

Course Syllabus and Description

“The European Union in the World” «Европейский союз в мире»

Code 41.04.05

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Moscow 2019

State University – Higher School of Economics School of World Economy and International Affairs

Course Description

Abstract:

How can a super-national entity such as the European Union promote a credible Foreign and Security policy without having direct control of consolidated Army Forces and – maybe even worst-without its own Intelligence Services? In its General part, the course is willing to give an answer to this basic question of the development of EU's role in international arena and its external relations and foreign policy by examining its main a) Institutions; b) Instruments; c) Sectorial Policies; d) Geographical and Geo-political areas of interest and action – with particular attention to the period over the last two decades after the break of the Berlin Wall. The Course will also foresee important monographic parts devoted to an in depth analysis respectively of the Union's Defense and Security Policies as well as those of international Aid and Cooperation towards non-member States – which have been increasing their importance over the last two decades in defining the raising ambition and effort of the EU to have a consolidated and self-standing system of international relations. Attendants to the Course will be offered both formal and substantial framework analysis – in order to intercept the main strengths and weaknesses of the European Union foreign policy and also understand out of the predominant journalistic narratives the real essence of its relationship with the World. Given the above, the basic question the course would like to answer is if there can be a common European Union geo-political interest that is separate from the one of its Member States. But also – from a Russian perspective – if there is actually a political, economic and cultural European space out of the EU and what are its chances for interaction and development with the institutions and policies of the traditional Union. The Course will foresee the participation of guest lecturers from the European Union, from the EU's Member States as well as from the Russian Federation dealing with relations with the EU. The Course foresees also a crosscutting part of practical simulations of sectorial aid programming and project design according to the EU policies and project cycle management guidelines. For the current year the chosen sector of assistance for the simulation is in Justice and Home Affairs.

Pre-requisites: This course is intended for Master's level students and although it will provide a review of some of the basic concepts of international relations, EU institutions, decision-making process – it is however expected that the attending students have already absorbed in their past *cursus studiorum* key knowledge at this regard.

Learning Objectives

- To provide a historical perspective of the birth and development of the EU's foreign policy and of its global role;
- To discuss key formal issues, legal and theoretical, together with practical political questions and challenges of EU external relations;
- To understand the decision making process of the EU foreign policies;
- To compare the EU to other global actors;

- To analyze in depth the Security, Defense and International Aid Policies of the EU and the ratio of a “soft power” approach.
- To develop skills of planning and design of Aid \ Cooperation and Partnership programmes and frameworks of the EU towards Non Member Countries.

Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to understand, analyse and discuss (verbally and written) the internal workings of EU institutions and the EU’s engagement with the world.

Course Plan

Module 1

1. Conceptualising the European Union

What is Europe? What is the European Union? In this lecture and seminar, we will explore the concept of Europe and the purpose of the European Union.

2. European Union Enlargement

Enlargement of the European Union contributes to define Europe and its purpose. Enlargement the accession process is also a key instrument of power for the EU.

3. Normative Power Europe?

The EU has been conceptualised as a ‘normative power’. What does this mean, why is this concept appealing, and does the concept stand up to scrutiny?

Debate #1: Is the EU a ‘normative power’? How far does its normative agenda extend?

4. Foreign Policy, Security, Defence

The EU has commonly been presented as political-economic union. However, its security and military ambitions have been developing without a clear consensus about its ambitions. In this lecture and seminar we will explore foreign policy, security and defence.

Debate #2: Is the EU a military power/will it become one/does it need to be?

5. Economy and the Economic Crisis

The economic crisis has become an existential threat to the EU. What is the solution to the economic crisis, should there be more or less 'Europe'?

Debate #3: Will the Euro survive; can the EU survive without the Euro?

6. Europe's Refugee/Migrant Crisis

The Refugee/migrant crisis has caused great divisions within the EU. It has sparked a divide in terms of *what Europe is* and incentivised states to repatriate their sovereign powers. The refugee/migrant crisis was at the forefront in the UK's referendum to leave the EU.

Debate #4: Has the refugee/migrant crisis revealed incompatible visions for Europe?

7. In-class Test

This class will be devoted to an in-class test. No books or digital appliances can be used during the test.

Module 2

8. Energy Security and Environmental Challenges

Energy security implies the affordable and reliable supply of energy resources, which is imperative for modern economies to function. How does energy security shape the policies of the EU and what are the main challenges? What are the consequences of securitizing energy?

Debate #5: Does energy security divide the European Union?

9. The EU and the USA: Transatlantic relations

The relationship with the US is conserved to be important to uphold the concept of a united West. Since the end of the Cold War, the relationship with the US has entailed cooperation and competition. Under the Trump administration, the transatlantic relationship has come under unprecedented strain. What does the future hold for the EU-US relationship?

Debate #6: Is the EU and the US heading towards a divorce?

10. The EU and Russia

In this seminar and lecture we will explore relations between the EU and Russia. Is Russia European? Is the largest European state the only non-European European state? We will explore the cooperation and the conflicts The largest state in Europe is not part of Cooperation between 'Europe'

Debate #7: Is the EU and Russia destined for cooperation or conflict?

11. The EU and the Post-Soviet space

The post-Soviet space is vast and the relationships with the various states depend on a variety of factors.

Debate #8: Is the EU losing its influence in the post-Soviet space?

12. Final Exam

No books or digital appliances can be used during the final exam.

Textbooks

KOUTRAKOS, Panos (ed.) (2011). European Foreign Policy. Legal and Political Perspectives. Edward Elgar

CARBONE, Maurizio (2007). The European Union and International Development: The Politics of Foreign Aid. Routledge, London \New York

GROSS, Eva (2009). The Europeanization of National Foreign Policy. Continuity and Change in European Crisis Management, Palgrave – (selected parts)

WINN, Neil - LORD, Christopher (2001) EU Foreign Policy beyond the Nation-State, Palgrave – (selected parts).

Working Documents

EUROPEAN COMMISSION (2013) – The Practical Guide to Contract Procedures for EU external action, Brussels EUROPEAN COMMISSION (2011) – Manual for Project Cycle Management, Brussels

Specific bibliography will be required for the development of each topic

Grading System

Course Grade: The sum of the grades for the debate, test and exam will be translated into a numerical grade according to the corresponding ranges below.

- **Debate (20% of the final grade)**

Class attendance is required. It is the student's responsibility to sign the class roster, which will be circulated at the beginning of each class. Unexcused absences will lower the participation grade.

Active and effective contribution is evaluated. The readings require intensive examination of a broad variety of issues. It will be the topic for discussion. Students are encouraged to express their perspectives and reason them.

- **Module 1 Test (40% of the final grade)**

The test at the end of module 1 consists of 10 multiple choice questions (30%) and 2 short essays (70%). Three essay questions will be offered, and students will need to choose and answer two out of those three essay questions. Each short essay should be approximately 200 words (+- 10%).

- **Final Exam (40% of the final grade)**

The test at the end of module 2 consists of 10 multiple choice questions (30%) and 2 short essays (70%). Three essay questions will be offered, and students will need to choose and answer two out of those three essay questions. Each short essay should be approximately 200 words (+- 10%).