



## STUDY PROGRAMME(S)

(1) EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies

(2) Transatlantic Affairs

## ACADEMIC YEAR

2020-21

## SEMESTER

2

## COURSE TITLE

Transatlantic Relations

## COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

Stefan FRÖHLICH

## COURSE ASSISTANT(S)

Susan FOGARTY

## 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 political-institutional, (geo)-strategic, economic and socio-cultural issues in current transatlantic relations. After an introductory session including a 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 the relationship from the implosion of the Soviet Union in 1989/90 until the 2020 presidential elections. The second part will analyse the driving forces behind the differences and commonalities in the strategic outlook among both sides and how these translate into foreign policies and open disputes particularly under the Trump administration. It will look at the relevant Security Strategies and the strategic answers to common threats and challenges in the world (e.g. NATO vs. 'coalitions of the willing'). In the third part, the course will examine transatlantic economic links and explain why both sides have developed partly different instruments to shape and manage the global economy; this section will also include the impact of Covid-19 on the transatlantic economy. Finally, other relevant global challenges, such as energy security, will also be dealt with. The fourth part will explore how the future transatlantic agenda will be shaped by emerging powers, such as 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 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.
- 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 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.
- 2.1 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: Structural and internal changes in transatlantic relations after the Cold War

- The US and the EU after the end of the Cold War
- After Liberal Hegemony: The Future Transatlantic Relations

### Part II: Transatlantic Security Relations

- How we see the world and how it impacts our strategic answers
- The evolution of Euro-Atlantic security cooperation

### Part III: Transatlantic economic relations and other global challenges

- The impact of the world's economic and financial crisis and COVID on the transatlantic economy
- The US, the EU, and energy security

### Part IV: Transatlantic relations and other great powers

- The impact of Russia's new revisionism on transatlantic relations
- China's rise to superpower and transatlantic relations

### Outlook and course conclusions

- Open discussion

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

## 4. TEACHING METHOD

- Interactive lectures (incl. a guest lecture, tbc)
- Participation: students are expected to attend all classes, actively participate in the course and read the assigned literature before coming to class.
- 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: Each student writes a class paper on a subject related to the oral presentation.

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)
- 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 session.



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# ECTS CARD

In case of a second-session resit, a 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.

The College of Europe reserves the right to change the delivery and assessment of the course in case of restrictions related to the Covid-19 pandemic. Any communication from the Department in this regard takes precedence over the information provided in this ECTS card.