



STUDY PROGRAMME(S)

(1) EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies

(2) Transatlantic Affairs

ACADEMIC YEAR

2023-24

SEMESTER

2

COURSE TITLE

Speaking with one Voice? The EU's External Representation

COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

Charles-Michel GEURTS & Sieglinde GSTÖHL

COURSE ASSISTANT(S)

Dieter BOCHAR

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 covers the political, legal and institutional aspects of the external representation of the European Union (EU). It explores how and to what extent the EU is speaking 'with one voice' in foreign affairs, its achievements and challenges. External representation has evolved over time, hand in hand with the development of EU external action and with the recognition of the Union as an international actor by third countries and international organisations. Yet the way and the degree to which the EU speaks 'with one voice' still vary considerably across policy fields and international institutions. The course addresses conceptual and practical dimensions of external representation, including the role of the European External Action Service and the EU Delegations, both in bilateral relations as well as in multilateral organisations (such as various bodies and specialised agencies of the United Nations, the OSCE, the Council of Europe, the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the OECD or the G7/8 and G20).

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

- understand the complex political, legal and institutional aspects of EU external representation;
- describe the role of the EU actors involved in different fields of external action;
- explain EU external representation in the major international institutions as well as in bilateral relations;
- critically assess to what extent the EU speaks 'with one voice' and provide policy recommendations.

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.
- 2.1 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.
- 2.3 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.
- 3.3 The graduate has acquired multi-faceted knowledge of bilateral and/or multilateral relationships between the EU and important third countries or international organisations and can contextualise them in the EU's broader external relations.

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, 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.
- 2.1 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.
- 2.3 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

Session 1: EU external representation: A conceptual introduction

Session 2: EU external representation: Actors and internal decision-making from a practitioner's perspective

Session 3: EU external representation in bilateral relations

Session 4: EU external representation in multilateral organisations: Human rights

Session 5: EU external representation in multilateral organisations: Peace and security

Session 6: EU external representation in the negotiation of international agreements: Climate change

Session 7: EU external representation in global economic governance fora where all EU member states are present: Bretton Woods institutions and WTO

Session 8: EU external representation in global health governance: WHO and FAO

Session 9: EU external representation in informal global governance fora where not all EU member states are present: G7/8 and G20/21

Session 10: EU external representation in global economic governance fora where not all EU member states are present: OECD

4. TEACHING METHOD

- Interactive lectures
- Participation: Students are expected to regularly attend the class, to prepare the required readings and to participate actively in the discussions.
- Oral presentations
- Individual paper: Each student will write a paper of 2,000-2,500 words on a topic to be agreed with the professors

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

- Oral presentation (15%)
- Class paper (35%)
- Closed-book written examination (50%): 2h

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

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