



## STUDY PROGRAMME(S)

(1) EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies

(2) Transatlantic Affairs

## ACADEMIC YEAR

2022-23

## SEMESTER

1

## COURSE TITLE

European Diplomacy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Theory Meets Practice

## COURSE PROFESSOR

Heidi MAURER

## COURSE ASSISTANT(S)

Aoife GRIFFIN

## 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 examines the characteristics and added value of European diplomacy in the challenging global context of the 21st century. It investigates how major diplomatic actors such as the European External Action Service under the leadership of the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy as well as the EU member states' diplomatic services adapt to the changing internal and external demands. The course departs from the question to what extent diplomacy remains a key process in the management of international affairs, probing the increasingly voiced criticism that diplomacy reflects an outdated, state-centred approach to contemporary world politics. Diplomacy has in the past two decades been witnessing profound change in terms of actors (e.g. second-track diplomacy), processes (e.g. from club to network diplomacy) and instruments (e.g. digital diplomacy). This raises the question how the EU as a form of 'post-diplomatic' order fits into these developments. The aim of the course is to provide a sound foundation for understanding the role and nature of diplomacy in the global environment and in its EU context and to equip the students with the necessary conceptual and methodological tools to analyse those aspects.

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

- understand the nature and significance of international, diplomatic developments for the EU and its member states;
- understand the nature of European (Union) diplomacy;
- conceptually grasp the nature and relevance of 21<sup>st</sup> century diplomacy;
- present arguments in a concise, clear and engaging manner



## 2. LEARNING OUTCOMES

The course objectives tie in with the following learning out comes 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.
- 1.4 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 out comes 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.
- 1.4 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: Lecture – European Diplomacy and European (Union) Diplomacy  
Session 2: Group Practice Workshops – The Structure and Agents of European (Union) Diplomacy  
Session 3: Lecture – The Making of Effective Diplomacy  
Session 4: Group Practice Workshops  
Session 5: Group Presentations  
Session 6: Lecture – The Future of European (Union) Diplomacy.

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

### 4. TEACHING METHOD

- Interactive lectures
- Individual papers and group work
- Participation: Students are expected to attend the class, to prepare the required readings and to participate actively in the group work
- 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) and the slides.

### 6. EVALUATION

- Individual written preparation (25%): 1,000 - 1,500 words
- Group work (25%): poster and presentation
- Final exam paper (50%): 1,500 – 2,000 words

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

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

The College of Europe reserves the right to change the delivery and assessment of the course in case of restrictions related to the Covid-19 pandemic. Any communication from the Department in this regard takes precedence over the information provided in this ECTS card.