

**LEUSL2012 – External action of the European Union
syllabus 2024-2025**

Tuesday – 10:45-12:45
AGOR-12

1. Professor

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2. Aim of the course

The aim of the course is (1) to understand the significance of the EU as an actor in international affairs; (2) to explore the EU's external action in multiple policy areas (CFSP, CSDP, external action, external dimension of internal policies); and (3) to analyse the various dimensions (institutional, legal, policy outcomes) of the EU's external relations.

3. Course material

- The lectures are the core of this course. The content of the lectures is course material. Students are highly encouraged to attend the lectures.
- The course is based on a handbook, which is an obligatory reading (except for chapters 10 and 11): KEUKELEIRE S., DELREUX T. (2022), *The Foreign Policy of the European Union. 3rd edition*, London, Bloomsbury. Students are recommended to buy the book:
 - in the bookshop 'La DUC' (Grand-Rue 2-14, Louvain-la Neuve); or
 - at all major online bookstores (e.g. Amazon).

4. Exam

- The exam will be a written exam.
- The exam will count for 70% of the grades. The other 30% is foreseen for the paper (see '5. Assignment: paper').
- If you fail the exam in June and if you opt to retake the exam in August, you have to retake both parts: the written exam and the paper. In other words, you have to submit a new version of your paper when you are enrolled for the August exam (see below).
- The exam covers all the material discussed during the lectures and in the handbook (exceptions will be announced during the lectures and via the announcements on Moodle).

5. Assignment: paper

5.1. Topic

- You have to write a paper that analyses the foreign policy of the EU vis-à-vis a country of your choice, either from the perspective of the multifaceted nature of EU foreign policy or from the perspective of the multilevel nature of EU foreign policy. In other words, to determine the topic of your paper, you will have to make a twofold choice:
 1. you have to choose a non-EU country vis-à-vis which the EU conducts foreign policy;
 2. you have to choose between an analysis of either the multifaceted or the multilevel nature of EU foreign policy.
- The starting point for your paper is a newspaper article that you have to select. That article
 - should deal with a current event in EU foreign policy towards a third country; and,
 - should be published between 1 November 2024 and 28 February 2025 in a major newspaper (e.g. Financial Times, Le Monde Diplomatique) or an online news source on EU politics (e.g. Euractiv.com; Politico.eu; EUObserver.com; Agence Europe).

The newspaper article serves as a starting point for a broader analysis of the multifaceted or multilevel nature of EU foreign policy towards that third country.

- The paper should start with a brief summary of the article¹ (200-300 words) and then
 - either analyse how the event described in the article is part of the EU's *multifaceted* foreign policy. You analyse how the external policy described in the article is related to the other facets of EU foreign policy towards that third country, and which other tools and policies the EU has towards that third country. The analysis of the multifaceted nature of the EU's foreign policy also allows you to assess the horizontal consistency between these various facets of EU foreign policy towards that third country.
 - or analyse how the event described in the article is part of the EU's *multilevel* foreign policy. You analyse how the external policy described in the article is embedded in the multi-level structure of EU foreign policy: how does it relate to the foreign policy of EU member states² *at the national level* in that domain, and how is it embedded in the context of foreign policies by other international organizations and frameworks *at the international level* in that domain? The analysis of the multilevel nature of the EU's foreign policy also allows you to assess the vertical consistency between the EU's foreign policy in that specific domain towards that third country and those of EU member states and of other international organizations and frameworks.

5.2. Structure and length of the paper

- The paper has to be part of a broader document has to be structured as follows:
 1. a cover page, where the topic and the title are clearly mentioned³;
 2. the newspaper article that serves as the starting point for your paper:
 - a reference to the article (title, newspaper, date, author);
 - a link to the webpage with the article;
 - a full-text version of the article (copy-paste the entire article).
 3. the main text of the paper⁴, consisting of
 - an introduction
 - a development of the answer to the question (to be structured in several sections, depending on your analysis)
 - a conclusion, summarizing your main argument;
 4. a list of the references that are used in the main text;
 5. a declaration on the potential use of generative artificial intelligence.
- You should use the template, which you can download on Moodle, and which has the five parts listed above.
- The main text of the paper should have *between 2500 and 3000 words* (references not included, but footnotes/endnotes included).
- Papers are preferably written in English, but papers in French will also be accepted.

5.3. Deadlines, late submissions and August session

- Papers have to be submitted on Friday 16 May at 23h55 at the latest. Papers have to be uploaded through Moodle (choose 'Assignments' > 'Paper'). The paper should be submitted in pdf format and its filename should be as follows: 'LEUSL2012_paper_surname_first name'.
- Late submissions will be penalized by 1 mark per day. Given the fact that this assignment counts for 30% of the grades, papers that are handed in more than 6 days late will receive a 0.
- The following modalities apply for the August session:
 - a. the assignment and the requirements for the paper remain the same;
 - b. in practice, you can either submit the same paper as the one submitted for the June session, or you can submit a revised/improved version;
 - c. the deadline to submit the paper is Friday 15 August at 23h55;
 - d. papers must be submitted on Moodle ('Assignments' > 'Paper August') with the following filename: 'LEUSL2012_August_paper_surname_first name'.

¹ That summary is part of the paper as such. Please note that the full-text version of the article should also be submitted (see 5.2 on the structure of the paper).

² The part on the national foreign policies can focus on one or a few member states (i.e. the main member states regarding your third country). You do not have to be comprehensive here and examine the national foreign policies of all member states.

³ The *topic* of the paper should be 'the [multifaceted/multilevel] nature of EU foreign policy towards [third country]'; the *title* of the paper can be more creative.

⁴ Please also mention the exact number of words at the end of your paper. That should be a number between 2500 and 3000.

5.4. Evaluation criteria

Papers will be assessed according to the following criteria:

- writing style: develop an argument in a clear and straightforward way; use relevant academic sources (and make correct references);
- accuracy: be to the point and direct, avoid vagueness, and stick to the question you have chosen;
- soundness and analytical quality: make a logic and intellectually sound analysis;
- originality and creativity.

6. Visit to the EEAS

- An organized visit to the European External Action Service (EEAS) will take place on Tuesday 1 April between 08h45 and 12h45. We meet at the entrance of the EEAS 'Triangle building' (9A Rond Point Schuman, Brussels) at 08h40.
- You have to send an email to Santiago Dierckx (santiago.dierckx@uclouvain.be) before 18 March, mentioning (a) your first name and last name, (b) your email address; (c) your nationality and (d) the number of your identity card or passport. (This is an EEAS requirement.)
- This visit is an integral part of the course. It will deal with the most recent developments regarding the foreign policy of the EU on a number of salient issues. During the visit of the EEAS, we will get three presentations from EEAS officials:
 - a. the EU's response to Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine;
 - b. the EU's response to the conflict between Israel and Hamas and the spill-over in the region;
 - c. the EU and the United Nations.

These presentations relate to some topics discussed in chapters 10 and 11 of Keukeleire & Delreux 2022. These two chapters will not be discussed during class and students will not get questions on these two chapters at the exam.

7. Course schedule and readings

1. 04/02 **Introduction & the nature of EU foreign policy**
Keukeleire & Delreux 2022: introduction, chapter 1
2. 11/02 **Historical overview**
Keukeleire & Delreux 2022: chapter 2
3. 18/02 **Actors and institutional framework [1]: European Council, Council**
Keukeleire & Delreux 2022: chapter 3
4. 25/02 **Actors and institutional framework [2]: Commission, HR/VP & EEAS, European Parliament and Court of Justice**
Keukeleire & Delreux 2022: chapter 3
5. 04/03 **Policy-making processes & financing**
Keukeleire & Delreux 2022: chapter 4
6. 11/03 **Common Foreign and Security Policy**
Keukeleire & Delreux 2022: chapter 6
7. 18/03 **Common Security and Defence Policy**
Keukeleire & Delreux 2022: chapter 7
8. 25/03 **External action [1]: trade, association and cooperation agreements**
Keukeleire & Delreux 2022: chapter 8
9. 01/04 **VISIT TO THE EEAS**
Keukeleire & Delreux 2022: chapters 10 & 11
10. 08/04 **External action [2]: enlargement, development cooperation, sanctions**
Keukeleire & Delreux 2022: chapter 8

15/04 *no lecture*

22/04 *no lecture: Easter holidays*

29/04 *no lecture: Easter holidays*

11. 06/05 **External dimension of internal policies: the case of environment & climate change**
Keukeleire & Delreux 2022: chapter 9

12. 13/05 **The EU and multilateral organizations**
Keukeleire & Delreux 2022: chapter 12