



STUDY PROGRAMME(S)

(1) EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies

(2) Transatlantic Affairs

ACADEMIC YEAR

2023-24

SEMESTER

2

COURSE TITLE

The Transatlantic Partnership: Renewal and Global Challenges

COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

Stefan FRÖHLICH

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

This optional course examines the key geopolitical and geo-economic challenges for the transatlantic partners in a radically changing global order, both from within the still crucial bilateral relationship and from outside. After an introductory session including a brief review of the history of US-European relations during the Cold War, the first part of the course will analyse the structural changes and paradigm shifts in a multipolar global order and how they have affected transatlantic relations. The second part will analyse the driving forces behind the strategic outlook among both sides and how these translate into different/common foreign (security) policies. There has been much soul searching among the allies about finding the right strategic answers to common threats and challenges in the world in recent years. At the same time western dominance is waning and particularly China's rise, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and most recently the war in the Middle East have not only challenged the liberal order but also caused a global power redistribution. In the third part, the course will examine the new transatlantic geo-economics and analyse how much common ground there is to shape and manage the global economy; this section will raise questions about states increasingly practising power politics by economic means, the future of the global trading system and supply chains, and the impact of Covid-19 and the war in Ukraine on the transatlantic economy. Finally, other relevant global challenges, such as energy security, will also be dealt with. The fourth part will explore to what extent recent developments in international relations mark the beginning of a post-American era and what that means for future relationships with China and Russia.

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

- understand the modern development of transatlantic relations;
- describe the differences and commonalities between EU and US foreign policy strategies;
- explain transatlantic relations in the context of current global security, political and economic challenges;
- explore further dimensions while making critical use of empirical data, secondary and political sources;



- understand how specific challenges as well as relations with other major powers impact on both sides of the Atlantic;
- discuss and critically assess the areas of EU-US convergence and divergence and their likely future development.

2. LEARNING OUTCOMES

The course objectives tie in with the following learning out comes 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.
- 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.
- 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 out comes 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.
- 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

Introduction

- History and characteristic principles of 20th century transatlantic relations

Part I: Transatlantic relations in a changing global order

- The US and the EU after the end of the Cold War
- Future transatlantic relations in a changing world order

Part II: Transatlantic security relations

- How we saw the world before and after the war in Ukraine
- The evolution of transatlantic defence policy and conflict and crisis management

Part III: Transatlantic geo-economics and other global challenges

- Trends and challenges affecting the transatlantic economy and world trade since the global financial crisis
- The US, the EU, and the new geopolitics of energy security

Part IV: Transatlantic relations and the return of great power politics

- Russia's new revisionism and transatlantic relations
- China's rise to superpower and transatlantic relations

Outlook and course conclusions

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

4. TEACHING METHOD

- Interactive lectures (incl. a guest lecture, tbc)
- Oral presentations: students will hold an oral presentation either in pairs/groups or individually on topics provided on the list of sessions.
- 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

- Oral presentation (15%): 15-20 minutes (pairs/groups) or 10-15 minutes (individual)



College of Europe
Collège d'Europe

Brugge



Natolin

ECTS CARD

- Class paper (35%): 2,000-2,500 words
- Oral exam (50%)

In case of an excused absence at the oral exam in first session, a written exam (2h) will be held in the next examination session.

In case of a second-session resit, a closed-book written exam (2h) will be held which counts for 100% of the mark.

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