



STUDY PROGRAMME(S)

(1) EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies

(2) Transatlantic Affairs

ACADEMIC YEAR

2024-25

SEMESTER

2

COURSE TITLE

EU External Energy Policy

COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

Andreas GOLDTHAU

COURSE ASSISTANT(S)

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NATURE OF COURSE (COMPULSORY, OPTIONAL, ELECTIVE)

(1) Optional course

(2) Elective course

ECTS CREDITS

4.5

LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

English

1. COURSE OBJECTIVES

This optional course explores the external dimension of EU energy policy. It introduces students to the specific logic underpinning European and international energy markets, explores the various drivers of the EU external energy policy, including supply security and the low carbon transition and assesses the implications for the EU's strategy as a global energy actor. Core themes covered in the course include the geopolitics of EU-Russia energy relations and the EastMed gas play, the extraterritorial effect of EU energy regulation and the implications of the low carbon transition for Europe's energy security and external strategy regarding critical minerals and green hydrogen. While the course offers a conceptual toolbox for assessing the external dimension of EU energy policy, most emphasis is placed on delving into contemporary challenges, developments and policies as applied. To this end, it works with quizzes, case studies and class debates on pertinent issues.

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

- understand and discuss key aspects of EU external energy policy;
- assess EU external energy policies in the context of shifting (geo-economic) agendas;
- interpret and judge competing EU policy approaches towards global energy challenges;
- critically evaluate available policy options against the backdrop of EU institutional realities.

2. LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

1.1 The graduate masters the most important theoretical approaches and concepts of International Relations, EU Studies and Diplomacy Studies relevant for the analysis of the role of the European Union in international affairs.



- 1.2 The graduate can describe, explain and illustrate the current state of scientific research in the field of EU external relations in a broad sense and is able to critically assess the results of this research.
- 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.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 The graduate can independently formulate a research question within the field of European affairs, find, select and critically assess relevant sources, answer the question using typical concepts and methods and present the research results in line with the ethical rules of the discipline.
- 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.
- 3.2 The graduate has acquired profound insights into specific fields of EU foreign economic policies and related challenges of sustainable development.

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

- 1.1 The graduate masters the most important theoretical approaches and concepts of, depending on his or her disciplinary focus, Economics, International Relations and Diplomacy Studies, Legal Studies and/or Political Science relevant for the analysis of transatlantic affairs.
- 1.2 The graduate can describe, explain and illustrate the current state of scientific research in the field of transatlantic affairs in a broad sense and, is, in line with his or her disciplinary focus, able to critically assess the results of this research.
- 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.
- 2.2 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.
- 2.3 The graduate can independently transform complex transatlantic issues into a research question within the broader field of transatlantic affairs and, depending on his or her disciplinary focus, find, select and critically assess relevant sources, answer the question using appropriate concepts and methods and present the research results in line with the ethical rules of the chosen discipline.



- 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

- Theme 1: The big picture: EU energy trends
Theme 2: The political economy of energy markets
Theme 3: The EU regulatory state as an (external) energy actor
Theme 4: Gas dependency, Russia and the 'energy weapon'
Theme 5: The EastMed gas and renewable energy play
Theme 6: The EU Green Deal and its external dimension
Theme 7: New dependencies? Green hydrogen and transition minerals
Theme 8: Conclusion and outlook

4. TEACHING METHOD

- Interactive lectures
- Guest lectures (TBC)
- Participation: Students are expected to regularly attend the class, to prepare the required readings and to participate actively in the discussions
- Student (group) presentation
- Individual policy brief paper assignment

5. COURSE MATERIAL

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

6. EVALUATION

- Student presentation (20%)
- Individual paper: policy brief of 2.000-2.500 words (30%)
- Open-book written examination (50%)

In case of a second-session resit, an open-book written exam (2h) counts for 100% of the mark.

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