

## Faculty of Economic, Social and Political Sciences



### SPOL3812 Diplomatic and strategic issues

[30h] 4 credits

**Teacher(s):** Jacques Lefèvre, Michel Liegeois  
**Language:** French  
**Level:** Third cycle

#### Aims

By the end of this course, students will have assimilated and understood the particular features of the strategic approach to international relations. They will also be able to analyse a historic event or a topical issue, and demonstrate that they can handle the data and essential concepts of strategic analysis.

#### Main themes

To provide the training that is needed for an understanding of the diplomatic and military aspects of the strategic dimension of contemporary international relations.

#### Content and teaching methods

##### Content

(1) Introduction: The strategy in question: definition, semantic acceptances and levels, strategy and international relations (debates, schools and doctrines). (2) Military matters: The Ancients, Clausewitz and Liddel Hart. Present-day issue: the revolution in military affairs. (3) Nuclear power: Origins, strategic doctrines and technological development, and international regulation (e.g. the ABM treaty, SALT, INF and CTBT. Present-day issue: NMB and the change in American nuclear policy. (4) Crisis management: Armed conflicts vs war, peacekeeping, and coercive diplomacy. Present-day issue: Strategies for managing crises in the Balkans.

##### Methodology

The course will be organised as a sequence of modules whose compound logic will facilitate an alternation between theory and reality, and between concepts and concrete examples. Each module will initially be based on a historical fact chosen for its exceptional strategic dimension, and the strategic theories and doctrines developed on the basis of this event will be presented and criticised. Lastly, a topical issue will be analysed, and an attempt will be made to reveal the virtues and limitations of the theories studied, and present-day doctrinal debates.

#### Other information (prerequisite, evaluation (assessment methods), course materials recommended readings, ...)

Pre-requirements: Students will ideally have already attended the course on "International relations from 1815 to the present day", or equivalent.

Written work + an oral examination.

Course notes, reading file and an indicative bibliography.

#### Other credits in programs

<b>POLS3DA/RI</b>	Diplôme d'études approfondies en sciences politiques et sociales (relations internationales)	Mandatory
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