



STUDY PROGRAMME(S)

(1) EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies

(2) Transatlantic Affairs

ACADEMIC YEAR

2024-25

SEMESTER

1

COURSE TITLE

Understanding EU Diplomacy in Practice through the Lens of Case Studies

COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

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COURSE ASSISTANT(S)

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NATURE OF COURSE (COMPULSORY, OPTIONAL, ELECTIVE)

(1) Compulsory Course

(2) Elective Course

ECTS CREDITS

3.5

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

English

1. COURSE OBJECTIVES

This compulsory course aims to provide students with an in-depth understanding of the diplomacy of the European Union (EU) as a multilateral actor in a multipolar and disruptive world, from the perspective of a practitioner. It starts with a brief introduction to diplomacy and how EU diplomacy differs from national diplomacy, what the roles and required skills of diplomats are, and which tools the EU has at its disposal. The course is then structured around six concrete case studies reflecting the development of EU relations with third countries/regions, to illustrate the instruments, mechanisms, and impact of EU diplomacy. These include the development of the EU's relations with major powers like the United States, China and Russia, the EU's negotiations with Iran, its engagement in Afghanistan as well as the crafting and roll-out of its recent Indo-Pacific strategy. In studying these cases, the course addresses both the internal and external dimensions of EU diplomacy. Internally, the relevant inter-institutional relations between the European External Action Service, the European Commission and the Council, as well as the European Parliament are illustrated. Externally, the range of CFSP and external relations means employed by the EU as well as the expectations and perceptions that foreign actors have of EU diplomacy in normal times and under conditions of crisis are discussed. Specific practices such as actor analysis through foresight and intelligence, political reporting and social media communication will also be illustrated. Overall, the course intends to encourage holistic thinking on how the EU can make best use of its leverage across policy areas to achieve maximum external impact.

At the end of this course, the student will be able to

- understand how EU diplomacy works in practice;
- describe the main features of EU diplomacy (such as key actors, tools, practices);
- critically assess ways for the EU to mobilize foreign and security policy tools together with the external dimension of integrated policies in order to achieve an effective projection of EU values and interests;



- analyse the degree to which different foreign actors are determining perimeters for EU external action;
- design possible policy responses and toolkits to address similar challenges as those discussed in the case studies.

2. LEARNING OUTCOMES

The course objectives tie in with the following learning outcomes of the programme **EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies**:

- 1.3 The graduate has good knowledge of the institutional architecture and the decision-making processes in the European Union and in particular in EU external relations.
- 1.4 The graduate has acquired insights into the political, legal and economic aspects of EU external action and can use these insights to contextualise and interpret new developments.
- 1.5 The graduate is able to incorporate knowledge and understanding of various fields of EU external action and of different related disciplines (such as Political Science, International Relations, Law, Economics) at the interface between EU affairs and world politics.
- 2.1 The graduate can approach the field of national, European and international diplomacy analytically by assessing the challenges in this domain with an open mind for diversity and for complex situations.
- 2.2 The graduate has the ability to critically reflect upon problems in international and European affairs, to adopt well-informed points of view and to communicate them effectively orally and in writing, whether working independently or in a team.
- 2.4 The graduate is capable of processing a large amount of information within a short period of time and to work efficiently and effectively through planning, organising, setting priorities and meeting deadlines.
- 2.5 The graduate has the intellectual maturity and skills to function responsibly and autonomously in a professional context at national, European or international level and the capacity of suggesting possible action that contributes to problem-solving in a creative way.

The course objectives tie in with the following learning outcomes of the programme **Transatlantic Affairs**:

- 1.3 The graduate has good knowledge of, depending on his or her disciplinary focus, the political and/or legal systems, the decision-making processes, the economic structures and the main internal and external policies of the European Union and the United States.
- 1.4 The graduate has insights into historical, political, legal and economic aspects of transatlantic affairs as well as into those policy areas that are of essential importance to transatlantic affairs. He or she can use these insights to contextualize and interpret new developments.
- 1.5 The graduate is able to incorporate knowledge and understanding of various fields of transatlantic affairs and of different related disciplines (such as Economics, International Relations, Legal Studies, Political Science) as well as to adopt both a European and a US perspective on transatlantic affairs.
- 2.1 The graduate can approach the field of transatlantic affairs in a broad sense analytically by assessing the challenges in this domain with an open mind for diversity and for complex situations.
- 2.2 The graduate has the ability to critically reflect upon problems regarding an extensive range of transatlantic affairs, to adopt well-informed points of view and to communicate them effectively orally and in writing, whether working independently or in a team.
- 2.4 The graduate is capable of processing a large amount of information and appropriately analyse relevant sources depending on his or her disciplinary focus within a short period of time and of suggesting possible actions that contribute to problem-solving in a creative way.
- 2.5 The graduate has the intellectual maturity and skills to take responsibilities and function autonomously in a professional environment at national or international level, and especially in a transatlantic context, and to work efficiently and effectively through planning, organizing, setting priorities, meeting deadlines, cooperating across cultural boundaries and networking.



3. COURSE CONTENTS

Session 1: Introduction: What is (EU) Diplomacy?

Session 2: The Case of EU-US Relations

Session 3: The Case of EU-China Relations

Session 4: The Case of EU-Russia Relations

Session 5: The Case of the Iran Nuclear Deal

Session 6: EU Engagement in Afghanistan – Lessons Learned

Session 7: Engaging partners in a contested space: The Indo-Pacific and ASEAN

Please refer to the intranet course page for access to the full course outline.

4. TEACHING METHOD

- Interactive lectures
- Participation: Students are expected to attend the class and to prepare the required readings
- Tutorial by the course assistant

Please refer to the intranet course page for access to further information and instructions.

5. COURSE MATERIAL

Please refer to the intranet course page for access to the detailed reading list (required and supplementary readings).

6. EVALUATION

- Written exam (100%): 3h

In case of a second-session resit, students will be evaluated based on a 3h written exam accounting for 100% of the final mark.

Please refer to the intranet course page for access to further information and instructions.