



STUDY PROGRAMME(S)

(1) EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies

(2) Transatlantic Affairs

ACADEMIC YEAR

2020-21

SEMESTER

2

COURSE TITLE

The EU and Peace Mediation

COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

Antje HERRBERG

COURSE ASSISTANT(S)

Elene PANCHULIDZE

NATURE OF COURSE (COMPULSORY, OPTIONAL, ELECTIVE)

(1) Optional course

(2) Elective course

ECTS CREDITS

4.5

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

English

1. COURSE OBJECTIVES

International peace mediation is a growing and recognised professional practice for diplomats and those working in international affairs. Since the end of the Cold War the practice of peace mediation has been on the rise; conflicts are increasingly solved through negotiation and third-party intervention rather than military intervention. This relatively new phenomenon created a new dynamic and caused a number of mediation actors to emerge on the international scene: from the UN to regional organisations such as the OSCE and the African Union, as well as international and local NGOs, all of which play different, complementary and sometimes competitive roles in conflict resolution. The rise of international peace mediation as a professional practice and the increased attention of the UN, the EU and its member states also pose challenges, related to the increasing complexity of conflicts. The UN Guidance for Peace Mediation shows a reinforced political will to make conflict resolution through mediation as efficient as possible. As other professions, mediation is an art, a skill, and a craft. Mediation is a profession in many member states of the EU, and peace mediation and mediation support have become an independent field of expertise. Both member states and the European Union are increasing their investment in this practice as a career track next to diplomacy, with increasing levels of specialization. Yet, the concept and practice of peace mediation is often misunderstood, especially in the classic diplomatic context. Mediation can help anybody in everyday relations and it is necessary on the path towards global peace. Understanding conflict and mediation requires also a deeper awareness of the connection between the body and mind in conflict. Since 2009, the member states of the EU have explicitly recognised the need to make professional and efficient peace mediation an indispensable tool of the EU. The European External Action Service has created a team specifically dedicated for mediation support. The EU is present in most, if not all global conflict theatres through its High Representatives, the EU Special Representatives and the Heads of EU Delegations, both at the table, around the process and post agreement. Therefore, an understanding of peace mediation in the global practice of international affairs and diplomacy is indispensable.



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

- describe the main tools, critical trends, main actors and thematic areas in peace mediation
- understand the difference between mediation and mediation support
- analyse the role of the EU in conflict resolution and peace mediation
- develop the basic competences for mediation
- demonstrate cognitive processes inherent in mediation processes and show the connection between mind and body in conflict and mediation
- conduct conflict analysis and be able to practice reflective learning in peace process situations.

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.
- 1.5 The graduate is able to incorporate knowledge and understanding of various fields of EU external action and of different related disciplines (such as Political Science, International Relations, Law, Economics) at the interface between EU affairs and world politics.
- 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.
- 2.6 The graduate can apply the acquired skills in the analysis and conduct of multifaceted (international) negotiations, both independently and in diverse and multicultural teams.
- 3.4 The graduate has acquired specific professional skills relevant to the practice of EU external action but also transferable to many other fields in the public and private sector.

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, 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.

- 1.5 The graduate is able to incorporate knowledge and understanding of various fields of EU external action and of different related disciplines (such as Political Science, International Relations, Law, Economics) at the interface between EU affairs and world politics.
- 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

Session 1: Introduction to peace mediation

Session 2: How is mediation practiced? Mediation and its processes

Session 3: The European Union in peace mediation, its institutional set up, instruments and policy frameworks

Session 4: Micro skills in mediation: communication methods

Session 5: Conflict analysis and evaluation for mediation and conflict prevention

Session 6: The United Nations, the OSCE and private diplomacy actors in the field of peace mediation

Session 7: Cognitive processes in mediation and negotiation: how the body and mind interconnect to peace mediation

Session 8: Dealing with dilemmas

Session 9: Evaluating and debriefing mediators

Session 10: Reflective practice: geographic case stud(ies), with presentation by EEAS professional/Envoy and debriefings conducted by students

Session 11-12: Trends and issues in peace mediation with practice elements: Religion/ gender/ humanitarian/ climate change

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

4. TEACHING METHOD

- Interactive lectures
- Practical exercises: In each session students are expected to work with mediation skills and tools acquired progressively throughout the course.
- Guest lecture by an official of the EEAS (tbc)
- Individual paper assignment

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



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ECTS CARD

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 (25%)
- Paper (25%): 2,500-3,000 words
- Oral exam (50%)

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

In case of a second-session resit, students will be evaluated on the basis of a 2h-written exam accounting for 100% of the final mark.

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.