

CURRENT ISSUES IN EUROPEAN AND GLOBAL AFFAIRS (N0A63a)

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1. Content and Objectives

‘Current Issues in European and Global Affairs’ 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.

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 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. 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. Its overall objectives are to improve students’ analytical and critical skills, enhance student’s knowledge and understanding of transatlantic relations following various disciplinary perspectives, offer live international perspectives on shared political issues, and grant students opportunities to network with their overseas peers.

2. Structure

This course is part of a Jean Monnet Project on transatlantic relations funded by the European Union. Its main component is a series of the guest lectures and debates on various dimensions of transatlantic relations via videoconference link between the University of Leuven and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The course also includes three tutorial sessions for KU Leuven students only with the goal of in-depth debate on relevant issues of transatlantic relations. Various elements of the course assessment (blog posts, transatlantic radar) might be posted online in the JM project’s website (under development).

3. Assessment

*Continuous assessment during the semester:

A. Blog Post

Three 400-word blog posts on a transatlantic issue during the semester. The blog posts will build on and react to the content of the guest lectures, but the exact topic and focus will be chosen by students (current issues, historic events, key institutions and people in transatlantic relations, etc.). This is a group assignment, each pair of students submits three posts.

Deadlines and related sessions:

- 9 March (sessions 2 to 5)
- 30 March 2018 (sessions 6 to 9)
- 4 May 2018 (sessions 10 to 14)

B. Transatlantic Radar

- One 3000-word paper on (a) a dimension of transatlanticity or (b) an analytical portrayal of leadership related to the chosen dimension. Student pairs will decide together on the overall topic. Each student submits one paper, while the student pair covers both topics **(a) and (b)**.
- One 1-page fact-sheet matching the chosen topic for the paper and containing basic and necessary information on the transatlantic relation or the leader. The factsheet contains both textual and visual elements, and will be submitted as an annex to the 3000-word paper.

Students can consider formal or informal transatlantic interactions as well present-day or past events and issues. Students can also consider transatlanticity as expressed in different parts of the world, including Latin America, Africa, and the Caribbean.

Each student pair must register its topic (including topics (a) and (b)) in order to avoid duplication.

Deadline for paper and factsheet: 18 May 2018

C. In-class participation

Students enrolled in the course are encouraged to make the most out of the interactions and debates with their peers, with students from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign via videoconference and in person, and with the professors and guest professors. Overall student engagement and participation during guest lectures and tutorial sessions will amount to 10% of the overall mark.

Breakdown of Overall Mark	
<i>Assignment</i>	<i>Weight in the overall mark</i>
Blog posts	10% each (total of 30%)
Transatlantic radar (paper)	50%
Transatlantic radar (factsheet)	10%
In-class participation	10%

4. Schedule

#	Date	Room	Lecturer (Institution)	Topic
1	Monday 12 Feb 4-6pm	BETH 00.08	Prof. Dr. Kolja Raube Dr. Gustavo Müller Dr. Neil Vander Most (Leuven & Illinois)	Introduction to the Course <i>Transatlanticity and European Studies</i>
2	Monday 19 Feb 4-6pm	BETH 00.08	Prof. Dr. Emanuel Rota (Illinois)	<i>History of Transatlantic Relations and the Transatlantic Civilization</i>
3	Monday 26 Feb 4-6pm	BETH 00.08	Dr. Neil Vander Most (Illinois)	<i>Transatlantic Comparative Perspectives on Federalism (US, EU and Belgium)</i>
4	Thursday 1 March 9-11am	MSI 02.18	TUTORIAL SESSION (KU Leuven only)	<i>Revisiting the North Atlantic Drift</i>
5	Monday 5 March 4-6pm	BETH 00.08	Prof. Dr. Bart Kerremans (Leuven)	<i>The Impact of US-American and European Politics on Transatlantic Relations</i>
6	Monday 12 March 4-6pm	BETH 00.08	Prof. Dr. Michael Smith (Leuven)	<i>Transatlantic Relations in the International System</i>
7	Monday 19 March 4-7pm	BETH 00.08	<i>Roundtable on Transatlantic Relations</i> (followed by a reception)	
8	Tuesday 20 March 4-6pm	Raadzaal Social Sciences	Dr. Gustavo Müller (Leuven)	<i>Transatlanticity and Latin America</i>
9	Monday 26 March 4-6pm	BETH 00.08	Prof. Dr. Jan Wouters (Leuven)	<i>Is the Atlantic Too Deep? American and European Perspectives on International Human Rights Law</i>
10*	Monday 2 April 4-6pm	**	Dr. Neil Vander Most (Illinois)	<i>Transatlantic Populism and the Far Right in Europe and the United States</i>
11	Monday 16 April 4-6pm	BETH 00.08	Dr. Zsuzsanna Fagyal (Illinois)	<i>The Linguistic Integration of Adult Migrants in the EU and the USA</i>
12	Monday 23 April	BETH 00.08	Prof. Dr. Konstantinos Kourtikakis (Illinois)	<i>Transatlantic Social Networking (working title)</i>
13	Thursday 26 April 9-11am	DV3 01.10	TUTORIAL SESSION (KU Leuven only)	<i>Transatlantic Relations at the Crossroads</i>
14	Monday 30 April 4-6pm	BETH 00.08	Prof. Dr. Kolja Raube Dr. Neil Vander Most (Illinois)	<i>Moving forward and future challenges for transatlantic relations.</i>
15	Thursday 3 May 9-11am	MSI 02.18	TUTORIAL SESSION (KU Leuven only)	General Feedback Session

* This lecture takes place during Easter holidays in Illinois: a video of this lecture will be made available.

5. References

Textbook (eBook available via LIMO):

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

Weekly Readings:

12 February

Textbook chapters 2 & 4.

19 February

Gilroy, P. (1995) *The Black Atlantic as a Counterculture of Modernity*, Harvard University Press, pp. 1-71

Sauerbrey, A. (2018) Is the Trans-Atlantic Relationship Dead?, *The New York Times*, 03/01/2018, <<https://www.nytimes.com/2018/01/03/opinion/germany-trans-atlantic-america.html>>

26 February

Broschek, J. (2016) 'Federalism in Europe, America, and Africa: A Comparative Analysis' in Hofmeister, W. and Edmund T. (eds), *Federalism and Decentralization: Perceptions for Political and Institutional Reforms*, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung: Singapore. pp. 23-50

Fabbrini, S. (2005) 'Is the EU exceptional? The EU and the US in comparative perspective' in Fabbrini, S. (ed), *Democracy and Federalism in the European Union and the United States*, Routledge, New York. pp. 3-24

Young, E. 'What Can Europe Tell Us About the Future of American Federalism?', *Arizona State Law Journal*, 49, 1109-1140.

1 March (Tutorial)

Drozdiak, W. (2005), 'The North Atlantic Drift', *Foreign Affairs*, 84(1), 88-98.

5 March

Textbook chapters 5, 6 & 8.

12 March

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.

20 March

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>>

26 March

- 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.

2 April

- Hawkins, K. et al. (2016) 'Made in US: Populism Beyond Europe' in Martinelli, A. (ed) *Populism on the Rise, Democracies Under Challenge?*
- Galbreath, M. (2017) 'An Analysis of Donald Trump and Marine Le Pen', *Harvard International Review*, 38(3).
- Mudde, C. (2016) '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, M. (2017) 'Love, Fear, Anger: The Emotional Arc of Populist Rhetoric.' *Narrative and Conflict: Explorations of Theory and Practice*. <<https://journals.gmu.edu/NandC/article/viewFile/1954/1378>>

12 April (Tutorial)

Textbook chapter 12.

16 April

*Read three papers from the following:

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

23 April

- Kourtikakis, K. et al. (forthcoming) 'Government-Sponsored Networks: A Social Network Analysis of Transnational EU-US Relations'

30 April

- Thompson, J. (2017) 'Looking Beyond Trump' in Thranert, O. and Martin Z. (eds) *Strategic Trends 2017: Key Developments in Global Affairs*, Center For Security Studies, Zurich.
- Kaufmann, S. and Lohaus, M., 'Ever closer or lost at sea? Scenarios for the future of transatlantic relations', *Futures*, 05/06/17.
- European Commission, 'US-EU Joint Report on TTIP Progress to Date', 17/1/2017. <http://trade.ec.europa.eu/doclib/docs/2017/january/tradoc_155242.pdf>
- LaRocco, L. A., 'Wilbur Ross says he's 'open to resuming' talks on mega-trade deal with Europe' *CNBC*. 30/05/2017. <<https://www.cnn.com/2017/05/30/exclusive-wilbur-ross-says-hes-open-to-resuming-ttip-negotiations.html>>
- Boffey, D. 'Hopes of EU-US trade agreement put on ice, say Brussels sources', *The Guardian*, 05/06/2017. <<https://www.theguardian.com/business/2017/jun/05/hopes-of-eu-us-trade-agreement-put-on-ice-say-brussels-sources>>

3 May (Tutorial)

No assigned reading