



STUDY PROGRAMME(S)

(1) EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies

(2) Transatlantic Affairs

ACADEMIC YEAR

2023-24

SEMESTER

1

COURSE TITLE

The EU in a Global Political Economy Context

COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

Sieglinde GSTÖHL

COURSE ASSISTANT(S)

Gonçalo CASTRO RIBEIRO

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 role of the European Union in the global political economy. The EU is the world's largest trading entity and donor of official development aid, and its trade and development policies are to a large extent interrelated. The course aims at understanding the EU's external economic relations by analysing the multilevel nature of its policy-making and international bargaining processes. First, the functioning of the Common Commercial Policy, its goals, actors and decision-making processes are examined. The second session introduces the analytical approach of two-level games which will be used in the paper assignment to analyse a case study. Third, the multilateral trade regime of the World Trade Organization (WTO), in which the EU's trade policy is embedded, is addressed. In a fourth step, the EU's trade strategy, its growing network of preferential trade agreements and the recent rise of unilateral trade instruments are discussed. Fifth, the course deals with issues at the intersection of trade and development such as the EU's Generalized System of Preferences. The sixth session is dedicated to European development cooperation, in particular the EU's changing relations with the group of African, Caribbean and Pacific countries. Finally, the question of policy coherence and how the EU is managing the nexus of trade and development policy with other policies as well as the export of norms (such as human rights) to third countries via trade and aid is explored.

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

- explain the main features of the EU's trade policy as well as development policy
- understand the multilevel nature of EU external economic relations
- describe the principles of the world trading system (WTO), including the EU's role
- apply the approach of two-level games to analyse complex cases of EU international negotiations
- critically assess the EU's foreign economic policies in the broader context of EU external action.



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.
- 1.3 The graduate has good knowledge of the institutional architecture and the decision-making processes in the European Union and in particular in EU external relations.
- 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.
- 2.6 The graduate can apply the acquired skills in the analysis and conduct of multifaceted (international) negotiations, both independently and in diverse and multicultural teams.

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.
- 1.3 The graduate has good knowledge of, depending on his or her disciplinary focus, the political and/or legal systems, the decision-making processes, the economic structures and the main internal and external policies of the European Union and the United States.
- 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: The Common Commercial Policy
Session 2: Analytical Approach: Two- and Three-level Games
Session 3: The EU and the World Trade Organization
Session 4: The EU's Changing Trade Strategy
Session 5: Trade and Development I: Case Study GSP
Session 6: Trade and Development II: Case Study ACP
Session 7: Nexus Management and Norm Export in EU Trade and Aid

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

4. TEACHING METHOD

- Interactive lectures
- Guest lecture by an EU official (tbc)
- Individual paper assignment
- Tutorials

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
- Closed-book written exam (60%): 2h

In case of a second-session resit, students will be evaluated based on a 2h closed-book written exam accounting for 100% of the final mark.

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