



STUDY PROGRAMME

POL

ACADEMIC YEAR

2017-2018

SEMESTER

Second

COURSE TITLE

International Organisations, Globalisation and the Changing Role of the State

COURSE PROFESSOR

P. Van Ham

COURSE ASSISTANT

A. AUMAITRE BALADO

NATURE OF COURSE (COMPULSORY, OPTIONAL)

Optional course

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

English

ECTS CREDITS

5

1. COURSE OBJECTIVES

The role of the European state is changing rapidly. European states harbour few illusions that they can manage and solve the serious challenges they are facing on their own. In order to cope with a globalising world, states increasingly pool their capabilities and sovereignty to achieve shared goals. This course tracks the evolution of the European state from the Treaty of Westphalia, evaluates the role and scope of International Organisations, and examines the impact of globalisation.

With the Peace of Westphalia (1648), European states agreed that their political power was limited to specific geographic borders. The modern state was therefore based on the principle of territoriality. That is: no external power can gain authority over a state's territory, unless it has willingly agreed to give up its sovereignty with respect to certain policy issues. Over the centuries, international law has modified state behaviour. But it was only after World War Two that robust International Organisations (such as the EU, NATO and the UN) have emerged, establishing regimes which now deal with almost all imaginable policy issues, from managing world trade to dealing with climate change. Obviously, the nature and role of states have changed dramatically during this period. How do contemporary European states position themselves and look after their national interests in these changed circumstances? What will be the role of International Organisations in the future?

The course will further map out the on-going debate about the effects of globalisation on the governance-capacity and role of the state, a question which has again become politically



important after the major financial crisis starting in 2008. Some authors claim – either with enthusiasm or with regret – that the state is becoming obsolescent. Others take a more nuanced stance, claiming that the state may have become weaker in fulfilling its traditional roles (like redistribution), but that it is gaining strength with respect to other policy-functions (such as creating international standards on trade and investment). The on-going Euro-crisis will be analysed against this background. How should we interpret the possible development of the EU into a Political Union? Is this an inevitable re-interpretation of what sovereignty means in the 21st century, or will it result in a political backlash of the state, and even the break-up of the EU as we know it?

This course explores the main academic and policy debates, and asks whether the European state will still exist at the end of this century. It will evaluate these questions in the context of the dynamic development of key International Organisations with a specific emphasis on the EU.

On completion of this course, the students will be expected to be able to understand complex issues such as the role of International Organisations and the reasons why states are prepared to relinquish parts of their national sovereignty and decision-making capability to them, the impact of the concept of "self-determination", etc.

The acquisition of knowledge will allow them to think creatively about the future of the the EU, the European state, globalisation and the prospects for European and global governance.

Thanks to their oral participation, the students will enhance their communication and debating skills. Thanks to the written exercises, they will be able to articulate their opinion on complex issues, with the help of theoretical tools as well as concrete examples.

2. COURSE CONTENTS

Seminar 1: Origins of the European State

Seminar 2: The State and Self-Determination in Modern International Politics

Seminar 3: Transnational Governance – Relevance and Prospects

Seminar 4: International Organisations, Identity, and the Importance of Values

Seminar 5: Managing Money and Markets – Possible / Desirable?

Seminar 6: Globalisation and Democracy - A Cosmopolitan Illusion?

Seminar 7: Globalisation, Violence and Security Post 9/11

Seminar 8: Globalization and the European State in 2025

3. TEACHING METHOD

This course takes the form of a lecture given to a maximum of 25 students. Active participation is required to allow for a fruitful interaction among Professor and students.

4. FURTHER DETAILS ON THE TEACHING METHOD



College of Europe
Collège d'Europe



Natolin

ECTS CARD

5. COURSE MATERIAL

Please refer to the detailed course outline for the full reading list.

6. EVALUATION

This course requires students to write an essay, participate actively in class, and pass a final oral examination.

During the semester, each student should write a short paper on one of the topics discussed during the course and/or on the basis of the reading material. The paper should be 3000 words long (+/- 10%, footnotes included, bibliography excluded). The organisation of both the footnotes and the bibliography should strictly follow College standards.

At the end of the semester, there is an oral examination. Students are asked to answer a diverse set of questions regarding the content of the course, including their paper. Their final grade therefore takes into account class participation, the paper and the oral exam.

Students also receive a grade for their oral participation in class, which should reflect their dynamism and the quality of their argumentation.

Assessment at second attempt

During the second examination session the course is assessed 100% on the basis of a resit exam.