



## STUDY PROGRAMME(S)

(1) EU International Relations and Diplomacy Studies

(2) Transatlantic Affairs

## ACADEMIC YEAR

2024-25

## SEMESTER

2

## COURSE TITLE

EU Borders, Asylum and Migration Policies: A Critical Perspective

## COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

Violeta MORENO-LAX

## COURSE ASSISTANT(S)

Aoife GRIFFIN

## NATURE OF COURSE (COMPULSORY, OPTIONAL, ELECTIVE)

(1) Optional course

(2) Elective course

## ECTS CREDITS

4.5

## LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION

English

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

The course engages in a multi-disciplinary examination of the EU's Area of Freedom, Security and Justice (AFSJ), paying particular attention to the position of third-country nationals by focusing on the EU's policies on borders, asylum, and migration. It adopts a critical approach throughout to the evaluation of the relevant instruments and discourses, unpacking them from anti-securitarian, feminist, and decolonial perspectives, providing tools to deconstruct prevailing frames and narratives. The course begins with a general introduction to the history of Justice and Home Affairs (JHA), by placing cooperation in this field within its wider political context, emphasising its relationship with the establishment of a Single Market and the EU as an area without internal frontiers for the realisation of trans-national freedom of movement. It then examines the rapid evolution of EU competences and institutional arrangements and the effect these have had on the formulation and expansion of law and policy in relation to borders, migration, and asylum. The course continues with an in-depth assessment of the main components of these policies, in both their internal and external facets, taking into consideration the role of security and technology. Attention is paid to the decision-making processes, the body of legislation and its implementation, as well as the impact of the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights in shaping policy responses. The rise of new agencies, specially Frontex, and their role as internal and external players in the JHA framework is also explored.

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

- understand the conceptual and practical perspectives of the AFSJ and its main policies;
- describe, explain, and critically appraise the major developments in the field of supranational cooperation in matters of migration, asylum and the control of external borders at the EU level;
- critically assess the dynamics underpinning the historical evolution of the main AFSJ policies and its current impact in the internal and external spheres of EU integration.



## 1. 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.
- 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.
- 3.1 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 the institutional architecture and the decision-making processes in the European Union and in particular in EU external relations.
- 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.
- 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.

## 2. COURSE CONTENTS

Session 1) Introduction: Course presentation

Session 2) History, processes, and institutions of AFSJ integration: From Rome to Lisbon

Session 3) Towards 'integrated border management': The 'concentric-circles' model

Session 4) Controlling the movement of third-country nationals: Visas and carrier sanctions

Session 5) Irregular migration: From securitisation to 'crimmigration'

Session 6) Regular migration: Matters of admission and integration

Session 7) The Common European Asylum System

Session 8) The 'external dimension' of borders, migration and asylum policies

Session 9) 'Agencification' in JHA: A particular focus on Frontex

Session 10) EU security and the role of technology: The 'risk-management' paradigm

Conclusion: Q&A, exam and assessment criteria review

## 3. TEACHING METHOD

- Students are expected to regularly attend sessions, to prepare the required readings, and to participate actively in in-class discussions.
- Oral group presentations of 20 minutes on a mutually agreed topic.

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

## 4. COURSE MATERIAL

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

## 5. EVALUATION

- Group presentation (25%)
- Individual written assignment of 2,000-2,500 words (25%)
- Written exam of 2h (50%)

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

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