



## STUDY PROGRAMME

European General Studies

## ACADEMIC YEAR

2021 - 2022

## SEMESTER

2nd

## COURSE TITLE

The EU's Eastern Partnership: Geopolitics, Peoples and Identities

## COURSE PROFESSOR

Giselle BOSSE

## COURSE ASSISTANT

Hanna CORSINI

## NATURE OF COURSE (COMPULSORY, OPTIONAL)

Optional

## LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

English

## ECTS CREDITS

LAW: 3 ECTS; ECO (/ELEA, /EPPA): 3 ECTS; LAW/ELEA: 2 ECTS; POL: 4 ECTS;  
POL/EPPA: 3.5 ECTS

## 1. COURSE OBJECTIVE

This seminar will equip students with a thorough knowledge and a deeper understanding of the EU's Eastern Partnership (EaP). The overarching objective is that students acquire the ability to critically assess the EaP in its wider context, by learning to understand and explain the EaP as a phenomenon or symptom of broader historical, political and social processes.

## 2. LEARNING OUTCOMES

On completion of the course, students will be expected to:

- have acquired a thorough knowledge of the history of EU relations with the EaP countries, the contents and goals of the EaP, the legal base of the policy and key decision-making processes;
- have acquired the ability to critically assess the impact of the EaP in a variety of policy areas in each of the six EaP countries (policy analysis/ impact assessment);
- have developed a deeper understanding of the EaP as a phenomenon or symptom of broader historical, political and social processes;
- have acquired the awareness of and ability to critically evaluate competing historiographies and constructions of national identity in the EaP countries, including the influence of 'Western' and Russian 'soft power' on public opinion;
- have enhanced their ability to critically assess conflicting accounts of and explanations for the Ukraine conflict;
- have further developed the competence to distinguish and apply contenting theories of European integration and international relations, as well as democratization/ Europeanization and European public policy to analyse the EaP in context;
- have acquired and/or further developed their generic skills: trained how to write and present a policy report; trained how to make a short documentary and present complex political realities



in a neutral and accessible manner; further developed their diplomatic skills by engaging in discussions on politically controversial and sensitive issues.

### 3. COURSE CONTENTS

The course will be divided in 4 sessions, each one made of two lectures of approximately 3 hours:

- The EaP in its historical context: Drivers, domestic pressures and international relations
  - **The first lecture** focuses on the relations between the EU and the countries in Eastern Europe since the end of the Cold War.
  - **The second lecture** examines the development of the European Neighbourhood Policy and the Eastern Partnership.
- The EaP policy: Goals, instruments and impact
  - **The first lecture** introduces the legal bases of the EaP and its instruments, including formal and informal policy formulation and decision-making procedures.
  - **The second lecture** provides a detailed overview of theoretical frameworks and key concepts which have been developed to assess and explain the impact of the EaP policy.#
- The peoples in the EaP countries: Identity, nationhood and the influence of 'Western' and Russian 'soft power'
  - The **first lecture** focuses on the historiographies of the EaP countries and examines past and ongoing nation-building processes.
  - The **second lecture** assesses the EU's and Russia's cultural diplomacy efforts in the EaP countries.
- The conflict in Ukraine: Regional power politics and its consequences
  - The **first lecture** introduces the Ukraine conflict and discusses the situation of the people in the war-ridden territories of Ukraine, and the scale of the humanitarian emergency on the ground.
  - The **second lecture** places the Ukraine crisis and its competing 'truths' into the context of regional power politics: How can we explain the origins and escalation of the crisis and who bears responsibility for the conflict and its victims?

### 4. TEACHING METHOD(S)

Lectures, discussions, workshop, expert round tables, students' exercises and presentations.

### 5. COURSE MATERIAL

Compulsory readings are available on the intranet page of the course.

### 6. EVALUATION

- Individual country report (written & presentation): Assessing the impact of the EaP policy (10%);
- Group presentation: Recorded documentary on the Ukraine conflict (15%);
- Individual assignment: Policy report (25%);



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# ECTS CARD

- Oral exam in English (50%)