



STUDY PROGRAMME

European Interdisciplinary Studies, Natolin campus (Advanced Academic Master)

YEAR

2020-2021

COURSE TITLE

Transatlantic Relations

SEMESTER

2

COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

FRÖHLICH Stefan

ACADEMIC ASSISTANT(S)

STEINGASS Sebastian

COURSE TYPE

Optional Specialist Course

MAJOR(S)

EUW

ECTS CREDITS

4

CONTACT HOURS

20

INDIVIDUAL STUDY TIME

80

TUTORIAL(S)

COEFFICIENT

1

LANGUAGE(S)

EN

COURSE OBJECTIVE

This 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 (e.g. NATO vs. 'coalitions of the willing') to common threats and challenges in the world. 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.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students should be able to present and discuss research methods and theoretical approaches of International Relations, tackle relevant questions, and develop and sustain analytical arguments and conclusions related to the course topic.

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

None.

The content of the course can be complemented by content of Compact Seminar: "Digital Transatlantic Rift".

TEACHING METHOD(S)

Seminar with lectures, presentations and discussions.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

The assessment for this course will be as follows:

- Group presentation (30%)
- Class participation (20%)*
- Written, closed-book examination. Students answer 2 out of 4 essay questions. Each answer must not exceed 4 pages (50%).

* Class participation can be part of the course assessment elements only for courses with fewer than 20 participants, excluding students who registered additionally according to article 20 of the Dispositions particulières. If there are 20 or more participants, the assessment of this course will be based on the following assessment elements (as defined above): Group presentation (30%) and written exam (70%).

Retake examinations, i.e. exams passed in the second examination session, will have the same format as those taken during the first exam session. The only exception concerns oral exams, which are replaced in the second exam session by written exams. When a student takes an examination during the second session, the final mark for the course is based solely on the result of the retake examination. No other element of evaluation which would have been taken into consideration in the calculation of the final mark during the first examination session will be considered in the second session. (art. 28 of the Specific Provisions).

The College of Europe reserves the right to change the delivery and assessment of the course in case of circumstances beyond the reasonable control of the College (force majeure). Any communication from the campus administration in this regard takes precedence over the information provided in this ECTS card.

COURSE CONTENTS

This 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 in the relationship since the implosion of the Soviet Union in 1989/90.

The second part will analyse the driving forces behind the differences in the strategic outlook among both sides and how these translate into different foreign policies. It will look at the fundamental principles behind these policies (cultural, religious, historic), the relevant Security Strategies, and the different strategic answers (e.g. NATO vs. “coalitions of the willing”) to common threats and challenges particularly in the Greater Middle East.

In the third part, the course will examine transatlantic economic links and explain why both sides have developed partly different economic means to shape and manage international politics. In this context, 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.

COURSE MATERIALS (readings and other learning resources/tools)

Students are expected to read the assigned literature before coming to class.

In addition to the required reading materials, students are recommended to use and read one of the course's core readings:

Alcaro, Riccardo, Peterson, John, Greco, Ettore (ed.), *The West and the Global Power Shift*, Basingstoke and New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016.

Fröhlich, Stefan, *The New Geopolitics of Transatlantic Relations: Coordinated Responses to Common Dangers*, Washington D.C.: Woodrow Wilson Center Press, 2012.

Lerg, Charlotte, Lachenicht, Susanne, Kimmage, Michael (ed.), *The TransAtlantic reconsidered*, Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2018.