

Study level: Peace, Security and Development
Course title: Joint Project
Professor: Filip Ejodus, Nemanja Džuverović, Goran Tepšić
Compulsory/Elective: Compulsory
Number of ECTS: 6
Condition: none
<p>Aim of the course</p> <p>The aim of the course is to teach students how to work in small teams by writing or preparing project related to peace, security or development issues. The Joint Project is designed by groups of 5 students who, during the course of one semester, implemented the knowledge gained in the classroom into their respective local communities. The goal of the course is to serve students' different academic interests and yet bring together their varying knowledge and skills in a complementary and productive way under conditions that simulate professional practice. Each group has its tutor who meets with students on a regular basis and guides them throughout the project. The tutor provides the group with methodological guidance and offers his/her professional opinion while leaving the group the freedom to decide on the most important issues.</p> <p>By working on socially engaged projects to improve the well-being in their communities, students take an important step towards making their study experience within the framework of the MA in Peace, Security and Development more broadly relevant outside the curricular context. Also, by grounding the project in local communities, the course aims to develop among the students the sense of community belongingness and community activism. Finally, the course increases the cohesion not only among the students who are part of one group but among all the students enrolled in the program.</p>
<p>Outcome of the course</p> <p>By transforming the traditional learning experience into a more dynamic, diverse, and practice-oriented research process, the Joint Project equips students with knowledge and skills that are highly needed for a successful engagement in different peace-, security- and development-related sectors. Participating in each phase of the project cycle – from finding a topic to evaluating its results, students will have an opportunity to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improve their ability to identify relevant social and policy problems, major actors and stakeholders, potential solutions, and ways of coming to them; • get acquainted to what is needed for a successful project design (such as objectives, deadlines, time-management), implementation and promotion, acquiring highly valued skills for a professional career in the relevant sectors; • familiarize with benefits and challenges of working in a team, thus preparing for real-life conditions in most of the working environments; • enhance their network with academic and professional environment dealing with the issues of regional and international peace, security and development, thus improving their chances for finding an optimal internship or job in the field;
<p>Content of the course</p> <p>The content of the Joint Project course is oriented around team projects, with only a few lectures and deadlines. After a several introductory workshops aimed at preparing and training students for project design, teams will embark on developing their ideas, timelines and activities. The nature and aims of their projects can vary – from those aimed and preparing policy proposals to those resulting in an event, campaign, or action – but must be directed towards addressing some socially relevant issue whose solution will have positive implications to the state of peace, security and development in Serbia, Western Balkans or wider. Each team is responsible for designing its own structure to accomplish all necessary tasks and meet individual and team goals. Nevertheless, to ensure the timeliness and pace of project progress, course professors at the MA program will hold a few individual and group consultations with teams during the semester. At the end of the semester, all team projects' results will be presented not only to the students and professors at the MA course, but also to the wider faculty, policy, and general audience.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introductory lecture and setting of ground rules, 2. Preparatory workshop with group tutor 3. Preparatory workshop with group tutor 4. Developing the concept of the joint project 5. Developing the concept of the joint project 6. Midterm progress report

7. Designing and preparing joint project
8. Designing and preparing joint project
9. Designing and preparing joint project
10. Group meeting with their mentor
11. Designing and preparing joint project
12. Designing and preparing joint project
13. Joint workshop (all the groups from the course)
14. Polishing final details with the tutor
15. Presentations

Literature
 Young, E., & Quinn, L. 2002. *Writing effective public policy papers*. Open Society Institute; Brest, Paul and Linda Hamilton Krieger. 2010; *Problem Solving, Decision Making, and Professional Judgment: A Guide for Lawyers and Policymakers*. Oxford University Press; Smith, Catherine F. 2010. *Writing Public Policy*. Oxford University Press.

Total classes of active teaching: 60	Theoretical classes: 15	Practical classes: 45
---	--------------------------------	------------------------------

Teaching methods:
 team work, presentations, peer to peer mentorship, tutorship, debates, real-life scenarios, role play

Assessment of knowledge (maximum no. of points 100)			
Pre-examination commitments	points	Final examination	<i>points</i>
activity		written test	
practical teaching	80	oral examination	20
colloquium(a)		
seminar(s)			