

SYLLABUS

The European Union's External Action and Foreign Policy

**Máster Universitario en
Diplomacia y Organizaciones
Internacionales**

DESCRIPTION SHEET

COURSE DETAILS

CODE	573349
NAME	The European Union's External Action and Foreign Policy
NATURE	Optative ("Economic European and International Relations" pathway)
TERM	First term
LANGUAGE	English (one single session in Spanish)
ECTS CREDITS	3.0

SUPERVISOR

Prof. Jordi Quero, Lecturer of International Relations at *CEI International Affairs*.

AIMS AND SCOPE

The European Union's external relations are one of the *raison d'être* of the European integration process. Its evolution over the years has incepted a complex external action, involving multiple actors and endowed with myriad instruments for its strategic planning and implementation. Thus, this course aims at familiarizing the students with the most advanced theoretical and political debates on EU behaviour in the international context; to study the EU's external action from its various dimensions (political, economic and security-related); to acquire theoretical knowledge on the European Union's external action from the analysis of readings and documents on fundamental aspects of such action; and to analyze the instruments of external action through case studies, with special emphasis on their versatility, limits and effectiveness.

With these aims in mind, the course is structured in three main blocks. The first deals with theoretical issues, focusing on the academic literature of Foreign Policy Analysis and then reflecting on the European Union as an international actor. The second block focuses on the institutional elements of the EU's external relations (competences, institutional architecture and actors involved, and public policy instruments used). Finally, the third block focuses on specific areas of development of the EU's external relations such as

development cooperation, humanitarian aid, international promotion of human rights, security and defense, neighborhood or the participation of the EU in multilateral international organizations.

CORE COMPETENCIES AND SKILLS

GENERAL

- Mastering the specialized language in oral and written form.
- Critical and self-critical reasoning.
- Applying the knowledge acquired and their problem-solving skills in new or unfamiliar environments within (broader) or multidisciplinary contexts related to their area of study.
- Assimilating knowledge and facing the complexity of making judgements based on information that, being incomplete or limited, includes reflections on the social and ethical responsibilities linked to the application of their knowledge and judgement.

SPECIFIC

- Proposing new and original criteria for the interpretation and application of international norms and jurisprudence in order to adapt them to the complex and changing international reality under study.
- Identifying and assessing the impact of European integration in domestic legal systems and EU member-states' foreign policy, as well as in the external relations of the EU, in relation to different aspects of the political reality under study.
- Formulating, exposing and debating solutions to specific problems in international and multicultural environments, with original and complex arguments, both orally and in writing.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Assimilating the concrete actions and mechanisms used the European institutions responsible for its external action and in charge of defining the positions that the Union defends in the framework of other international organizations or multilateral meetings.
- Identifying the unilateral instruments used by the European institutions in the implementation of external action both in its regional and multilateral frameworks.
- Identifying the mechanisms used by the European institutions responsible for designing the EU's external action.
- Identifying the specific features of political decentralization in the different models of de-centralized States as well as identifying their integration in and the features of their relations with the European Union.

- Analyzing and evaluating the most relevant types of responsibility clashes between European institutions, States, and domestic de-centralized institutions.

SCHEDULE

WEEK 1: Introduction to Foreign Policy Analysis: Theorizing European Union's foreign relations.

Studying external relations: Theoretical frameworks and conceptual definitions.
 Internal and external conditioning factors.
 Perceptions, influence and cognitive elements in foreign policy decision-making.
 Foreign policy instruments: Diplomacy, economic resources, military resources, public diplomacy and intelligence.

WEEK 2: The EU as a global actor?

The European Union as a global actor.
 The historical evolution: The European Political Cooperation, the Common Foreign and Security Policy and the EU's External Action.
 Objectives and values: strategizing EU's external action.

WEEK 3: Competencias de la acción exterior de la UE.

El principio de atribución.
 Las competencias explícitas.
 Las competencias externas deducidas de las competencias internas: el principio del paralelismo de competencias.
 Las competencias externas deducidas de las finalidades de la UE: el artículo 352 TFUE.
 La delimitación de las competencias externas entre la Unión y los Estados miembros: competencias exclusivas y competencias concurrentes.
 Problemas de delimitación: Ejemplos.

WEEK 4: Institutional architecture of the EU's External Action (I): Theoretical perspective.

Critical actors in the EU's External Action decision-making process.
 The EU Commission, the High Representative/ Vice-President and the European External Action Service.
 The European Council and its presidency.
 The Foreign Affairs Council.
 The EU Parliament.
 The European Court of Justice.
 The CFSP decision-making process.

WEEK 5: Instruments of the EU's External Action: Seminar on the Syrian crisis.

The EU's External Action toolbox.
Partnership instruments.
The Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace.
Sanctions.
Electoral observation missions.
Case study: The EU vis-à-vis the contemporary crisis in Syria.

WEEK 6: Development cooperation, humanitarian aid and Human Rights promotion.

Main general political and diplomatic instruments.
Main economic instruments.
Association and cooperation agreements on development: Yaoundé, Lomé and Cotonou.
Humanitarian aid.
The EDHR and the EDF: Development and Human Rights.

WEEK 7: The EU's Common Security and Defense Policy.

Forerunners of the EU's CSDP.
Legal basis of its functioning.
Main institutional actors.
Main step forward: the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) in security and defense policies.

WEEK 8: Other external action-related EU policies.

Trade policy and its relation to EU's external relations.
The Generalised Scheme of Preferences and the Association Agreements.
Enlargement: its discussions and its impact over EU's external relations.

WEEK 9: European Neighbourhood Policy.

The European Neighbourhood Policy in the Treaties.
The ENP's goals.
The centrality of the Action Plans.
Eastern Partnership as a new step forward.
Countries.
The 2001 Southern Partnership debate: The EU as a normative actor in its neighbourhood(s)?

WEEK 10: Multilateralism and EU's External Action: The EU and global institutions.

Legal and political foundations of EU's participation in multilateralism.
The EU and the United Nations.
The EU and international financial and economic institutions: the International Monetary Fund and the G20 as paramount examples.

The EU and energy and environmental multilateralism.
The EU and Human Rights multilateralism.

WEEK 11: Institutional architecture of the EU's External Action (II): Practical perspective.

The European Commission and the EU's External Action.
The practical perspective on the role the High Representative and the European External Action Service on external relations.

WEEK 12: Assessing the EU's External Action: Seminar on the contemporary EU-Russia relations.

Geopolitical concerns and value promotion: A debate still making sense?
Assessing the relation between capabilities and ambition: The EU-Russia relations amid the current geopolitical situation.

PREVIOUS KNOWLEDGE REQUIRED

RELATION TO OTHER MASTER'S COURSES

No enrollment restrictions. This course is part of the Master's module "The European Union as International Actor", together with "Institutions and Decision-making in the European Union. The European Civil Service".

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

Those students from alternative undergraduate studies than those specified in the foundational report of the Master's must have been enrolled in the following "Pre-Program Training Courses":

- Introduction to International Law and International Organizations (2 ECTS)
- Introduction to International Relations and International Politics (2 ECTS)
- Introduction to Global Economy and Trade (2 ECTS)

TEACHING METHODS

This course consists of one in-person class session per week of two hours.

This course is mainly structured through in-class activities organized around theoretical sessions and a seminar. The theoretical sessions are taught through the teacher's explanation of the thematic schedule above, offering as well methodological guidelines for the independent development of the contents by the students.

The seminar sessions will serve to deepen specific aspects of the topics covered through discussion and resolution of issues raised by the texts indicated in the program. Students must get prepared prior to each session following the precise instructions that will be provided to them.

Note: Both the methodology of the course and the evaluation may be modified as a consequence of circumstances that may arise in the context of the management of the Covid-19 pandemic.

GRADING

This course includes the options of single and continuous evaluation. Students may choose the option they wish within the deadlines established by CEI's own regulations by filling out a form available at the secretary's office of the affiliated center. The minimum compulsory attendance for the two evaluations is 80% of the sessions.

In the case of **continuous evaluation**, the evaluation will combine continuous evaluation mechanisms and a final exam. The grades obtained in these two concepts will constitute the final grade. The continuous evaluation will be based on activities and tests carried out throughout the course, following the indications of the professors of the subject. The grades obtained in this concept of continuous evaluation will constitute 50% of the final grade. The grade obtained in the final exam will constitute the other 50% of the final grade.

WORKLOAD

EXPECTED HOURS COMMITTED	
TOTAL	75
THEORETICAL CLASSES AND SEMINARS	25
SUPERVISED PERFORMANCE	25
INDEPENDENT PERFORMANCE	25

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

- J. BORRELL, *European Foreign Policy in Times of Covid-19*, Luxembourg: European Union External Action, 2021 [Especially Chapters 3 & 4].
- S. GSTÖHL & S. SCHUNZ, *The External Action of the European Union. Concepts, Approaches, Theories*, London: Red Globe Press, 2021.
- C. HILL, M. SMITH & S. VANHOONACKER, *International Relations and the EU*, 3rd ed., 2017, Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- K. E. JORGENSEN et al. (eds.) *The SAGE Handbook of European Foreign Policy*, London: SAGE, 2015.
- F. ALDECOA, N. CORNAGO & V. RODRÍGUEZ, *Teoría y Práctica de la Diplomacia Común Europea*, Madrid: Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores, Unión Europea y Cooperación de España, 2020. Available online at: <http://www.exteriores.gob.es/Portal/es/Ministerio/EscuelaDiplomatica/Documentos/CED24.pdf>
- T. SCHUMACHER & D. BOURIS, *The Revised European Neighbourhood Policy. Continuity and change in EU foreign policy*, London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2017.
- D. THOMAS (ed.) *Making EU Foreign Policy. National preferences, European norms and common policies*, London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011.

Other resources (Podcasts, Online classes & seminars...)

D. EK, *POLITICO's EU Confidential*, Podcast Series, 2021. Available online at: <https://www.politico.eu/eu-confidential-podcast/>