

Economic Security, Industrial Policy & Trade Tensions

The course *Economic Security, Industrial Policy & Trade Tensions*, taught by Antonia Colibasanu, explores how economic instruments have become central to statecraft in an era of intensifying geopolitical competition. As governments increasingly link national security to economic resilience, the course examines how industrial policy, trade measures, and regulatory frameworks are used to protect strategic sectors, manage dependencies, and project influence internationally.

Students are introduced to the foundations of economic diplomacy, alongside key theoretical models that explain how states design and implement economic strategies in pursuit of political objectives. The course draws on established frameworks from international political economy and strategic trade theory, while also incorporating contemporary approaches to economic statecraft, sanctions, and technology governance. Particular attention is given to how economic security is defined and operationalized across different regions, including the United States, the European Union, and China.

Through case studies—including U.S.-China trade tensions, European strategic autonomy initiatives, and the use of sanctions in conflicts such as the war in Ukraine—students gain practical insight into how economic diplomacy operates in real-world contexts. These cases highlight the interplay between domestic economic priorities and international strategic positioning.

By combining theoretical perspectives with applied analysis, the course equips students with the ability to understand and evaluate economic diplomacy strategies, assess trade-related risks, and interpret policy decisions in a complex global environment. Students will develop skills in analyzing economic security policies, navigating regulatory landscapes, and applying structured frameworks to decision-making in both public and private sector contexts.