



STUDY PROGRAMME

European Interdisciplinary Studies, Natolin campus (Advanced Academic Master)

YEAR

2021-2022

COURSE TITLE

After Liberal Hegemony - The transatlantic partnership and the return of Great Power Competition

ACADEMIC ASSISTANT

STEINGASS Sebastian

COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

FRÖHLICH Stefan

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

WOŁOWIEC Jacek

COURSE TYPE

Optional Specialist Course

MAJOR(S)

EPAP, EUW, EHC

ECTS CREDITS

4

SEMESTER

2

TEACHING HOURS

20

INDIVIDUAL & GROUP STUDY TIME

80

TUTORIAL(S)

COEFFICIENT

1

LANGUAGE(S)

EN

COURSE OBJECTIVE

This compact course examines the US' role in the Middle East and North Africa since the end of the Cold War. After an introductory session including a brief review of the geostrategic relevance of the region and the history of US engagement there, the first part of the course will analyse the structural changes and paradigm shifts after the end of the Cold War arguing that through repeated (military) interventions the country had become the dominating actor and deeply entangled in MENA power politics. The second part will analyse the profound shift in US foreign policy towards the region after the terrorist attacks in 2001 which led the Bush administration to replace traditional balance of power politics by unfettered democracy promotion. In the third part, the course will examine how Obama's pivot to Asia-Pacific, Trump's "America First" and the new geopolitics of energy security led to a withdrawal from Washington's hegemonic position in the region. The fourth and final part will discuss the major implications of US disengagement on the MENA regional security complex: on the one hand, it increased strategic uncertainty particularly for close US-allies, on the other hand it opened the door for other external great powers to fill the power vacuum.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students should be able to present and discuss research methods and theoretical approaches of International Relations, tackle relevant questions, and develop and sustain analytical arguments and conclusions related to the course topic.

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

None.

The content of the course can be complemented by content of Compact Seminar: "US Foreign Policy towards the Middle East and North Africa".

TEACHING METHOD(S)

Seminar with lectures, presentations and discussions.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

The assessment for this course will be as follows:

- Group presentation (30%)
- Class participation (20%)*
- Written, closed-book examination. Students answer 2 out of 4 essay questions. Each answer must not exceed 4 pages (50%).

* Class participation can be part of the course assessment elements only for courses with fewer than 20 participants, excluding students who registered additionally according to article 20 of the Dispositions particulières. If there are 20 or more participants, the assessment of this course will be based on the following assessment elements (as defined above): Group presentation (30%) and written exam (70%).

Retake examinations, i.e. exams passed in the second examination session, will have the same format as those taken during the first exam session. The only exception concerns oral exams, which are replaced in the second exam session by written exams. When a student takes an examination during the second session, the final mark for the course is based solely on the result of the retake examination. No other element of evaluation which would have been taken into consideration in the calculation of the final mark during the first examination session will be considered in the second session. (art. 28 of the Specific Provisions).

The College of Europe reserves the right to change the delivery and assessment of the course in case of circumstances beyond the reasonable control of the College (*force majeure*). Any communication from the campus administration in this regard takes precedence over the information provided in this ECTS card.

COURSE CONTENTS

Students are expected to attend all classes, actively participate in the course and read the assigned literature before coming to class.

In addition to the required reading materials, students are recommended to use and read one of the course's core readings:

- Alcaro, Riccardo, John Peterson & Ettore Greco (eds.), *The West and the Global Power Shift*, Basingstoke, Palgrave Macmillan, 2016.
- Fröhlich, Stefan, *The New Geopolitics of Transatlantic Relations: Coordinated Responses to Common Dangers*, Washington, D.C., Woodrow Wilson Center Press, 2012.
- Lerg, Charlotte, Susanne Lachenicht, & Michael Kimmage (eds.), *The Transatlantic Reconsidered*, Manchester, Manchester University Press, 2018.

A familiarity with 20th century diplomatic history in general and transatlantic relations in particular would be helpful. Students should make use of the relevant newspapers and magazines dealing with current foreign policy issues and transatlantic relations. They are expected to make contributions to the discussion sessions after each lecture and presentation.

The course structure consists of lectures, student presentations (individually 10-15 min; in pairs/groups 15-20 min), and open discussions of the presentations. While preparing the presentations, students should also use additional materials by doing own research. The assistant will coordinate the topic selection before the beginning of the course.

Each session will begin with a brief lecture introducing the topic. It will be followed by an oral presentation by the students and discussion.

Note that in light of current events, the readings below may still be updated before the start of the course.

INTRODUCTION

Session: History and characteristic principles of 20th century transatlantic relations (2 hrs)

PART I: Transatlantic relations in a changing global order

Session 1: The US and the EU after the end of the Cold War (2 hrs)

Session 2: Future Transatlantic Relations in a multipolar world (2 hrs)

PART II: Transatlantic security relations

Session 1: How we see the world and how it impacts our strategic answers (2 hrs)

Session 2: The evolution of Euro-Atlantic security cooperation and transatlantic conflict and crisis management (2 hrs)

PART III: Transatlantic geo-economics and other global challenges

Session 1: The impact of the world's economic and financial crisis and COVID on the transatlantic economy (2 hrs)

Session 2: The US, the EU, and the new geopolitics of energy security (2hrs)

PART IV: Transatlantic relations and the return of great power politics

Session 1: The impact of Russia's new revisionism on transatlantic relations (2 hrs)

Session 2: China's rise to superpower and transatlantic relations (2 hrs)

Outlook and course conclusions - open discussion (2 hrs)

COURSE MATERIALS (readings and other learning resources/tools)

Indicated in detail in the Course Outline.

Students are expected to read the assigned literature before coming to class.