

CURRENT ISSUES IN EU AND GLOBAL AFFAIRS

Instructors:

Mr. Lucas Henry (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 Khan Annex
Credit: 2 credit hours (A-F grading)

Section B

Time: 9am-10am, Mondays
Location: 2021c Khan Annex
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:

Alcaro, R., Peterson, J., Greco, E. (2016). *The West and the Global Power Shift: Transatlantic Relations and Global Governance*. Palgrave. Available as an ebook via UIUC Libraries:
< https://vufind.carli.illinois.edu/vf-uiu/Record/uiu_8480052 >

Other readings (articles, editorials, journalism, etc.) will be provided in advance and can be found on Moodle.

Grading:

A student's grade for the course will be tied to three components: participation (40%), a blog post (20%), and a co-authored eBook chapter (40%).

These items will be evaluated as follows:

Participation and Attendance:

All students must be prepared to discuss issues of the week, and/or relevant issues and interests. Students must read the required readings before coming to class as they will be expected to participate at least once, but preferably often 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.

Course Participation will also have a **Transatlantic Briefing** segment, in which 1-2 predetermined students from each campus will concisely (2-3 minutes each) update their classmates on relevant news concerning transatlantic relationships at the beginning of each class meeting. Illinois students will follow European news outlets, while Leuven students will follow those from North and South America. Each student should expect to present news twice during the semester.

Regular class attendance is required. You are entitled to two "free" absences 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:

Grade	Participation Level	Expectation
<i>A (40)</i>	<i>Excellent</i>	<i>Student is present, always demonstrates knowledge and contextualization of reading, is fully engaged with discussion</i>
<i>B (30)</i>	<i>Good</i>	<i>Student is present, has read assignments, is somewhat engaged with discussion</i>
<i>C (20)</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Student misses more than two class meetings, sometimes does not read assignments, partially engages with discussion</i>
<i>D (10)</i>	<i>Poor</i>	<i>Student misses more than two class meetings, often does not read assignments, rarely engages with discussion</i>
<i>F (0)</i>	<i>Nonexistent</i>	<i>Please don't do this.</i>

Please note that this course is an excellent chance for you to network with students and faculty with similar interests, who will perhaps be working in the same sector as you when you finish the

MAEUS program. It is in your best interest to be as engaged as possible in this course, especially during the class meetings!

Blog Post:

This course is part of a larger transatlantic research project funded by the European Union. As such, students enrolled 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 transatlantic ties. The post will be graded as pass/no-pass with submissions meeting all assignment requirements as earning full credit for the assignment.

Co-Authored eBook Chapter on Transatlantic Perspective:

During the course, students from Illinois will be paired with students from Leuven to produce papers that will become chapters/sections of an e-book on EU transatlantic relations. This project will involve both a **co-authored paper** (3000-4000 words) and a **1-page fact-sheet** of relevant information regarding the paper.

The paper should explore and compare European and North American perspectives on a topic (e.g. free trade, sovereignty, global order, multilateralism, democracy, etc.). A list of possible topics is included below. The chapter should not bring the student's own perspective on the issue; rather, it should rely on academic sources and the perspectives of socially relevant actors. The chapter will contain an introduction, a section on the European perspective, a section on the North American perspective, and a conclusion. Each student in the pair is responsible for analysis from one of the perspectives, while the introduction and conclusion should be jointly authored. A list of possible topics is included below.

The one page fact sheet should match the chosen topic for the paper and contain basic and necessary information on the transatlantic relation for the reader. The fact sheet should contain both textual and visual elements, and will be submitted together with the paper. Students can consider formal and informal transatlantic interactions, from either present-day or historical events and issues. Students are also not limited to EU-US transatlanticity; Latin America, Africa and the Caribbean may also be considered.

Deadlines:

Identification of topic and pairing: ASAP

Proposal and Outline: 29 March 2019

Submittal of paper and fact sheet: May 9, 2019.

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

eBook Topic List

- Sovereignty
- Human Rights
- Rule of Law
- Multilateralism
- Global Order
- Democracy
- Labour
- Trade
- Subsidiarity
- Religion
- Migration
- Refugees
- International Law
- Language
- Federalism
- National Identity
- European Union
- Environment
- Liberal Arts
- Agriculture
- Tourism
- Welfare state
- Education
- Competition
- Defense/Security
- International Organizations
(e.g. NATO, UN, WTO, etc.)
- Development
- Terrorism
- Regionalism
- Transpacific Relations
- Sports and Tourism
- Frontier / expansion

*If you want to explore another concept, please consult with the teaching staff.

Course Policies

Lateness: Punctuality to class is a core requirement. Beginning with the second tardiness, your participation grade will be affected. Please let the instructor know of any exceptional circumstances.

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://studentcode.illinois.edu/article1/part4/1-402/> >

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.

< <https://learn.illinois.edu/> >

E-mail: We will be contacting everyone through UIUC 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. Also, I will do my very best to respond to email queries in an appropriate time frame (24 hours or sooner during the weekdays; first thing Monday morning over the weekend). That being said, if you have a question about Monday morning's class meeting, you should aim to ask me about it before noon on Friday. I will try to do extend the same courtesy to you.

Decorum: To protect this environment, students are expected to be civil towards each other and the faculty. 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

Week	Date	Lecturer	Topic
1	Monday Feb. 11	Dr. Gustavo Müller Lucas Henry	Course Introduction, Transatlanticity and European Studies
2	Monday Feb. 18	Dr. Emanuel Rota (UIUC)	History of Transatlantic Relations and the Transatlantic Civilizaion
3	Monday Feb. 25	Dr. Katja Biedenkopf (Leuven)	Global Environmental Governance and Transatlanticity
4	Monday Mar. 4	Dr. Michael Smith (Leuven)	Transatlantic Relations in the International System
5	Monday Mar 11	Lucas Henry (UIUC)	Cultural Transatlanticity
6	Leuven Spring School, March 18 – March 22, 2018		
6	Monday Mar 18	Roundtable on Transatlantic Relations at Leuven 4pm-7pm CET/9am-12noon CDT	
7	Tuesday Mar 19	Dr. Jan Wouters (Leuven)	Is the Atlantic Too Deep? American and European Perspectives on International Human Rights Law
8	Monday Apr. 1	Dr. Carl Niekerk (UIUC)	Transatlantic Populism and the Far Right in Europe and the United States
9	Illinois Spring School, April 8 – April 12, 2018		
9	Tuesday Apr 9	Roundtable on Transatlantic Relations at Illinois Event will be web-streamed and recorded if students cannot participate in person	
10	Monday Apr. 22	Dr. Konstantinos Kourtikakis (UIUC)	Transatlantic Social Networking
11	Monday Apr. 29	Dr. Kolja Raube Dr. Gustavo Müller Lucas Henry	Moving forward and future challenges for transatlantic relations.

Reading Assignments

Readings for February 11

Textbook, chapters 2 & 4

Readings for February 18

Gilroy, P. “The Black Atlantic as a Counterculture of Modernity”, from *The Black Atlantic: Modernity and Double Consciousness*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1993.

Sauerbrey, A. “Is the Trans-Atlantic Relationship Dead?” *New York Times*, 3 January 2018.

< <https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/03/opinion/germany-trans-atlantic-america.html> >

Readings for February 25

Biedenkopf, K. (2013) ‘The Multilevel Dynamic of EU-US Environmental Policy: A case study of electronic waste.’, *L'Union européenne et les États-Unis: Processus, politiques et projets*, Éditions Larcier, pp. 189-210.

Biedenkopf, K. and Walker, H. (2018) ‘US: Oscillating between Cooperation, Conflict and Coexistence’, in C. Adelle et al., *European Union External Environmental Policy*, Palgrave.

Biedenkopf, K. and Walker, H., (2016) ‘Playing to one’s strengths: the implicit division of labor in U.S. and EU climate diplomacy’, *AICGS Policy Report*, n. 64.

Readings for March 4

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.,

Readings/Listening for March 11

Hesmondhalgh, David. *The Cultural Industries*, 4th edition. London: Sage. 2019. (Selection TBD—previous editions have good sections on cultural policy at national levels; the newest edition is being released Feb.11, I will make my decision when I receive my copy.)

Wynn, Jonathan R. “Introduction” and “Conclusion” from *Music/City: American Festivals and Placemaking in Austin, Nashville, and Newport*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2015.

Listening: TBD. It will be fun, though.

Readings for March 19 (Wouters)

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 March 19 (Müller)

Dominguez, R. (2015) ‘EU-Latin American Regionalism’ in Dominguez, R., *EU Foreign Policy Towards Latin America*, London, Palgrave, pp. 8-27.

Malamud, A. (2010) ‘Latin American Regionalism and EU Studies’, *Journal of European Integration*, 32, 637-657.

Tillerson, R. (2018) ‘U.S. Engagement in the Western Hemisphere’, US Department of State, 05/02/18 <<https://www.state.gov/secretary/remarks/2018/02/277840.htm>>

Readings for April 1

Chapters 1 (“What is Populism?”) and 4 (“The Populist Leader”) from: Mudde, C. and C.R. Kaltwasser. *Populism: A Very Short Introduction*. New York: Oxford University Press. 2017.

Readings for April 22

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

Readings for April 29

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> >