



STUDY PROGRAMME

1. POL

ACADEMIC YEAR

2025-2026

SEMESTER

Second

COURSE TITLE

Future of Europe – Views from the Capitals EU

COURSE PROFESSOR

Michael Kaeding

COURSE ASSISTANT

Maël LEROUX

NATURE OF COURSE (COMPULSORY, OPTIONAL)

1. Compulsory

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

English

ECTS CREDITS

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1. COURSE OBJECTIVE

The purpose of this CC is to encourage a respectful, informed dialogue, emphasizing the importance of understanding and acknowledging the diverse national perspectives that represent the collective European identity. The EU's strength lies not only in its diversity, but also the unity that emerges from it. National views from the 27 EU Member States and 14 selected countries in the EU's vicinity, will stimulate pan-European national and European critical thinking about the Future of Europe. Each session will be a thought-provoking kaleidoscope of diverse approaches across the continent, which must be considered when developing new policies for the Union.

2. LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course students will be able to understand, apply, analyse, and communicate knowledge on commonalities and differences across Europe on matters such as EU enlargement, climate change, Russia, Euroscepticism, security and defense, EU-US relations and Europe's Future. Students will engage in critical thinking by learning about national views from the 27 EU Member States and 14 selected countries in the EU's vicinity.

The course objectives above link up with the following programme-specific learning outcomes:

- Students can analyse the process and actors of EU policy-making at different levels of governance and can reflect on potential developments.
- Students can transform a complex problem into a research question, mobilize theories, develop a research design, and conduct empirical work to provide solutions in an analytical and balanced way

3. COURSE CONTENTS



The CC will be structured in *six sessions à 75 minutes each*:

- Session 1: Defense and security and the Future of Europe – views from the capitals
- Session 2: USA and the Future of Europe – views from the capitals
- Session 3: Russia and the Future of Europe – views from the capitals
- Session 4: Euroscepticism and the Future of Europe – views from the capitals
- Session 5: Enlargement and the Future of Europe – views from the capitals
- Session 6: The Future of Europe – views from the capitals

4. TEACHING METHOD(S)

This CC is discussion-oriented and interactive. Each session starts with a panel of experts presenting their national perspectives on the topic of the week followed by students' critical reflections and questions to understand and acknowledge the diverse national perspectives that represent the collective European identity.

5. COURSE MATERIAL*

Kaeding, M., J. Pollack and P. Schmidt (forthcoming) (eds.) Security and defense and the Future of Europe – Views from the Capitals, Wiesbaden: Springer.

Kaeding, M., J. Pollack and P. Schmidt (2025) (eds.) The United States and the Future of Europe – Views from the Capitals, Wiesbaden: Springer.

Kaeding, M., J. Pollack and P. Schmidt (2024) (eds.) Enlargement and the Future of Europe – Views from the Capitals, Wiesbaden: Springer.

Kaeding, M., J. Pollack and P. Schmidt (2023) (eds.) Climate Change and the Future of Europe – Views from the Capitals, Wiesbaden: Springer.

Kaeding, M., J. Pollack and P. Schmidt (2022) (eds.) Russia and the Future of Europe – Views from the Capitals, Wiesbaden: Springer.

Kaeding, M., J. Pollack and P. Schmidt (2022) (eds.) Solidarity in Action and the Future of Europe – Views from the Capitals, Wiesbaden: Springer.

Kaeding, M., J. Pollack and P. Schmidt (2020) (eds.) Euroscepticism and the Future of Europe – Views from the Capitals, Palgrave Macmillan.

Kaeding, M., J. Pollack and P. Schmidt (2019) (eds.) The Future of Europe – Views from the Capitals, Palgrave Macmillan.

6. EVALUATION

For this course no mark is attributed but full attendance is compulsory, and any absence must be compensated by a paper assignment. If a student fails, a mark will be attributed and mentioned on the transcript (coefficient 1) and will be taken into consideration in the calculation of possible compensation.

Plagiarism: Pursuant to Articles 39a and subsequent provisions of the College of Europe Study Regulations 2025–2026, plagiarism, self-plagiarism, collusion, and the falsification of data are



expressly prohibited and shall be deemed to constitute academic misconduct. All written work submitted by a student shall be subject to assessment with regard not only to its originality but also to the scope and rigor of the research undertaken. Any instance of plagiarism, self-plagiarism, collusion, or falsification of data, as defined in the aforementioned Study Regulation, shall give rise to the imposition of penalties in accordance with Article 40 thereof.

Artificial Intelligence: Pursuant to Articles 38 and subsequent provisions of the College of Europe Study Regulations 2025–2026, the category of permitted generative AI (genAI) use for the present course is **bounded use**. Students may employ genAI tools at both foundational and advanced stages of the work process, including brainstorming, literature screening, data organisation, analysis, interpretation, argument generation, and as a feedback tool. The final text of any assignment, however, must be written by the student in their own words, without copying AI-generated text blocks, using translation tools, or similar automated assistance. The non-generative use of AI tools, such as for spell-checking, reference style management, or information searches, remains by default permitted for all course work and the Master's thesis. Any use of genAI must be transparently acknowledged in accordance with the department's referencing guidelines. Students bear full responsibility for the entirety of the content they submit, irrespective of the tools used, and must ensure compliance with College regulations on academic integrity, data protection, and intellectual property. Violations of the permitted scope of AI use, or failures to acknowledge such use, shall constitute academic misconduct and will be sanctioned in line with Articles 39a, 39b, and 40 of the Academic Regulations on plagiarism, falsification of data, and related infringements

7. Assessment at second attempt

Not applicable.

