



STUDY PROGRAMME(S)

(1) EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies

(2) Transatlantic Affairs

ACADEMIC YEAR

2020-21

SEMESTER

2

COURSE TITLE

EU-China Relations

COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

Jing MEN

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

This optional course will guide students to study EU-China relations and to develop an insight into the nature of this bilateral relationship. Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in her State of the Union address said that “[t]he relationship between the European Union and China is simultaneously one of the most strategically important and one of the most challenging we have.” As an important country in the EU’s external relations, China’s partnership with the EU has been evolving rapidly since the late 1990s. In order to help students reach a thorough understanding of EU-China relations, the course will focus on the following questions: when and why were diplomatic relations established between the EU and China; how have bilateral ties been evolving since then; what are the shared interests and the major differences between the EU and China; what are the opportunities and the problems in their bilateral relations; and how will the partnership further develop in the future?

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

- describe the main steps in the development of EU-China relations
- better understand the complexity of EU-China relations via the multi-disciplinary perspectives offered by the course, which covers subject areas of IR, political science, history, economics and law
- explain the institutional arrangements of the bilateral relationship as well as the major current problems and the prospects of cooperation
- critically assess the strategy of the EU and its member states towards China as well as of China’s policy towards the EU
- comment on the triangular relationship between the EU, China and the US, as well as between the EU, China, and Africa



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 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.
- 2.1 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 of suggesting possible action that contributes to problem-solving in a creative way.
- 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 to work efficiently and effectively through planning, organising, setting priorities and meeting deadlines.
- 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.
- 1.3 The graduate has good knowledge of, depending on his or her disciplinary focus, the political and/or legal systems, the decision-making processes, the economic structures and the main internal and external policies of the European Union and the United States.
- 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

Session 1: Introduction

Session 2: Framework of relationship between the EU and China

Session 3: Political relations and human rights issues

Session 4: Economic relations

Session 5: Climate change and energy cooperation

Session 6: EU-US-China relations

Session 7: EU-Africa-China relations

Session 8: Summary of the course and prospects for EU-China relations

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

4. TEACHING METHOD

- Participation: Students are expected to regularly attend the class, to prepare the required readings and to participate actively in the discussions.
- Interactive lectures
- Oral group presentations
- Paper: Each student will write a research paper, which can be based on the topic of the presentations, but students can also choose a different topic.

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

- a group presentation and class discussion (15%)
- a research paper (35%): 2,000-2,500 words
- a written exam (50%)

In case of a second-session resit, the written exam (2h) 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.