

Transatlantic Relations

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This course examines the key political-institutional, (geo)-strategic, economic and socio-cultural issues in current transatlantic relations. After an introductory session including a review of the history of US-European relations during the Cold War, the course in the first part will analyse the structural changes in the relationship after the implosion of the Soviet Union in 1989/90. The second part will analyse the driving forces behind the differences in strategic outlook among both sides and how these translate into different foreign policies. It will look at the fundamental principles behind these policies (cultural, religious, historical), the relevant Security Strategies, and the different strategic answers (e.g. NATO vs. "coalitions of the willing") to common threats and challenges. In the third part the course will examine transatlantic economic links and why both sides have developed partly different economic means to shape and manage international politics; in this context, the relevant institutions will also be dealt with. The fourth and fifth part will look into the role cooperation on major global issues plays in transatlantic relations (democracy and human rights, environment, development aid) and which are the issues most likely to shape the future transatlantic agenda under the new US President (Greater Middle East, energy security, state and nation-building, (new) emerging powers as a challenge to the Alliance).