

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN  
UNIVERSITY OF LEUVEN  
SPRING 2018

**CURRENT ISSUES IN GLOBAL AND EU AFFAIRS**

**Instructors:**

- Dr. Neil Vander Most (University of Illinois)
- Dr. Kolja Raube (KU Leuven)
- Dr. Gustavo Müller (KU Leuven)

**Office hours:** by appointment

**Section A**

**Time:** 9am-11am, Mondays

**Location:** 2021c Huff Hall

**Credit:** 2 credit hours (A-F grading)

**Section B**

**Time:** 9am-10am, Mondays

**Location:** 2021c Huff Hall

**Credit:** 1 credit hour (A-F grading)

**Course Description**

This graduate-level seminar is an innovative hybrid learning environment organized into three distinct phases. The course constitutes an online roundtable discussion exploring a variety of topics related to Europe, transatlantic relations, the European Union, and the peripheries. A study-abroad trip to the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign or Catholic University of Leuven will occur separately but concurrently with the course. This trip is supplemental to the course and is not factored into student grades.

In its online format, students will have an opportunity to participate in regular conversations about topics related to Europe, the EU and transatlantic relations with their counterparts at the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium. Issues will primarily focus on transatlantic affairs, European integration, and the differences between European and American political life more broadly. The course will draw primarily from its textbook and supplemental readings. The seminar will improve students' analytical and critical skills, offer live international perspectives on shared political issues, and grant students opportunities to network with their overseas peers.

**Course Requirements**

**Textbook:** The course will be using the following textbook, available as an ebook from the University of Illinois Library:

Alcaro, R., Peterson, J., Greco, E. (2016). *The West and the Global Power Shift: Transatlantic Relations and Global Governance*. Palgrave

Other readings will be provided in advance in the form of academic articles, editorials, and journalistic pieces.

## **Grading:**

A student's grade for the course will be tied to three components: participation, a blog post, and a transatlantic radar entry. The weights for these activities are as follows:

Participation and Attendance: 50%

Blog Post: 30%

Transatlantic Radar Entry: 20%

These items will be evaluated as follows:

***Participation and Attendance:*** All students must be prepared to discuss issues of the week or issues of interests. Students must read the required readings before coming to class as they will be expected to participate at least once per session. Participation is understood as a substantive contribution and argumentation to the ongoing discussion. Students will be expected to have reflected about the main ideas and arguments in those readings and be prepared to talk about them in class. Extra care should be taken to contribute to the discussion by asking questions, sharing insightful comments or by expressing your views.

Regular class attendance is required. You are entitled to two "free" absence for the semester, which ought to be notified prior the class considering the nature of the course. Absences that are justified with a doctor's note are exempt. Your attendance grade will be calculated according to the following scale:

<b>Grade</b>	<b>Participations</b>
<b><i>A</i></b>	<i>13-16 in class participation</i>
<b><i>B+</i></b>	<i>9-12 in class participation</i>
<b><i>C+</i></b>	<i>6-8 in class participation</i>
<b><i>D+</i></b>	<i>3-5 in class participation</i>
<b><i>F</i></b>	<i>0-2 in class participation</i>

***Blog Post:*** This course is part of a larger transatlantic research project funded by the European Union. As such, students taking part in the course will be asked to take part in this project by submitting a small, approximately 500-word blog post on a transatlantic issue by the end of the course. Students will have considerable freedom on the topic of this blog post, but it will be expected to involve ties between the US and EU. The post will be graded as pass/no-pass with submissions meeting all assignment requirements as earning full credit for the assignment.

***Transatlantic Radar Entry:*** Another research project related assignment will involve small, approximately 300-word fact-sheet style entry by the end of the course. These entries will choose between one of four areas of transatlanticity (high politics, culture, history, or economics), and can include transatlanticity as expressed in different parts of the world, including Latin America, Africa, and the Carribean. This writing assignment will also be graded as pass/no-pass with submissions meeting all assignment requirements as earning full credit for

the assignment. This radar entry should have some relation to the readings or topic of discussion for one week in the course and can be done by the student at any time.

For any assignment, students not wishing to publish their materials publically may opt to use a pseudonym or publish anonymously.

### **Course Policies**

***Lateness:*** Punctuality to class is a core requirement. Any repeated lateness will result in lower grade.

***Academic Integrity:*** Plagiarism (presenting other people's work as your own) will result in strict penalization if caught. University Policies governing the treatment of plagiarism will be followed. Please see articles 1.401-1.403 of the Student Code for further information (<http://admin.illinois.edu/policy/code/>)

***Moodle:*** This course will use Moodle for posting this syllabus, readings for the course, and for organizing its online meetings. Please check Moodle website frequently. Your university NetID and AD password will be necessary to log on. It is important to remember that readings posted on Moodle are subject to copyright protections and should not be redistributed unlawfully. Please contact me if you have any questions about accessing this website.

***E-mail:*** We will be contacting everyone through e-mail in the event of any announcements. Please check your University e-mail (@illinois.edu) frequently or you may miss out on important information.

***Decorum:*** To protect this environment, students are expected to be civil towards each other. Disruption of this course will not be tolerated and the instructor reserves the right to eject disrespectful chat participants at their own professional discretion.

***Student Assistance:*** For any personal issues, please contact the Counseling Center at (217) 333-3704 or (<http://www.counselingcenter.illinois.edu/>). If you find yourself struggling with this seminar, please contact me personally.

***Students with Disabilities:*** For those with disabilities, please contact The Division of Disability Resources and Educational Services (DRES). If you already receive services through DRES and require accommodations for this seminar, please let me know as soon as possible. I will need to see your accommodation letter and we can talk about how to work your accommodations into this course. You can get in contact with DRES by calling (217) 333-4603.

## Calendar

<b>Week</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Lecturer</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>References</b>
1	Monday Feb. 12	Dr. Mueller-Giger Dr. Neil Vander Most	Introduction to the Course, Transatlanticity and European Studies	Textbook: Chs 2 & 4
2	Monday Feb. 19	Dr. Emanuel Rota	History of Transatlantic Relations and the Transatlantic Civilizaion	See readings below
3	Monday Feb. 26	Dr. Neil Vander Most	Transatlantic Comparative Perspectives on Federalism (US, EU and Belgium)	See readings below
4	Monday Mar. 5	Dr. Bart Keremans	Transatlantic Relations: Policies and Politics	Textbook: Chs 3, 5, & 8
5	Monday Mar 12	Dr. Michael Smith	Transatlantic Relations: Policies and Politics	See readings below
6	Leuven Spring School 19 March – 24 March 2018			
6	Monday Mar 19 (tbc)	Roundtable on Transatlantic Relations at Leuven Event will be web-streamed and recorded if students cannot participate in person		
7	Monday Mar 26	Dr. Jan Wouters	Human Rights in a transatlantic perspective	See readings below
8	Illinois Spring School 2 April – 7 April 2018			
8	Monday Apr. 02	Dr. Neil Vander Most	Transatlantic Populism and the Far Right in Europe and the United States	See readings below
8	Tuesday Apr 03	Roundtable on Transatlantic Relations at Illinois Event will be web-streamed and recorded if students cannot participate in person		
9	Monday Apr. 16	Dr. Zsuzsanna Fagyal	The Lingustic Integration of Adult Migrants in the EU and the USA	See readings below
10	Monday Apr. 23	Dr. Konstantinos Kourtikakis	Transatlantic Social Networking	See readings below
11	Monday Apr. 30	Dr. Neil Vander Most	Moving forward and future challenges for transatlantic relations.	See readings below

## Specialty Readings

### Readings for February 26<sup>th</sup>

- Broschek, Jorg. "Federalism in Europe, America, and Africa: A Comparative Analysis." in Hofmeister, Wilhelm and Edmund Tayao (eds) Federalism and Decentralization: Perceptions for Political and Institutional Reforms. Konrad-Adneauer-Stiftung: Singapore. 2016. Pgs. 23-50
- Fabbrini, Sergio. "Is the EU exceptional? The EU and the US in comparative perspective." In Fabbrini, Sergio (ed) Democracy and Federalism in the European Union and the United States Routledge: New York. 2005. Pgs. 3 – 24
- Young, Ernest. "What Can Europe Tell Us About the Future of American Federalism?" *Arizona State Law Journal*. Vol. 49. Pgs. 1109-1140.

### Readings for March 12th

- Textbook chapter 3
- Smith., M. (forthcoming 2018) 'The EU, the US and the Crisis of Contemporary Multilateralism', *Journal of European Integration*.
- Smith, M. and Steffenson, R. (2017) 'The European Union and the United States' in Hill, C.,
- Smith, M. and Vanhoonacker, S. (eds), *International Relations and the European Union*, Oxford University Press.

### Readings for March 26th

- Çalı, B. (2015) 'Comparing the support of the EU and the US for international human rights law qua international human rights law: Worlds too far apart?', *International Journal of Constitutional Law*, 13(4), 901-922.
- de Búrca, G. (2011) 'The Road not Taken: The European Union as a Global Human Rights Actor', *American Journal of International Law*, 105, 649-693.
- Moravcsik, A. (2005) 'The Paradox of US Human Rights Policy', in Michael Ignatieff (ed.), *American Exceptionalism and Human Rights*, Princeton University Press, 147-197.

### Readings for April 2<sup>nd</sup>

- Hawkins, Kirk et al. "Made in US: Populism Beyond Europe" in Martinelli, Alberto (ed) Populism on the Rise, Democracies Under Challenge? 2016.
- Galbreath, Megan. "An Analysis of Donald Trump and Marine Le Pen" *Harvard International Review*. Vol. 38, No. 3. 2017
- Mudde, Cas. "As American as Trump." *Boston Review: A Political and Literary Forum*. 06/13/16. Last accessed 01/15/18. << <http://bostonreview.net/us/cas-mudde-donald-trump-europe-populism>>>
- Levinger, Matthew. "Love, Fear, Anger: The Emotional Arc of Populist Rhetoric." *Narrative and Conflict: Explorations of Theory and Practice*. 2017. << <https://journals.gmu.edu/NandC/article/viewFile/1954/1378>>>

### Readings for April 16<sup>th</sup>

\*Read Three Papers from the Following:

- Beacco, Jean-Claude et al. The Linguistic Integration of Adult Migrants: Some lessons from research / L'intégration linguistique des migrants adultes: Les enseignements de la recherche. De Gruyter Mouton. 03/2017. <<[>>](https://www.degruyter.com/view/product/472830#)

### Readings for April 23<sup>rd</sup>

- Kourtikakis, Konstantinos et al. "Government-Sponsored Networks: A Social Network Analysis of Transnational EU-US Relations" Publication in Progress.

### Readings for April 30<sup>th</sup>

- Thompson, John. "Looking Beyond Trump" in Thranert, Oliver and Martin Zapfe (eds) Strategic Trends 2017: Key Developments in Global Affairs. Center For Security Studies: Zurich. 2017.

- Kaufmann, Sonja and Mathis Lohaus. "Ever closer or lost at sea? Scenarios for the future of transatlantic relations" *Futures*. 05/06/17.

- The European Commission. "US-EU Joint Report on TTIP Progress to Date" 1/17/2017. << [>>](http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2017/january/tradoc_155242.pdf)

- LaRocco, Lori Ann. "Wilbur Ross says he's 'open to resuming' talks on mega-trade deal with Europe" *CNBC*. 05/30/2017. << [>>](https://www.cnbc.com/2017/05/30/exclusive-wilbur-ross-says-hes-open-to-resuming-ttip-negotiations.html)

- Boffey, Daniel. "Hopes of EU-US trade agreement put on ice, say Brussels sources" *The Guardian*. 06/05/2017. << [>>](https://www.theguardian.com/business/2017/jun/05/hopes-of-eu-us-trade-agreement-put-on-ice-say-brussels-sources)