

Vesalius College

Course description

Course title: International Affairs Capstone: the European Union as a Global Actor

Course code: POL 391E

Teacher responsible: Prof. Dr. J. Men

Course description:

The course is a capstone seminar for international affairs majors. It is designed for students who have already mastered the basic concepts and theories of international relations, have knowledge about the institutional functions of the European Union, and have been well aware of the history of European integration. As a capstone course, it provides students with the opportunity to demonstrate their ability to apply their knowledge in international affairs to the study of the EU as a global actor. Students are required to apply international relations theory and knowledge of international affairs to write a research paper on one aspect of the EU's external relations. The course prepares students for independent research at the graduate level.

The course will start with an overview of the EU's general development with an emphasis on its external activities. The following topics are covered in the course: the EU's institutional developments; its identity formation; its construction of common foreign and security policy; the achievements and challenges of enlargement; and its relations with the other parts of the world, particularly the ACP countries.

Course objectives:

The course aims to help the students:

- To develop knowledge and understanding of the EU as an international actor at an advanced level, including a sound factual and theoretical knowledge of the institutional framework and decision-making processes of the EU in relation to its external policies;
- To evaluate academic arguments and construct consistent and persuasive analyses of contemporary debates on the EU's role as a global actor;
- To demonstrate competence in conducting research in the field of European Union studies with guidance of the course convenor.

Grade weighting scheme:

Class participation	10%
Group presentation	10%
Individual presentations	20%
Research paper	60%
TOTAL	100%

Text books:

- Hill, Christopher and Michael Smith (2006). *International Relations and the European Union*. Oxford University Press. ISBN-10: 0199273480; ISBN-13: 978-0199273485.
- Bretherton, Charlotte and John Vogler (2005). *The European Union as a Global Actor*. Routledge, second edition. ISBN-10: 0415282454; ISBN-13: 978-0415282451

Articles:

- Simons Collard-Wexler, "Integration Under Anarchy: Neorealism and the European Union," *European Journal of International Relations*, Vol. 12, No. 3, 2006, 397-432.
- Charles Krupnick, "Between Neorealism and Liberal Institutionalism: The CFSP and European Security Cooperation," *Journal of European Integration*, Vol. 19, No. 2, 1996, 143-164.
- Frank Schimmelfennig and Ulrich Sedelmeier, "Theorising EU Enlargement: Research Focus, Hypotheses, and the State of Research," *Journal of European Public Policy*, Vol. 9, No. 4, 2002, 500-528.
- Jeffrey T. Checkel, "Why Comply? Social Learning and European Identity Change," *International Organisation*, Vol. 55, No. 3, 2001, 553-588.
- Gorm Rye Olsen, "Europe and Africa in the 1990s: European Policies towards a Poor Continent in an Era of Globalisation," *Global Society*, Vol.15, No.4, 325-343.