



STUDY PROGRAMME(S)

(1) EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies

(2) Transatlantic Affairs

ACADEMIC YEAR

2023-24

SEMESTER

2

COURSE TITLE

The EU and Peace Mediation

COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

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COURSE ASSISTANT(S)

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NATURE OF COURSE (COMPULSORY, OPTIONAL, ELECTIVE)

(1) Optional course

(2) Elective course

ECTS CREDITS

4.5

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

English

1. COURSE OBJECTIVES

International peace mediation is a recognised professional practice for diplomats and those working in international affairs. Mediation is a profession in many member states of the EU, whilst peace mediation and mediation support have become an independent field of expertise in the foreign policy domain. Both Member States and the European Union have been increasing their investment in this practice as a career track next to diplomacy, with increasing levels of specialisation. As other professions, mediation is an art, a skill, and a craft. It is part of diplomacy but a distinct practice. Mediation techniques operate at all levels and can help anybody in everyday relations as well as being invaluable on the path towards global peace. Understanding conflict and mediation requires also a deeper awareness of the connection between the body and mind in conflict.

In the decade following the end of the Cold War more attention was paid to the application of mediation skills and practices to international diplomacy as conflicts increasingly came to be solved through negotiation and third-party diplomatic intervention rather through military force. This created a new dynamic and caused a number of mediation actors to emerge on the international scene: from the UN to regional organisations such as the OSCE and the African Union, as well as international and local NGOs, all of which play different, complementary and sometimes competitive roles in conflict resolution.

Starting with the UN Guidance for Peace Mediation, specific approaches and methodologies were developed to ensure the efficiency of conflict resolution through mediation as a way of engaging on conflicts. This approach to mediation has a specific relevance to the EU given its presence in most, if not all global conflict theatres through its High Representatives, the EU Special Representatives and the Heads of EU Delegations, both at the table, around the process and post agreement. This was explicitly recognised by the Member



States in the 2009 EU Concept on Strengthening Mediation and Dialogue that set the ambition of making professional and efficient peace mediation an indispensable tool of the EU. Subsequently, the European External Action Service created a number of mechanisms and tools to engage in mediation.

Yet, the concept and practice of peace mediation in the EU's external relations is often misunderstood, especially in the classic diplomatic context. Moreover, subsequent geopolitical shifts and the related increasing complexity of conflicts have posed challenges to actors such as the EU, UN and OSCE. Some even question the proposition that the peace mediation can be an effective and viable approach for the EU in the current global context.

Developing an understanding of these policy debates within Europe, awareness of specific methodologies and approaches as well as personal mediation skills and competences seeks to bring a more rounded understanding of the global practice of international affairs and diplomacy today.

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 actions that contribute 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.
- 3.4 The graduate has acquired specific professional skills relevant to the practice of EU external action but also transferable to many other fields in the public and private sector.



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 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 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: Introduction to peace mediation, mediation practice and mediation support
- Session 2: Micro skills in mediation: communication methods
- Session 3: Cognitive processes in mediation and negotiation: how the body and mind interconnect to peace mediation
- Session 4: The European Union and peace mediation: its institutional set up, and policy frameworks
- Session 5: EU support to peace mediation in the multilateral arena: UN sustaining peace, African Peace & Security Architecture, ASEAN way
- Session 6: Evaluating peace processes and mediation
- Session 7: Upholding universal norms whilst seeking conflict termination - Peace versus justice? How to secure inclusion
- Session 8: Mediating in the digital age
- Session 9: Conflict analysis and assessment for mediation
- Session 10: Debriefing the mediator
- Session 11: Trend and issues in mediating climate and environment-related conflicts
- Session 12: Conclusions: The future of peace mediation – the new art of peacemaking

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



4. TEACHING METHOD

- Interactive lectures
- Practical exercises
- Individual paper assignment

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

- In-class participation (25%)
- Class paper (25%): 2,500-3,000 words
- Written exam (50%): 2h

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

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