

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

Two 800-1000 words blog posts on a transatlantic issues 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 two blog-posts.

Deadlines and related sessions:

- 19 March (sessions 2 to 6)
- 1 May 2019 (sessions 8 to 13)

B. eBook Chapter

- One 3000-4000 words paper that explores and compares European and North-American perspectives on a chosen concept (e.g. free trade, sovereignty, global order, multilateralism, democracy). The chapter should not bring the student's own perspective on the issue. It should rely on academics sources and the perspective of socially and politically relevant actors.

Each 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 the same topic from a different perspective. Students should jointly produce an introduction and a conclusion to the chapter. A list of possible concepts is provided in section 6 of this syllabus.

Until 29 March 2019, students must send the outline of the chapter, including a brief discussion on its main arguments to the teaching staff.

- One 1-page fact-sheet matching the chosen topic for the paper and containing basic and necessary information on the transatlantic relation in regards to the chosen concept. The factsheet contains both textual and visual elements, and will be submitted as an annex to the 3000-4000 words paper.

Each student pair must register its concept in order to avoid duplication.

Deadline for paper and factsheet: 9 May 2019

The individual oral exam, scheduled during the exam period in June, will revisit your individual contributions to the above-mentioned assignments

C. In-class participation

Students 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	
Assignment	Weight in the overall mark
Blog posts	20% (10% each)
Transatlantic eBook (paper and factsheet)	50%
In-class participation and Oral Exam	30%

4. Schedule

#	Date	Room	Lecturer (Institution)	Topic
1	Monday 11 Feb 4-6pm	MSI 02.15	Prof. Dr. Kolja Raube Dr. Gustavo Müller Lucas Henry (Leuven & Illinois)	Introduction to the Course <i>Transatlanticity and European Studies</i>
2	Monday 18 Feb 4-6pm	MSI 02.15	Prof. Dr. Emanuel Rota (Illinois)	<i>History of Transatlantic Relations and the Transatlantic Civilization</i>
3	Monday 25 Feb 4-6pm	MSI 02.15	Prof. Dr. Katja Biedenkopf (Leuven)	<i>Global Environmental Governance and Transatlanticity</i>
4	Monday 4 March 4-6pm	MSI 02.15	Prof. Dr. Michael Smith (Leuven)	<i>Transatlantic Relations in the International System</i>
5	Tuesday 5 March 9-11am	MSI 01.16	TUTORIAL SESSION (for KUL students only)	<i>Revisiting the North Atlantic Drift</i>
6	Monday 11 March 4-6pm	MSI 02.15	Lucas Henry (Illinois)	<i>Cultural Transatlanticity</i>
7	Monday 18 March 2:30pm	Raadzaal SW00.113 Social Sciences	<i>Roundtable on Transatlantic Relations</i> (followed by a reception)	
8	Tuesday 19 March 11-1pm	DV1 02.54	Prof. Dr. Jan Wouters (Leuven)	<i>Is the Atlantic Too Deep? American and European Perspectives on International Human Rights Law</i>
9	Tuesday 19 March 4-6pm	Raadzaal SW00.113 Social Sciences	Dr. Gustavo Müller (Leuven)	<i>Transatlanticity and Latin America</i>
10	Thursday 21 March 9-11am	MSI 03.12	Prof. Dr. Bart Kerremans	<i>The Impact of US and European Politics on Transatlantic Relations</i>
11	Monday 1 April 4-6pm	MSI 02.15	Prof. Dr. Karl Niekerk (Illinois)	<i>Transatlantic Populism and the Far Right in Europe and the United States</i>
12	Tuesday 2 April 9-11am	MSI 01.16	TUTORIAL SESSION (for KUL students only)	General Feedback Session
13	TBC	TBC	Prof. Dr. Konstantinos Kourtikakis (Illinois)	<i>Transatlantic Social Networking (working title)</i>
14	Monday 29 April 4-6pm	MSI 02.15	Prof. Dr. Kolja Raube Dr. Gustavo Müller Michael Francis Lucas Henry (Leuven & Illinois)	<i>Moving forward and future challenges for transatlantic relations</i>
15	Monday 6 May 4-6pm	MSI 02.15	TUTORIAL SESSION (for KUL students only)	General Feedback Session

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:

11 February

Textbook chapters 2 & 4.

18 February

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

Sauerbrey, A. (2018) '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>>

25 February

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.

4 March

Textbook chapter 3

Smith, M. (2018) 'The EU, the US and the Crisis of Contemporary Multilateralism', *Journal of European Integration*, 40(5), 539-553.

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.

5 March | Tutorial 1

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

11 March

Hesmondhalgh, D. (2019) *The Cultural Industries*, London: Sage. (Selection of chapters TBD)

Wynn, Jonathan R. (2015) *Music/City: American Festivals and Placemaking in Austin, Nashville, and Newport*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, "Introduction" & "Conclusion"

19 March | 11am -1pm

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.

19 March | 4pm - 6pm

- 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>>

21 March | 9-11am

Textbook chapters 5, 6 & 8.

1 April

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

2 April | Tutorial 2

Textbook chapter 12.

22 April

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

29 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>>

6 May | Tutorial 3

- Riddervold, M. and Newsome (2018) A. 'Transatlantic relations in times of uncertainty: crises and EU-US relations', *Journal of European Integration*, 40 (5), 505-521

6. Concepts for eBook chapter

- 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.