are the roots of war and violence? What is the meaning of peace? By what means and with what effect can efforts be made to transform the roots of violence? By the end of the course the students should have a critical understanding of the discourse in Peace Studies on these topics, and should be able to apply them critically to situations of particular interest to the student.

International Organisation and Foreign Policy

This module explores the relationships between international organisations and the foreign policies of individual states, including the evolution and functions of international organisations, decision-making processes within them, and the role of international secretariats.

International Peacekeeping

This module explore the political, diplomatic, military, financial, logistical, administrative and legal problems of international peacekeeping activities, including case studies of the major United Nations missions since 1948.

Globalisation and Democratisation

This module introduces students to various contending approaches that attempt to understand the historical and contemporary making of the Third World. It does so by addressing themes related to the state, democracy and globalisation in relation to the regions of Latin America, Asia and Africa. The course will provide students with a thorough basis on which to critically understand and question past and present practices of political power in the Third World.

US Foreign Policy

This module explores the development of United States foreign policy since 1945. Topics to be covered include the foreign policy making structure, the origins of the Cold War, the 'militarisation' of containment and relations of the Peoples' Republic of China. There will be two topics on Vietnam, covering initial US involvement and how the war ended. US policy in the Middle East and Central America will be covered, as will the period of Detente Rapprochement. Finally we will discuss the so-called 'Second Cold War' and the future now that the Cold War has (apparently) ended.

International Political Economy and the 'Digital Age'

The module has three parts: the first identifies the main features of the 'information age' with regard to technological changes in the field of information and communication technologies. The second examines key theories about he 'information age' and capitalist transformation examining their implications for (a) the relationship between ICT and the activities of (Trans)National capitalistic enterprises/networks; global, regional/national organisations and new social movements; (b) competition to build the new 'Silicon Valley' in new settings; and (c) struggles over the future of information, its applications and its governance. The third examines these changes in relation to the case of (Post) crisis East Asia.

States, Markets and Globalisation

Concentrates on how states, markets and companies operate presently in the world.
- Provides understanding of the distribution of power particularly its exercise by rich states and the consequences for middle income, developing and the least developed states.
- An exploration of the evolution and functioning of financial international institutions including the international monetary fund, the world bank and the world trade organisation.
- An analysis of speculation, the quick buck and gambling mentality of modern capitalism.
- A discussion of the factors affecting mergers between companies, and the constraints upon the growth of these companies.
- An assessment of the ability of states to regulate and direct their economies including a discussion of the virtues and defects of globalisation

Global Governance, Environment and Development

Governance at the global level has become a key theme in international politics, and the environment has proved to be an important area for transnational management, evidenced by international treaties meetings such as the World Summit on Sustainable Development. This course examines the ways that global environmental governance has impacted on North-South relations, drawing on case studies from Africa, Latin America and Asia, such as poaching, tourism and the environmental impact of the drugs and illegal gem trades.

The European Union

Examines the structure of the European community through the analysis of current issues including agricultural policy, budgetary control and monetary policy, social and regional questions, and policies relating to the greater integration of the member states.

Politics and International Relations of the Middle East

In this module, some of the key aspects of Middle East politics are examined, ranging from the formation of the state system and the roots of the Palestine issue, to the Iranian revolution, the Kuwait crisis, foreign interests, and the respective roles of oil and Islam.

Conflict Resolution and Transformation

This module explores the main theoretical approaches to conflict and its transformation, and analyses factors that favour or inhibit the peaceful resolution of conflict.

Conflict Management in Contemporary Conflicts

This module explores peace processes in contemporary conflicts, applying theoretical ideas about conflict and conflict resolution to a number of case studies drawn from international, internal and environmental conflicts. The course also seeks to develop practical skills in conflict analysis and conflict resolution.

Comparative Defence Policy

This module deals with the respective perceptions of security requirements by the superpower rivals and the states most closely associated with them in the post-war world, and the arrangements they have made in pursuit of their security interests. It presents the experience of these powers in the context which identifies the interaction between defence, foreign and economic policy, and explores the security and defence implications of the political changes of recent years.

Security and Modernity

This module aims to examine the relationship between political modernity, death and danger. It explores the thesis that the modern problematic of security amounts to a war against alterity; a self-defeating programme of mastery and violation of otherness whose processes of amplification and intensification have materially contributed to the production and globalisation of absolute endangeredness.

Strategic Theory

This module examines the most influential and important works in strategic theory, and their specific manifestations in the strategic doctrines of the major powers.

Theory and Practice of Modern Warfare from 1939

This module examines the impact of the Second World War on strategic theory, theories of nuclear deterrence and limited war, theories of guerrilla and revolutionary war and counter-insurgency, and strategies of collective security.

Globalisation: Its Meanings, Causes and Consequences

Globalisation has become a buzzword in the social sciences and lay discourse. It is often related to the speeding up of global communication and travel, and the transnationalisation of economic, political, social and legal institutions. The meaning and causes of globalisation are highly debatable. Some say it is the logical outcome of capitalism and the development of the world market; others see it as arising from improvements in information and communication technologies with transformative implications for democracy and civil society. For the purposes of this course, globalisation is defied as a complex and contradictory set of processes that are multi-scaler, multi-temporal, multi-centric, multi-form, and multi-causal. It produces fragmentation and integration, divergence and convergence as well as continuities and discontinuities. Their overall effect is to reconfigure asymmetries of power and knowledge and this in turn raises questions about governance on different scales both in the developed and developing parts of the world.

Conflict, International Intervention and Global Governance

The module builds on critical policy research and consultancy that has been completed for a wide range of international organisations. It addresses the increasing overlap between 'development' and 'security'. As such, it will be of interest to students contemplating employment in the field of humanitarian assistance and post-conflict reconstruction. Conversely, it is also relevant to practioners wishing to study the politics of aid. The significance of globalisation for the emergence of internal, regionalised and networked forms of conflict and instability is first examined. This includes the development of transborder shadow economies and terrorist networks, such as al-Qu'ida, capable of supporting new and emerging forms of political authority no longer based on the nation-state. Such analysis is used to broaden our understanding of the present crisis in global security. The main forms of humanitarian, developmental and security responses are then examined. Of particular importance is the merger of development and security in the post-Cold War period and the policy attempt to military operations currently underway in Africa, the Balkans and Afghanistan. The role of NGOs, UN agencies and private companies in social reconstruction and civil-society support is of particular interest. The module concludes with an appreciation of such developments in relation to an evolving system of global governance.

Theorising Security and War

Do we still know what security and war are? Why are some forms of violence classified as war while others are classified as criminality or terror? Now that security is everybody's business, how much safer are we? What kind of science is the science of security? And who in addition to the state is now in the business of making us secure? Theorizing helps us to pose and answer these questions. This module introduces students to ways of conceptualizing power, security, and war. Since forms of security and war are intimately correlated with forms of cultural political and economic life, theories in this module address: geopolitics, biopolitics, techno-science, digitalization, molecularisation, network war, image war and virtual war.

Researching Security and War

Researching Security and War is a research methodologies course with a twist. It is designed guide students in the research of what is itself a research driven activity: namely security practices and war making. While introducing students to how they may more effectively research security and war in the 21st century, the course affords students the opportunity to do so by critically researching the research methods themselves currently most distinguishing their field of study. These include the sciences of networks, the complexity sciences and the life sciences. Security and war have themselves become critically reliant upon the life sciences especially and so the course is also designed to train students in questioning what happens to security practices and war making when the sciences of life transform

what we understand a living system to be. The module will be of interest to those concerned with the changing nature of security and war in the age of information, complexity and terror, regardless of educational or professional background. This module will appeal especially to those whose interests include, for example, the history of science, the sociology of knowledge, epistemic cultures and communities, techno-scientific complexes and the rise of information society.