



STUDY PROGRAMME(S)

(1) EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies

(2) Transatlantic Affairs

ACADEMIC YEAR

2023-2024

SEMESTER

2

COURSE TITLE

EU Democracy Promotion and Human Rights Policy

COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

Richard YOUNGS

COURSE ASSISTANT(S)

Aoife GRIFFIN

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 EU external policies in the field of democracy and human rights. It will assess how far a commitment to support democracy and human rights is incorporated into EU external relations. The course will consider whether there is a conceptually distinctive European understanding of democracy and human rights, before examining the nature of EU policies in a number of different regions of the world. It will look at the Middle East, the invasion of Ukraine and other Eastern Partnership issues, as well as China and other areas of Asia. The course will explore the place of democracy and human rights in EU responses to crises in places such as Belarus, Ukraine, Syria, Libya and Hong Kong.

The more specific questions covered in the course include:

- What type of strategy does the EU prefer as a means of supporting international democracy and human rights?
- To what extent is there a trade-off between interests and these rights in EU foreign policy?
- How significant are the policy differences across the various regions where the EU acts?
- How far does the emergence of a more multi-polar world compromise the EU's ability to promote democracy and human rights?

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

- understand the main concepts and the context of the EU democracy promotion and human rights policy
- describe the objectives, instruments and outcomes of these policies in various regions of the world
- critically assess the EU's approach towards different partners
- discuss the prospects of the EU's normative influence in the future



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.
- 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.
- 3.1 The graduate has gained a deeper understanding of security challenges as well as the role of justice and values in specific fields of EU external action.

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.
- 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: EU Approaches to Democracy and Human Rights
Session 2: Perspectives on Democracy
Sessions 3 and 4: The Middle East and North Africa
Session 5: Russia and the Eastern Partnership
Session 6: China and the Wider Asian Context
Session 7: Democracy and the New Global Order
Session 8: Internal EU Politics and External Democracy Support

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

4. TEACHING METHOD

- Interactive lectures
- Class debates
- Individual paper assignment

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 (20%)
- Paper (30%): 2,500-3000 words
- Closed-book written exam (50%): duration 2h

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

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