



STUDY PROGRAMME

European Interdisciplinary Studies, Natolin campus (Advanced Academic Master)

YEAR

2022-2023

COURSE TITLE

Paradoxes of European Power: From the Cold War to the War in Ukraine

SEMESTER

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COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

KUNDNANI Hans

ACADEMIC ASSISTANT(S)

HERRMANN Katja-Elisabeth

COURSE TYPE

Contextual Course

MAJOR(S)

Not applicable

ECTS CREDITS

No ECTS

TEACHING HOURS

10

INDIVIDUAL & GROUP STUDY TIME

TUTORIAL(S)

COEFFICIENT

Not applicable

LANGUAGE(S)

EN

COURSE OBJECTIVE

The aim of the course is to explore the EU's relationship with power, the concept of a European foreign policy, the evolution of the EU's objectives and tools, theories of the EU as a foreign policy actor, and the idea of an emerging "geopolitical" Europe. In doing so, it will aim to put the current debate on the EU's role in, and response to, the war in Ukraine, in conceptual and historical context.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students will learn the history of the EU's engagement with the rest of the world and the key events and processes that shaped the discourse on its relationship with the concept of power.
- Students shall develop an understanding of the history of the EU's foreign policy and debates about the EU as a foreign policy actor.
- Students shall develop an ability to critically evaluate claims about European power and the EU's relationship with, and role in, the world.

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

Students should read as many as possible of the texts listed below. In addition, they should follow news coverage of the EU's role in the war in Ukraine. Several other elements of the academic programme will also provide useful background for this course: Introduction to International Relations; History of European Civilisation; Foreign Policy Analysis; Geopolitics; EU institutions and decision-making; The Enlightenment.

TEACHING METHOD(S)

This course will consist of five sessions, which will include short lectures, discussions of short texts and audio-visual material, debates on key questions, and other interactive methods. Students are encouraged to participate as much as possible, share their own ideas, and challenge each other – and me!

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

The course 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 course.

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 contextual courses carry no ECTS credits, the final result will be present on the transcript, but will have no impact on students' final average, nor on overall grade, nor on attaining the diploma.

COURSE CONTENTS

- What is “Europe”? Who defines the European interest?
- What does Europe stand for? What are its objectives?
- Modalities of EU foreign policy – economic and military tools
- The evolution of EU foreign policy in the post-Cold War period – key challenges and crises
- Theories of the EU as an international political actor
- The concepts of “strategic autonomy” and “European sovereignty” and the idea of a “geopolitical” Europe
- The EU’s role in, and response to, the war in Ukraine

COURSE MATERIALS (readings and other learning resources/tools)

- Timothy Snyder, “Europe’s dangerous creation myth”, Politico, 1 May 2019, <https://www.politico.eu/article/europe-creation-project-myth-history-nation-state/>.
- Ian Manners, “Normative Power Europe: A Contradiction in Terms?” *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 40/2, 2002, pp. 235-238.
- Jan Zielonka, “Europe’s new civilizing missions: the EU’s normative power discourse”, *Journal of Political Ideologies*, 18/1, 2013.
- Ivan Krastev and Mark Leonard, *New World Order: The balance of soft power and the rise of the herbivorous powers*, European Council on Foreign Relations, 2007.
- Speech by Ursula von der Leyen, 29 November 2019, https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/SPEECH_19_6408.
- Hans Kundnani, “Europe’s sovereignty conundrum”, Berlin Policy Journal, 13 May 2020, <https://berlinpolicyjournal.com/europes-sovereignty-conundrum/>.