



College of Europe
Collège d'Europe

Brugge



Natolin

ECTS CARD

STUDY PROGRAMME

European Interdisciplinary Studies, Natolin campus (Advanced Academic Master)

YEAR

2022-2023

COURSE TITLE

Digital Transatlantic Rift

SEMESTER

2

COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

CHASE Peter

ACADEMIC ASSISTANT(S)

BRESKAYA Maria

COURSE TYPE

Compact Seminar

MAJOR(S)

EUW

ECTS CREDITS

no ECTS

TEACHING HOURS

8

INDIVIDUAL & GROUP STUDY TIME

TUTORIAL(S)

COEFFICIENT

not applicable

LANGUAGE(S)

EN

COURSE OBJECTIVE

To provide students with an understanding of the nature of the EU-US digital divide, particularly with respect to data protection, digital trade, competition policy and content regulation, while at the same time gaining insights into the EU's laws and policies in these areas as well as the political dynamics and processes that developed them.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

The European Union and the United States are frequently at odds on digital policy issues, even as the internet "should" bring these two highly digitalized economies closer together. Students should acquire a better understanding of the nature of this digital divide, particularly with respect to data protection, digital trade, competition policy and content regulation, while at the same time gaining insights into the EU's laws and policies in these areas as well as the political dynamics and processes that developed them.

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

No preparation other than an inquiring mind is required; readings will be suggested, but not mandatory.

TEACHING METHOD(S)

The seminar format will encourage active participation by all.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

The compact seminar will be assessed on a 'pass/fail' basis through:

- an online multiple-choice test (80% of the mark) at the end of the final course session - 15 minutes to answer 7 questions, and
- overall attendance (20% of the mark).

The weighted average of both assessment elements needs to be equal or greater than 50% for a student to pass the compact seminar.

Each student is entitled to re-taking the test once. The re-take test would account for 80% of the mark whilst overall attendance would account for the remaining 20%.

Since compact seminars carry no ECTS credits, the final result will be present on the transcript, but will have no impact on the student's final average, nor on the overall grade, nor on attaining the diploma.

COURSE CONTENTS

The eight-hour course will be divided into four two-hour segments on the general themes of data protection (in the commercial sector as well as in the law enforcement/national security contexts); digital trade and investment (EU and US policies behind digital provisions in trade agreements as well as investment screening); competition ("Controlling the American Digital Giants" through tax policy and platform regulation); and content regulation (preserving freedom of expression while minimizing "hate speech" and disinformation). The EU role, policies and strategies in countering terrorism and hybrid warfare: a "soft target" or a pivotal player?

COURSE MATERIALS (readings and other learning resources/tools)

Students will be encouraged, but not required, to read relevant material (much of it in the form of original documents rather than analyses), including:

- The European Commission's [Data Strategy package](#) (including the [Strategy for Data](#));
- The proposal for a new Digital Services Act, which should come out in December 2020;
- The European Court of Justice [rulings on Safe Harbor](#) (the Schrems case) and [Privacy Shield](#) (Schrems II);
- The EU-US [Privacy Shield agreement](#) (specifically the U.S. government's unilateral undertakings);
- The EU-US "[Umbrella Agreement](#)" on the use of personal data in law enforcement;
- [Trade and Privacy: Complicated Bedfellows?](#)
- The digital provisions of the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement and the EU-Japan Economic Partnership Agreement;
- EU Commission [Proposal on a Digital Services Tax](#);
- EU Commission [Communication on Tackling Illegal Content On-Line](#).