



College of Europe
Collège d'Europe



Natolin

ECTS CARD

STUDY PROGRAMME(S) / STUDY TRACK(S)

Master of Arts in European Interdisciplinary Studies
Master of Arts in Transatlantic Affairs (Study Track: European Interdisciplinary Studies)

YEAR

2026-2027

COURSE TITLE

International Cooperation and the Governance of Migration

SEMESTER

1

PROFESSOR

CASSARINO Jean-Pierre

ACADEMIC ASSISTANT

BEN MEFTEH Nour

COURSE TYPE

Core Course

MAJOR(S)

Not applicable

ECTS CREDITS

4

TEACHING HOURS

20

INDIVIDUAL & GROUP STUDY TIME

80

TUTORIAL(S)

COEFFICIENT

1

LANGUAGE(S)

EN

COURSE OBJECTIVES

International cooperation on migration governance is often presented as a consensual and pragmatic response to the challenges of cross-border mobility. Yet, such cooperation is embedded in asymmetrical power relations, selective narratives, and resilient policy paradigms that privilege security over protection. Processes of policy transfer, externalization, and informalization can shift responsibilities to other states, reduce transparency, and gradually alter patterns of interdependence.

By tracing historical trends, theoretical foundations, and the diffusion of governance practices, this course critically examines the dual face of cooperation as both a regulatory framework and a site of contestation. Students will explore how deportation, deterrence, and norm localization reshape the governance landscape, while considering the scope for alternative, equitable, and legitimate approaches. Ultimately, the course invites reflection on whether prevailing paradigms can be transformed, and under what political and epistemic conditions new narratives might emerge.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

At the end of this course, the students will be able to:

- 1) Critically analyse the governance of migration and deconstruct the mechanisms that underpin it, highlight the gap between intentions and outcomes, and identify the factors motivating state and non-state actors to cooperate (A1, MATA1.5);
- 2) Understand the ways in which the international cooperation on migration governance has expanded by gradually mobilizing state and non-state actors, embedded in asymmetrical power relations, selective narratives, and resilient policy paradigms (A2);

- 3) Construct, present and defend a case clearly and coherently in writing as well as before their peers orally, and constructively question and critique the cases made by others based on real-life case studies in international migration governance (B4);
- 4) Autonomously gather, sift, assess and interpret information from multiple sources. On the basis of referenced evidence, they are able to formulate and develop a coherent and reasoned stance and justifiable conclusions (B6, MATA2.4).

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

Students are encouraged to read some key references mentioned in the bibliography (see below).

TEACHING METHOD(S)

The teaching method is based on a mix of interactive lectures, student-led presentations, group exercises and research. Students are required to have read the compulsory (key) readings and considered any accompanying discussion questions in preparation for the session.

ASSESSMENT METHOD(S)

Assessment is based on the following elements:

- Group presentations (30% of the final mark): Practical exercise in groups, students lead part of the class focusing on a particular theme related to international cooperation and migration governance (see Course Outline);
- Final exam (70% of the final mark): On-site oral examination of 20 minutes with no preparation time.

COURSE CONTENTS

Session 1: Turning the governance of migration into a cooperative system

Session 2: Theories and key concepts

Session 3: The diffusion of governance

Session 4: The other side of cooperation

Session 5: The gradual centrality of deportation in migration governance

Session 6: The drive for informalization

Session 7: Through the looking-glass of migration governance

Sessions 8 & 9: Case studies: Group exercises

Session 10: Political action and counternarratives at a time of consensus

COURSE MATERIALS (readings and other learning resources/tools)

The course materials consist of articles and other publications as specified in the Course Outline.