
Course plan

B2.520 - European Union in World Politics

Credits: 4.0

Subject coordinator

Lluc Lopez Vidal

Course instructors

Claudia Rives Casanova and Juan Pablo Soriano Gatica

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Presentation

Description

The course *The European Union in World Politics* is designed to provide students with the historical, theoretical and conceptual knowledge on the genesis and development of the European Union as an international actor. It aims to generate a critical assessment on the EU's intricate and multifaceted foreign policy and on the analysis of said foreign policy within the context of the complex European and global transformations. To do so this course incorporates the study of the EU's world role into the wider field of International Relations (IR).

By the end of this course, students should be able to define and relate the main analytical concepts of the EU's international relations studies and to understand the main debates around the EU and its role in the international arena. This will provide them with the ability to explain the development of main trends within the EU's external relations and link these, in an informed way, to the analysis of the internal and external challenges of the current European political scenario.

The course is divided into two unit-centered parts.

Part I contains three units dedicated to introducing the **European Union as a global actor**. Unit 1 will address the **nature of the EU's foreign policy** as a multifaceted, multi-method and multi-level foreign policy. What does this mean? Well, the European Union is a sui generis kind of international actor. Empirically, the EU is often portrayed as an economic 'superpower' with a traditional central role in areas such as diplomacy, trade, 'soft security' and the construction of the broader world order. Analytically, its unique hybrid nature as something more than an intergovernmental organization with supranational structures but not quite a state in its own right poses certain challenges to the development of its role in world politics. This unit is designed to help students understand the **nature and genesis of the EU's role in the international system** as well as to understand the current debates, both political and academic, around the scope, relevance and limitations of said role.

The Unit 2 of our course will change the focus from the question of **what kind of international actor the EU is** to the question of **how the EU goes about performing its role** (or roles) in the international arena. We will explore the **institutional context** of the external relations of the EU through the analysis the Union's main institutions and their role in the EU's foreign policymaking. The Unit will present the different decision-making processes and balances of power among the different institutions at play in each policy and students will be able to comprehend the wider implications of the EU's internal institutional architecture for its external role.

Unit 3 will be dedicated to the analysis of the **interrelationship between the EU's foreign policy and the EU's member states' national foreign policies**. Since this is an interconnected and mutually influencing relationship, this unit will seek to understand the role of member states and member states' foreign policies play in shaping the EU's foreign policymaking processes. We will approach this dynamic relationship from three central concepts in EU foreign policy: firstly, the relationship between **power, interests and identities** of member states, secondly the problem of **coherence**, and thirdly, the dynamics of **Europeanization**. These concepts present complex issues with varying degrees of effects and differing implications on the EU's role as an international actor.

Part II of the course will focus on the **different dimensions** of the EU's external relations activity to **explore the origins, evolution and the impact** these activities have on the **Union's role** as an international actor.

This part is divided in two units.

Unit 4 will explore key issues in EU foreign policy in order to understand the **EU's presence, competences and capacity** in areas such as human rights, democracy and the rule of law, as well as conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and arms control.

Unit 5 is composed of three modules from which students must choose **ONLY TWO**. These two modules continue to explore the role of the EU as a **trade power**, the Union's role in **international development aid** and its presence in the **global political economy** arena. By carrying a more in-depth assessment of the EU's engagement in specific areas of international relations this unit will allow students to understand some of the most **pressing challenges the EU faces in contemporary world politics** by exploring the EU's inherent tensions and contradictions as well as its strengths and added value as such a unique actor.

The course as part of the programme as a whole

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The Master's Degree in International Affairs and Diplomacy (UOC, UNITAR) is designed for diplomats and government officials involved in international affairs, as well as those persons involved in international relations or seeking a career in this field.

The course *The European Union in World Politics* will provide students with the theoretical and analytical tools necessary to understand academic and political debates regarding the role of the European Union in world politics as well as to critically assess current issues taking place in within the EU and in the international sphere such as the blurring borders between internal and external security, the impact of Brexit and the EU's internal debate for its international role, the uncertainty about the future of transatlantic relations, the yet-to-see development of new special relationships between the Union and important players such as China, India, Brazil, the partnership with Africa, the EU's role in the fight against climate change, or the increasing debate around the very existence and future of the EU as an actor. These are all headline issues embedded in the daily development of our lives or even specifically our jobs. To be able to **critically analyze and address** them is of invaluable help to better understand the world we live in.

Professional fields it is linked to

- National bodies (such as government ministries and departments, civil services, think-tanks, and policy advisory groups)
- Embassies and consulates
- International organizations (such as the UN, UN agencies, EU departments)
- Campaign groups, aid agencies and other nongovernmental organizations (NGOs)
- Companies operating on an international level
- Journalists and other media professionals
- Banking, financial services and corporate consultancy
- University lecturers

Prior knowledge

No prior knowledge is required, although some notions of the European Union and/or International Relations theories might be useful.

Objectives and competences

The course *The European Union in World Politics* aims to help students:

- Familiarize with key frameworks, concepts and debates for the theoretical understanding of the EU's role in the international system.
- Understand the workings and impact of the external relations of the EU both for the Union itself and for the wider international arena.
- Be able to critically assess and reflect on current issues affecting the EU in world politics.
- Develop independent research and analytical skills.

Content

UNIT	CONTENT	READINGS - available in the classroom resources	ACTIVITIES
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1. The Nature of the EU's Foreign Policy	1.1. Introducing European Foreign Policy	PDF Chapter 10. The EU as a Global Actor, Peterson and Gottwald. pp. 208 - 228.	CAT 1
	1.2. The Community System	From "Kenealy, Peterson and Corbett, 2015. The European Union: How does it work?, Oxford University Press"	
	1.4. The Common Foreign and Security Policy		
	1.4 Theorizing the EU as a Global Actor	Optional reading Study Guide	

2. The EU's Foreign Policy System: Actors	2.1. One Framework, Two Policy-making Methods or a Continuum?		CAT 1
	2.2. The European Council	PDF The EU's Foreign Policy System: Actors. Keukeleire and Delreux. pp. 61-93.	
	2.3. The Council of the European Union	From "Keukeleire and Delreux, 2014. The Foreign Policy of the European Union, Palgrave Macmillan"	
	2.4. The Commission		
	2.5. The HRVP and EEAS		
	2.6. The European Parliament	Optional reading Study Guide	
	2.7. The Court of Justice		
	2.8. Other actors		

3. EU Foreign Policy and National Foreign Policy	3.1. Power, Interests and Identity of Member States	PDF Chapter 5, EU Foreign Policy and National Foreign Policy, 116 - 134. From "Keukeleire and Delreux, 2014. The Foreign Policy of the European Union, Palgrave Macmillan"	CAT 2
	3.2. The Problem of Coherence	PDF Carmen Gebhard, The Problem of Coherence in the EU's International Relations, 124 - 140. From "Hill, Smith and Vanhoonacker, 2017. International Relations and the European Union. Oxford University Press"	
	3.3. Europeanization	PDF Reuben Wong, The Role of Member States: The Europeanization	

of Foreign Policy? **144 - 152**. From "Hill, Smith and Vanhoonacker, 2017. International Relations and the European Union. Oxford University Press"

Optional reading Study Guide

4. Key Issues in Eu Foreign Policy	4.1. Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law	PDF Chapter 6. Key Issues in EU Foreign Policy. Keukeleire and Delreux, pp. 135 - 155 .	CAT 3
	4.2. Conflict Prevention, Crisis Management and Peacebuilding	From "Keukeleire and Delreux, 2014. The Foreign Policy of the European Union, Palgrave Macmillan"	
	4.3. Non-Proliferation and Control of Arms Export	Optional reading Study Guide	

5. Key Issues in EU foreign Policy (2)	CHOOSE ONLY TWO		CAT 3
	5.1. The European Union as a Trade Power	From "Hill, Smith and Vanhoonacker, 2017. International Relations and the European Union. Oxford University Press"	
	5.2. The EU and International Development	PDF Chapter 10. The European Union as a Trade Power, Sophie Meunier and Kalypso Nicolaïdis. pp. 209 - 234	
	5.3. The EU and Global Political Economy	PDF Chapter 13. The EU and International Development. Maurizio Carbone. pp. 292 - 312	

PDF The EU and the Global Political Economy. Amy Verdun. **pp. 236 - 261**

6. Synthesis Unit	All previous materials	CAT 4: Academic debate (instructions to be published in the classroom)
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Resources

View the bibliography titles available in the library

- Kubicek, Paul, autor (0). European politics / Paul Kubicek. Milton Park, Abingdon, Oxon : Routledge, 2017
ISBN: 9781315616919
- Leonard, R. L. (Richard Lawrence), autor (0). Economist guide to the European Union;The Routledge guide to the European Union : previously known as the Economist Guide to the European Union / Dick Leonard and Robert Taylor. London New York, NY : Routledge, 2016
ISBN: 9781317208594
- Olsen, Jonathan, 1959-, autor (0). The European Union : politics and policies / Jonathan Olsen, John McCormick. Boulder, CO : Westview Press , [2017]
ISBN: 9780813349848
- (2014). The European Union : readings on the theory and practice of European integration / edited by Brent F. Nelsen and Alexander Stubb. Basingstoke : Palgrave Macmillan, 2014
ISBN: 9781137410917

Support tools and learning resources

Learning resources used in this subject

Material	Support
Selected chapters from	
Kenealy, Peterson and Corbett, 2015. The European Union: How does it work?, Oxford University Press	
Keukeleire and Delreux, 2014. The Foreign Policy of the European Union, Palgrave Macmillan	PDF
Hill, Smith and Vanhoonacker, 2017. International Relations and the European Union. Oxford University Press	

Support tools and complementary materials

Although the course is built around the reading materials specified above, students are provided with a Study Guide in every Unit which complements the compulsory readings, highlights important elements of these readings and offers a selection of OPTIONAL (non-assessable) material under the specific thematic sections in each guide. These Study Guides are uploaded on to the platform. In addition to that, students are welcomed to ask the tutor for issue specific readings should they be interested.

Resources for citation and referencing

- Bibliography management: <http://biblioteca.uoc.edu/en/resources/bibliography-management?platform=hootsuite>
- Video on how to cite sources: <http://biblioteca.uoc.edu/en/resources/bibliographic-citation>
- UOC's language resources database: dictionaries, tools and style services: <http://biblioteca.uoc.edu/en/resources/english-language-resources>
- UOC's Library Services: <http://biblioteca.uoc.edu/en/resources/resource/uoc-library-research>

Relevant Websites:

- About the European Union: https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu_en
- Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS): <http://www.ceps.be>
- Centre for European Reform: <http://www.cer.org.uk>
- CIDOB-Barcelona Center for International Affairs: <https://www.cidob.org/en/>
- Council of Europe: <https://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/home>
- Council of the European Union: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/council-eu/>
- Council on Foreign Relations - Europe and Eurasia: <https://www.cfr.org/europe-and-eurasia>
- Delegation of the EU to the United States: https://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/united-states-america_en
- EUobserver: <http://www.euobserver.com>
- EurActi target="_blank"><http://www.euractiv.com>
- European Council <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/>
- European Council on Foreign Relations: <http://www.ecfr.eu>
- European External Action Service: https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage_en
- European Navigator: <https://www.cvce.eu/>
- European Parliament: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/portal/en>
- GZERO World with Ian Bremmer: <https://www.gzeromedia.com/gzero-world-with-ian-bremmer/>
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO): <http://www.nato.int>
- Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE): <http://www.osce.org>
- Politico EU: <https://www.politico.eu/>
- United States mission to the European Union: <https://useu.usmission.gov/>

Academic journals

- Comparative European Politics
- Debatte: Journal of Contemporary Central and Eastern Europe
- EUISS Chaillot Papers
- Europe Asia Studies
- European Constitutional Law Review
- European Foreign Affairs Review
- European Integration Online Papers (EIoP)

European Journal of International Law
European Journal of Political Research
European Law Journal
European Law Review
European Political Science
European Political Science Review
European Review
European Research Paper Archives
European Security
European Societies
European Union Politics
Europe's World
JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies
Journal of Contemporary European Studies
Journal of Contemporary European Research
Journal of European Competition Law and Practice
Journal of European Integration
Journal of European Public Policy
Journal of European Studies
Living Reviews in European Governance
Perspectives on European Politics & Society
Southern European Society and Politics
West European Politics

Podcasts

- [European Council on Foreign Relations](#)
- [Chatham House](#)
- [Oxford University Podcasts - Europe](#)
- [POLITICO](#)
- [Institute for European Studies - Jean Monnet Chair - EU foreign affairs podcasts](#)

Other resources

- [ECLAS - European Commission Libraries Catalogue: http://www.eufp.eu/eclas-european-commission-libraries-catalogue](#)
- [Basic Information about the EU - eu](#)

Bibliography and information sources

Bibliography available at the UOC's library

- Bale, Tim. *European Politics: A Comparative Introduction (Comparative Government and Politics)* 4th edition, Palgrave MacMillan, 2017.
 - Keukeleire, Stephan and Tom Delreux. *The Foreign Policy of the European Union*, 2nd edition, Palgrave Macmillan, 2014.
 - Oberthür, S., Jorgensen, K. E., Murray, P. B., Lavernex, S. (eds) *The European Union in International Affairs Series*. Palgrave MacMillan.
 - Tonra, B., Whitman, R. and Youn, A. *Foreign Policy of the European Union (4 volumes)*. Sage, 2017.
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