

STUDY PROGRAMME(S)

(1) Transatlantic Affairs

ACADEMIC YEAR

2019 - 2020

SEMESTER

1

COURSE TITLEUS-EU Relations in the 21st Century: A Multidisciplinary Analysis of Transatlantic AffairsCOURSE PROFESSOR(S)

John Shattuck (The Fletcher School)

COURSE ASSISTANT(S)

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NATURE OF COURSE (COMPULSORY, OPTIONAL, ELECTIVE)

(1) Compulsory

ECTS CREDITS

5

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

English

1. COURSE OBJECTIVES

The course will explore the origins of transatlantic cooperation and the creation of common European economic and political structures, notably the European Union (EU), and the development of transatlantic security alliances, particularly the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). It will compare constitutional governance in the differing federal systems of the US and the EU, explore centrifugal forces that are testing the sustainability of the EU, and examine the populist and nationalist political movements and neo-authoritarian tendencies that are challenging liberal democracy on both sides of the Atlantic. Areas of economic cooperation and tension will be studied, including the financial crisis, international trade and regulatory affairs, and the negotiation of transatlantic trade and investment relationships. The course will also take up cooperative and conflicting policies of transatlantic partners in addressing security problems, including the relationship of Russia, Ukraine and countries to the east and south with evolving transatlantic security, economic and political structures.

The course is designed to introduce students in the substance and dynamics of transatlantic affairs in both the US and the EU. The class will examine institutional structures and the political forces affecting them. Students will debate choices that confront US and European officials in building these structures and responding to these forces. Students will develop an understanding of the dynamics of the issue studied; acquire knowledge of the options considered by decision-makers; be exposed to the political environment and pressures under which policy-makers make their decisions; and study the interaction among politics, economics, security, law and culture in framing transatlantic relations.





2. LEARNING OUTCOMES

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.

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.

3. COURSE CONTENTS

- Course Introduction and Overview
- History of the European Project and the Atlantic Alliance
- Foundation of postwar transatlantic relations – Yalta, Marshall Plan
- Political/legal Issues:
 - o Comparative federalism in the EU and US
 - o How US and EU institutional and legal structures for transatlantic relations work
 - o Post-Cold War forces of disintegration, failed states, human rights wars and the European refugee crisis
 - o Centrifugal forces and populist-nationalist challenges to liberal democratic governance in Europe and the US
- Economic Issues:
 - o The financial crisis and its transatlantic effects





- US-EU cooperation and competition in international trade and regulatory affairs
- Negotiations over the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership
- Security/human rights issues:
 - NATO, transatlantic security and the future of transatlantic cooperation
 - Eastern relations: Russia and Ukraine

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

4. TEACHING METHOD

- Interactive lectures
- Oral presentations
- Class debates
- Individual written assignments

FURTHER DETAILS ON THE TEACHING METHOD

- Interactive lectures: slides are provided for most sessions.
- Participation: students are expected to attend all classes, actively participate in the course and read the assigned literature before coming to class.
- Briefing paper and oral presentation: students are assigned to prepare short briefing papers and present them in class.
- Written final assignment: each student will write a final paper on a topic assigned towards the end of the course.

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).

6. EVALUATION

- briefing papers and class presentations (30%),
- participation in class debate and discussion (30%),
- final exam paper (40%).

