College of Europe
Collège d'Europe

Brugge | Natolin

ECTS CARD

STUDY PROGRAMME	YEAR
European Interdisciplinary Studies, Natolin campus (Advanced Academic Master)	2021-2022

COURSE TITLE	ACADEMIC ASSISTANT
The European Union and Bi- and Multilateral Diplomacy	HAMMAMI Amel

COURSE PROFESSOR(S)	ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
MAYR-HARTING Thomas	WOŁOWIEC Jacek

COURSE TYPE	MAJOR(S)	ECTS CREDITS
Optional Specialist Course	EPAP, EUW, EHC	4

SEMESTER	TEACHING HOURS	INDIVIDUAL & GROUP STUDY TIME	TUTORIAL(S)	COEFFICIENT	LANGUAGE(S)
2	20	80		1	EN

COURSE OBJECTIVE

Students learn about the specific challenges the European Union faces as a diplomatic actor and to illustrate these specificities based on practical examples of EU diplomacy.

Students will be introduced to these challenges and specificities with a particular focus on the EU's work at the United Nations as well as on the EU's bilateral relations with the countries of the Eastern Partnership, Russia, Turkey and the Western Balkans."

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Based wherever possible on real-life case studies, students will obtain practical insights into the action and working methods of EU diplomats in bi- and multilateral diplomacy, in particular when

- coordinating EU positions and representing the EU at the United Nations in New York;
- developing common EU positions regarding relations with important international actors such as Russia and Turkey;
- preparing and negotiating EU positions or joint statements in the context of the EU's Eastern Neighbourhood Policy;
- engaging in the framework of/with the specific multilateral formats/structures dealing with conflict regulation in eastern Europe.

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

None.

The content of the course can be complemented by content of the workshops on "Public Diplomacy" and "European Energy Diplomacy" and/or a simulation game on "Digital Diplomacy".

TEACHING METHOD(S)

The course will be lecture based, with group presentations and simulations by students.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

- Students will sit a written, closed book (2 hours) exam, consisting of two questions, counting for 75 per cent of the overall mark.
- 25 per cent of the overall mark will be based on presentations on one of the subjects of the course (max. 2 students per presentation, 5 minutes per student) or alternatively on participation in a simulated negotiation exercise (max. 6 students per simulation). A list of possible subjects for presentations and simulation exercises will be circulated during the introductory session of the course and students would need to inform the Professor of their choices ahead of the second session.

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.

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).

COURSE CONTENTS

The course will consist of a general introduction on the EU as a diplomatic actor after Lisbon and the two following segments:

1. Segment 1 will describe the EU's position as an "enhanced observer" and a "major group" at the UN. It will deal with the practical problems of collecting information and reporting as well as coordinating EU positions and representing the EU in New York. It will explain the role and competences of the EU Delegation and study the process through which EU positions are defined. It will look at the relationship of the EU Head of Delegation with his/her headquarters (mandates, margins of manoeuvre and 'red lines') as well as with EU Member States, including in particular those who are permanent or non-permanent members of the UN Security Council. A number of specific cases will be studied, such as UN General Assembly Resolution 68/262 of 27 March 2014 on the "Territorial Integrity of Ukraine" or UN Security Council Resolution 2240 of 9 October 2015 authorising "Operation Sophia", with a particular focus on working methods.

2. Segment 2 will provide practical examples of the EU's "modus operandi" in bilateral diplomacy. It will start by taking a particular look at the work of EU diplomats when common EU positions on potentially divisive topics such as the best way to handle relations with Russia or Turkey need to be defined. The discussions on the "guiding principles" governing the EU-Russia relationship as well as on the EU reaction to the failed coup attempt in Turkey in July 2016 and subsequent developments to date will serve as case studies. A second set of examples will illustrate the role of EU diplomats and the EEAS in general in preparing and negotiating – first within the EU and then (where relevant) with the partner countries concerned – EU positions or joint statements. Successive EU Council positions on Belarus and the Republic of Moldova will serve as case studies, as will the Joint Declarations of the Eastern Partnership Summits of Riga (Mai 2015) and Brussels (November 2017). Based on these documents and more recent developments, the course will discuss the respective importance of "geopolitics" and "shared European values" in the EU's relations with its eastern neighbours. Finally, this segment will study the working methods of EU diplomats when engaging in/with the various formats established

for dealing with protracted conflicts in the EU's eastern neighbourhood. A distinction will be made between structures where the EU is involved as a full participant (Geneva International Discussions/Georgia), or as an observer (5+2 talks/Transdnestrian settlement) – and cases where the EU aims to support a process in which it does not play a formal part (OSCE Minsk Group/Nagorno-Karabakh; Normandy Four/eastern Ukraine).

COURSE MATERIALS (readings and other learning resources/tools)

No prior reading is required. Relevant background information/documents will be available on intranet before the seminar.