



STUDY PROGRAMME

Master of Arts in Transatlantic Affairs

ACADEMIC YEAR

2019 - 2020

SEMESTER

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COURSE TITLE

US-EU Relations in the 21st Century: Transatlantic Project

COURSE PROFESSOR

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COURSE ASSISTANT

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NATURE OF COURSE (COMPULSORY, OPTIONAL)

Compulsory

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

English

ECTS CREDITS

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1. COURSE OBJECTIVE

This course is designed to enable students who have familiarized with transatlantic relations during their first semester in the MATA programme to go a step further and apply this knowledge to a specific policy task, moving from theory to practice, from sound analysis to operational policy advice. The task is chosen based on its relevance to the evolving transatlantic debate. Throughout the seminar-style course, students will be guided towards recognizing, understanding, and addressing defining questions and decision points that will shape transatlantic cooperation in the 21st century. The project-based course will require the class to work as one team – via several individual assignments - towards the preparation of a collective think tank-like policy report offering policy-oriented recommendations. The interactive course aims to provide basic skills for working on the cusp between research and policy.

For the academic year 2019-2020, the class will be asked to articulate a transatlantic strategy towards China that aligns EU approaches with US interests and policies in key areas. Acting as if they were US-based think tank, students will be expected to offer the next US President-elect a menu of options, from a US perspective, to enlist Europe towards a coordinated approach to China.

2. LEARNING OUTCOMES

Course objectives are related to the following learning outcomes of the MATA programme:

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.

1.5 The graduate is able to incorporate knowledge and understanding of various fields of transatlantic affairs and of different related disciplines (such as Economics, International Relations, Legal Studies, Political Science) as well as to adopt both a European and a US perspective on transatlantic affairs.

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.

2.4 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

Module 1: Introduction to the Course / The Transatlantic Relationship and China's Rise

Module 2: Do Transatlantic Partners See Eye to Eye? China in US and EU Policies

Module 3: A Transatlantic Strategy vis a vis China / US Options for Successfully Engaging Europe

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

4. TEACHING METHOD(S)

- Interactive lectures
- Oral presentations/Class debates
- Collective policy report

FURTHER DETAILS ON THE TEACHING METHOD

Interactive lectures: the course foresees as little ex-cathedra teaching as possible, prioritizing class discussions and debates

- Participation: students are expected to attend all classes, actively participate in the course and read the assigned literature before coming to class. They are also expected to establish interactive settings for team work outside the class hours in order to prepare the collective policy report.
- Oral presentations: students will give oral presentations either in pairs/groups or individually on topics provided by the instructor. Class debates will be organized around oral presentations.
- Collective policy report: the class will be guided towards the preparation of a final report with policy recommendations.



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5. COURSE MATERIAL

Please refer to the intranet course page for access to the detailed reading list (required and supplementary readings).

6. EVALUATION

- class participation and individual assignments (30%);
- collective policy report (60%);
- presentation and defence of the policy report (10%).

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