FICHA TÉCNICA DE LA ASIGNATURA

Datos de la asignatura	
Nombre completo	Hybrid Wars and Grey-Zone Conflicts
Código	E000013484
Impartido en	Master in International Security Management [Primer Curso]
Nivel	Master
Cuatrimestre	Semestral
Créditos	5,0 ECTS
Carácter	Optativa
Departamento / Área	Departamento de Relaciones Internacionales
Responsable	Ileana Daniela Serban
Descriptor	Global Risk Management track

Datos del profesorado	
Profesor	
Nombre	Ileana Daniela Serban
Departamento / Área	Departamento de Relaciones Internacionales
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DATOS ESPECÍFICOS DE LA ASIGNATURA

Contextualización de la asignatura
Aportación al perfil profesional de la titulación
Global Risk Management track

Competencias - Objetivos
Resultados de Aprendizaje

This course explores the transition from traditional warfare to modern hybrid war techniques, which operate in the ambiguous space between peace and armed conflict. Students will be introduced to the concept of **grey zones**, encompassing activities such as economic sabotage, influence operations, cyberattacks and disinformation campaigns.

The course will focus on understanding **campaigns** by state and non-state actors that blend non-military and quasi-military tools to stay below the threshold of armed conflict. It will also examine how these unconventional warfare techniques integrate with traditional military force, threats, and hybrid strategies.

Through case studies, students will analyse how new technologies are used in grey-zone operations to obscure categorisation, attribution, and detection, complicating effective responses. They will also identify the objectives and means of hybrid warfare, which are often tailored to exploit the vulnerabilities of the target state.

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Define hybrid wars and explain their distinction from traditional and conventional warfare.
2. Understand and analyse the concept of grey zones and the spectrum of hybrid activities.
3. Identify the tools, technologies, and strategies used in hybrid warfare by state and non-state actors.
4. Analyse the vulnerabilities of target states and how hybrid war strategies exploit them.

Evaluate real-world case studies to identify hybrid warfare tactics and propose response strategies.

BLOQUES TEMÁTICOS Y CONTENIDOS

Contenidos – Bloques Temáticos
Distorting prisms / Open-Source Intelligence / Open-Source Investigations
Amplifying attention – the Islamic State / Military Targeting
Participative Warfare / Accelerated Warfare

METODOLOGÍA DOCENTE

Aspectos metodológicos generales de la asignatura
Lectures: Conceptual and theoretical overviews.
Case Studies: Real-world applications and critical analysis.
Workshops: Collaborative exercises on response strategies.
Group Discussions: Reflecting on emerging trends and vulnerabilities.

EVALUACIÓN Y CRITERIOS DE CALIFICACIÓN

Evaluation	(%)
Final project	50%
Participation	20%
In-class exercises	30%

BIBLIOGRAFÍA Y RECURSOS

Bibliografía Básica

- Hoffman, F. 2007. *Conflict in the 21st Century: The Rise of Hybrid Wars.* Available here:

https://www.potomacinstitute.org/images/stories/publications/potomac_hybridwar_0108.pdf

- Rid, T. 2011. "Cyber War Will Not Take Place". *Journal of Strategic Studies*, *35*(1), 5–32.

https://doi.org/10.1080/01402390.2011.608939

- Galeotti, M. 2019. *We Need to Talk About Putin: How the West Gets Him Wrong.* Available here:

https://archive.org/details/we-need-to-talk-about-putin-why-the-west-gets-him-wrong-and-how-to-get-him-right/page/n1/mode/2up

- Chivvis, C. 2017. *Understanding Russian Hybrid Warfare and What Can Be Done About It.* Available here:

https://www.rand.org/content/dam/rand/pubs/testimonies/CT400/CT468/RAND_CT468.pdf

Bibliografía Complementaria

Academic articles and reports (to be shared via the course platform).