

## STUDY PROGRAMME

European General Studies

## ACADEMIC YEAR

2023 - 2024

## SEMESTER

2nd

## COURSE TITLE

The EU's Eastern Partnership: Geopolitics, Peoples and Identities

## COURSE PROFESSOR

Giselle BOSSE, Domenico VALENZA

## COURSE ASSISTANT

Lancelot VEENENDAAL

## NATURE OF COURSE (COMPULSORY, OPTIONAL)

EG Seminar

## LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

English

## ECTS CREDITS

LAW: 3 ECTS; ECO (/ELEA, /EPPA): 3 ECTS; LAW/ELEA: 2 ECTS; POL: 4ECTS; POL/EPPA: 3.5 ECTS

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### **1. COURSE OBJECTIVE**

This seminar will equip students with a thorough knowledge and a deeper understanding of the EU's Eastern Partnership (EaP), including the impact of the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine on European security and liberal internationalist world order. The overarching objective is that students acquire the ability to critically assess the EaP in its wider context, by learning to understand and explain the EaP as a phenomenon or symptom of broader historical, political and international processes.

### **2. LEARNING OUTCOMES**

On completion of the course, students will be expected to:

- have acquired a thorough knowledge of the history of EU relations with the EaP countries, the contents and goals of the EaP, the legal base of the policy and key decision-making processes;
- have acquired the ability to critically assess the impact of the EaP in a variety of policy areas in each of the six EaP countries (policy analysis/ impact assessment);
- have developed a deeper understanding of the EaP as a phenomenon or symptom of broader historical, political and social processes;
- have acquired the awareness of and ability to critically evaluate competing historiographies and constructions of national identity in the EaP countries, including the influence of Russian 'soft power' and misinformation campaigns in the EaP countries;
- have enhanced their ability to critically assess accounts of and impacts of the Russian war against Ukraine, starting with the 2014 annexation of Crimea and the war in eastern Ukraine, through to Russia's full-scale military invasion of Ukraine in 2022;

- have further developed the competence to distinguish and apply contenting theories of European integration and international relations, as well as democratization/ Europeanization and European public policy to analyse the EaP in context;
- have acquired and/or further developed their generic skills: trained how to write and present a policy report; trained how to make a short documentary and present complex political realities in a neutral and accessible manner; further developed their diplomatic skills by engaging in discussions on politically controversial and sensitive issues.

### 3. COURSE CONTENTS

The course will be divided in 4 sessions, each one made of two lectures of approximately 3 hours

- The EaP in its historical context: Drivers, domestic pressures and international relations
  - **The first lecture** focuses on the relations between the EU and the countries in Eastern Europe since the end of the Cold War.
  - **The second lecture** examines the development of the European Neighbourhood Policy and the Eastern Partnership.
- The EaP policy: Goals, instruments and impact
  - **The first lecture** introduces the legal bases of the EaP and its instruments, including formal and informal policy formulation and decision-making procedures. We also examine the implications of Ukraine and Moldova being granted the status of EU membership candidate.
  - **The second lecture** provides a detailed overview of theoretical frameworks and key concepts which have been developed to assess and explain the impact of the EaP policy.
- The peoples in the EaP countries: Identity, nationhood and Russian 'soft power' and disinformation campaigns
  - The **first lecture** focuses on the historiographies of the EaP countries and examines past and ongoing nation-building processes.
  - The **second lecture** assesses Russia's disinformation campaigns in the EaP countries.
- The war against Ukraine: Geopolitics, European Security and world order
  - The **first lecture** introduces the Russian war against Ukraine (2014-2022) and discusses the responses by the EU, NATO and other international actors, and the implications of the war for the European security and the future of liberal internationalist world order.
  - The **second lecture** focuses on the EU's response to the Russian war against Ukraine, from the perspective of her function as former High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy

### 4. TEACHING METHOD(S)

Lectures, discussions, workshop, expert presentations, students' assignments and presentations.

## 5. COURSE MATERIAL

Compulsory readings and hand-out of the professor's lectures.

### Compulsory readings

#### 1. The EaP in its historical context: Drivers, domestic pressures and international relations

- Joanna Kaminska (2014) Chapter 4: Shifting EU Policy Eastward?, in: J. Kaminska, Poland and EU Enlargement, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 141-186.
- Bosse, G. (2019). [Ten years of the Eastern Partnership: What role for the EU as a promoter of democracy?](#). *European View*, 18(2), 220-232.
- Youngs, R. (2004) [Normative Dynamics and Strategic Interests in the EU's External Identity](#). *JCMS*, 42: 2, pages 415–35.

#### 2. The EaP policy: Goals, instruments and impact

- Sandra Lavenex & Frank Schimmelfennig (2009) [EU rules beyond EU borders: theorizing external governance in European politics](#). *Journal of European Public Policy* 16:6, 791- 812.
- Laure Delcour (2011) [The institutional functioning of the Eastern Partnership: an early assessment](#). *Eastern Partnership Review*, No.1, October 2011, Tallinn: Estonian Centre of Eastern Partnership.
- Dimitrova, A. L., & Dragneva, R. (2022). [How the EU–Ukraine Association Agreement and its Consequences Necessitated Adaptation and Drove Innovation in the EU](#). *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies* (early view).

#### 3. The 'battle of narratives' in EaP countries: EU and Russian public and cultural diplomacy and local audiences' engagement

- Fanoulis, E., & Revelas, K. (2023). [The conceptual dimensions of EU public diplomacy](#). *Journal of Contemporary European Studies*, 31(1), 50-62.
- Valenza D. (2024). "And then we sang": affective communities and Russian/EU cultural diplomacy in Moldova's Victory Day and Europe Day, 2022, In *The Routledge Handbook of Music and Politics in the Balkans*, edited by C. Baker (forthcoming).
- Feklyunina, V. (2016). [Soft power and identity: Russia, Ukraine and the 'Russian world \(s\)'](#). *European Journal of International Relations*, 22(4), 773-796.

#### 4. The war against Ukraine: Geopolitics, European security and world order

- Bosse, G. (2022). [Values, rights, and changing interests: The EU's response to the war against Ukraine and the responsibility to protect Europeans](#). *Contemporary Security Policy*, 43(3), 531-546.
- Bunde, T. (2022). [Lessons \(to be\) learned? Germany's Zeitenwende and European security after the Russian invasion of Ukraine](#). *Contemporary Security Policy*, 43(3), 516-530.
- Fazal, T. M. (2022). [The Return of Conquest?: Why the Future of Global Order Hinges on Ukraine](#). *Foreign Aff.*, 101, 20.
- Way, L. (2022), [The Rebirth of the Liberal World Order?](#), *Journal of Democracy*, March 2022

## 6. EVALUATION

- Group assignment: Recorded documentary on the Ukraine war (25%);
- Individual assignment: Policy report (25%);
- Oral exam in English (50%)