



STUDY PROGRAMME(S)

(1) EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies

(2) Transatlantic Affairs

ACADEMIC YEAR

2021-22

SEMESTER

1

COURSE TITLE

European Diplomacy in the 21st Century

COURSE PROFESSOR

Heidi MAURER

COURSE ASSISTANT(S)

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NATURE OF COURSE (COMPULSORY, OPTIONAL, ELECTIVE)

(1) Compulsory course

(2) Elective course

ECTS CREDITS

3.5

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

English

1. COURSE OBJECTIVES

This compulsory course examines the characteristics and added value of European diplomacy in the challenging global context of the 21st century. It investigates how major diplomatic actors such as the European External Action Service under the leadership of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy as well as the EU member states' diplomatic services adapt to the changing internal and external demands. The course departs from the question to what extent diplomacy remains a key process in the management of international affairs, probing the increasingly voiced criticism that diplomacy reflects an outdated, state-centred approach to contemporary world politics. Diplomacy has in the past two decades been witnessing profound change in terms of actors (e.g. second-track diplomacy), processes (e.g. from club to network diplomacy) and instruments (e.g. digital diplomacy). This raises the question how the EU as a form of 'post-diplomatic' order fits into these developments. The aim of the course is to provide a sound foundation for understanding the role and nature of diplomacy in the global environment and in its EU context and to equip the students with the necessary conceptual and methodological tools to analyse those aspects.

At the end of this course, the student will be able to

- understand the nature and significance of international, diplomatic developments for the EU and its member states;
- empirically analyse how diplomatic actors in Europe and beyond are or should be responding to them;
- conceptually grasp the nature and relevance of 21st century diplomacy and to link the conceptual knowledge to empirical investigations.



2. LEARNING OUTCOMES

The course objectives tie in with the following learning outcomes of the programme **EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies**:

- 1.1 The graduate masters the most important theoretical approaches and concepts of International Relations, EU Studies and Diplomacy Studies relevant for the analysis of the role of the European Union in international affairs.
- 1.2 The graduate can describe, explain and illustrate the current state of scientific research in the field of EU external relations in a broad sense and is able to critically assess the results of this research.
- 1.4 The graduate has acquired insights into the political, legal and economic aspects of EU external action and can use these insights to contextualise and interpret new developments.
- 1.5 The graduate is able to incorporate knowledge and understanding of various fields of EU external action and of different related disciplines (such as Political Science, International Relations, Law, Economics) at the interface between EU affairs and world politics.
- 2.1 The graduate can approach the field of national, European and international diplomacy analytically by assessing the challenges in this domain with an open mind for diversity and for complex situations.
- 2.2 The graduate has the ability to critically reflect upon problems in international and European affairs, to adopt well-informed points of view and to communicate them effectively orally and in writing, whether working independently or in a team.
- 2.3 The graduate can independently formulate a research question within the field of European affairs, find, select and critically assess relevant sources, answer the question using typical concepts and methods and present the research results in line with the ethical rules of the discipline.
- 2.4 The graduate is capable of processing a large amount of information within a short period of time and to work efficiently and effectively through planning, organising, setting priorities and meeting deadlines.
- 2.5 The graduate has the intellectual maturity and skills to function responsibly and autonomously in a professional context at national, European or international level and the capacity of suggesting possible action that contributes to problem-solving in a creative way.

The course objectives tie in with the following learning outcomes of the programme **Transatlantic Affairs**:

- 1.1 The graduate masters the most important theoretical approaches and concepts of, depending on his or her disciplinary focus, Economics, International Relations and Diplomacy Studies, Legal Studies and/or Political Science relevant for the analysis of transatlantic affairs.
- 1.2 The graduate can describe, explain and illustrate the current state of scientific research in the field of transatlantic affairs in a broad sense and, in line with his or her disciplinary focus, is able to critically assess the results of this research.
- 1.4 The graduate has insights into historical, political, legal and economic aspects of transatlantic affairs as well as into those policy areas that are of essential importance to transatlantic affairs. He or she can use these insights to contextualize and interpret new developments.
- 1.5 The graduate is able to incorporate knowledge and understanding of various fields of transatlantic affairs and of different related disciplines (such as Economics, International Relations, Legal Studies, Political Science) as well as to adopt both a European and a US perspective on transatlantic affairs.
- 2.1 The graduate can approach the field of transatlantic affairs in a broad sense analytically by assessing the challenges in this domain with an open mind for diversity and for complex situations.
- 2.2 The graduate has the ability to critically reflect upon problems regarding an extensive range of transatlantic affairs, to adopt well-informed points of view and to communicate them effectively orally and in writing, whether working independently or in a team.
- 2.3 The graduate can independently transform complex transatlantic issues into a research question within the broader field of transatlantic affairs and, depending on his or her disciplinary focus, find, select and critically assess relevant sources, answer the question using appropriate concepts and methods and



present the research results in line with the ethical rules of the chosen discipline.

- 2.4 The graduate is capable of processing a large amount of information and appropriately analyse relevant sources depending on his or her disciplinary focus within a short period of time and of suggesting possible actions that contribute to problem-solving in a creative way.
- 2.5 The graduate has the intellectual maturity and skills to take responsibilities and function autonomously in a professional environment at national or international level, and especially in a transatlantic context, and to work efficiently and effectively through planning, organizing, setting priorities, meeting deadlines, cooperating across cultural boundaries and networking.

3. COURSE CONTENTS

Session 1: Why should we (still) care about diplomacy?

Session 2: Diplomacy as profession: diplomats and their skills

Session 3: Diplomacy as institution: structure and practice

Session 4: Diplomacy as tool I: from bilateral diplomacy to multilateral politics

Session 5: Diplomacy as tool II: from old to new diplomacy? Public, digital and e-diplomacy

Session 6: The future of diplomacy – how will it matter?

Please refer to the intranet course page for access to the full course outline.

4. TEACHING METHOD

- Interactive lectures
- Guest lecture by an EEAS expert and national diplomat
- Participation: Students are expected to attend the class, to prepare the required readings and preparatory tasks and to participate actively in the discussions (see preparatory tasks for sessions in full course outline).
- Individual paper assignment ('briefing paper')
- Tutorials: Two tutorials will be offered by the course assistant – one in the first part of the course with a focus on the paper assignment and one at the end of the course with a focus on revision for the exam.

Please refer to the intranet course page for access to further information and instructions.

5. COURSE MATERIAL

Please refer to the intranet course page for access to the detailed reading list (required and supplementary readings) and the slides.

6. EVALUATION

- Paper (40%): 1,500-2,000 words
- Written exam (60%): duration 2h, closed book (except for a language dictionary)

In case of a second-session resit, the written exam counts for 100% of the mark.

Please refer to the intranet course page for access to further information and instructions.

The College of Europe reserves the right to change the delivery and assessment of the course in case of restrictions related to the Covid-19 pandemic. Any communication from the Department in this regard takes precedence over the information provided in this ECTS card.