



STUDY PROGRAMME(S)

(1) EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies

(2) Transatlantic Affairs

ACADEMIC YEAR

2021-22

SEMESTER

2

COURSE TITLE

Gendering EU External Affairs: Towards a more Inclusive Diplomacy?

COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

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COURSE ASSISTANT(S)

Stef BORGERS

NATURE OF COURSE (COMPULSORY, OPTIONAL, ELECTIVE)

(1) Optional course

(2) Elective course

ECTS CREDITS

4.5

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

English

1. COURSE OBJECTIVES

This optional course will explore how and to what extent gender issues have been introduced in EU external affairs. Starting from the notion that equality between men and women is a foundational value of the process of European integration, it will assess the opportunities and constraints of the EU's approach to equality, diversity and inclusion in policy areas traditionally perceived to be gender neutral or gender free. The Treaty of Amsterdam introduced the principle of gender mainstreaming, and gender should therefore be treated as a cross-cutting issue with relevance for all areas of EU policy action, including external affairs. The course will introduce students to the European equality agenda and its underpinning principles. Drawing on a number of gender-sensitive approaches and feminist methodologies, it will explore key debates, from the pivot towards a 'feminist foreign policy' to gender mainstreaming climate and social justice. The course will also touch on important and topical issues such as gender-based violence, empowerment, inclusion, LGBTQ+ rights, intersectionality, and violent extremism. Students will explore a range of gender approaches to research and policy analysis in order to identify the way in which social, political and economic hierarchies intervene in global politics and shape the EU's diplomacy and its alleged role as a normative or feminist power. Students will thus be encouraged to apply these methodological and theoretical tools to examine a range of external policies, such as: trade, security, defence, migration, environment and climate change, border control, and leadership.

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

- understand and explain the role of the EU as a gender actor
- evaluate the role of gender in shaping EU external action
- apply gender-sensitive approaches and feminist methodologies to analyse EU external policies
- examine the role of gender norms and structures in different policy domains, e.g. climate change, foreign policy, trade and Brexit.



- critically assess EU external action from a gender perspective and reflect on a more inclusive diplomacy.

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.
- 2.2 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.
- 3.3 The graduate has acquired multi-faceted knowledge of bilateral and/or multilateral relationships between the EU and important third countries or international organisations and can contextualise them in the EU's broader external relations.

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, is, in line with his or her disciplinary focus, 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.
- 2.2 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: Introduction, concepts, theories and methods

Session 2: Violence against Women

Session 3: Gender and European External Action

Session 4: Trade, negotiation and Brexit

Session 5: Development

Session 6: Climate change

Session 7: Foreign and Security Policy

Session 8: A Feminist Foreign Policy for Europe: Opportunity or contradiction in terms?

4. TEACHING METHOD

- Interactive lectures
- Participation: Students are expected to regularly attend the class, to prepare the required readings and to participate actively in the discussions
- Oral group presentations
- Individual paper: Each student will write a paper of 2,000-2,500 words

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

- Oral group presentation (15%)
- Class paper (35%)
- Written examination (50%): duration 2h, closed book

In case of a second-session resit, the written exam (2h) 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.