

## BEUSL2721 – L'Union européenne dans le monde syllabus 2024-2025

### 1. Professor

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### 2. Aim of the course

The aim of this course is to familiarize students with the European Union's foreign policy. The course is based on a broad understanding of EU foreign policy, covering the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), external action (including trade and development policy) and the external dimension of internal policies.

The course consists of two consecutive steps. First, students will be introduced to the nature, history, actors and facets of EU foreign policy, so that they dispose of the necessary frameworks to analyse the EU's foreign policy. Second, students will gain a deep understanding of the EU's foreign policy by analysing the EU's foreign policy vis-à-vis a third country of their choice.

### 3. Course material

#### 3.1. Handbook

For the introduction on the nature, history, actors and facets of EU foreign policy, the following handbook will be used: KEUKELEIRE S., DELREUX T. (2022), *The Foreign Policy of the European Union. 3rd edition*, London, Bloomsbury.

- Chapter 1 will be presented by the professor during the lecture of class 1.
- Chapters 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9 will be read by the students before class. Questions on these chapters will be discussed during classes 2-4.
- Chapters 5, 10, 11 and 12 will not be discussed during class, but students can use these chapters for their group work.

#### 3.2. Videos

For every chapter of the handbook, a short video (approximately 6 minutes) that introduces and summarizes the content is available on Moodle. Students should watch these videos in preparation of the relevant class. Importantly, watching the videos does not replace the reading of the chapters!

#### 3.3. Online resource guide

The online resource guide 'Exploring EU Foreign Policy', which serves as the online companion to the handbook, includes additional non-compulsory academic literature, links to official EU documents and other sources. These resources are structured in the same way as the handbook. 'Exploring EU Foreign Policy' is available at [www.eufp.eu](http://www.eufp.eu).

### 4. Group work: analysis of EU foreign policy vis-à-vis a chosen country

#### 4.1. Topic of the group work

Students have to analyse the EU's foreign policy vis-à-vis a third country of their choice.

#### 4.2. Composition of the groups and choice of the third country

- Each group consists of 2 students. In case an uneven number of students is enrolled to the course, there will be one group of 3 students.
- Students have to send an email to the professor mentioning the names of the members of the group as well as the third country of their choice. If a country is already taken by another group, it is no longer possible to choose that country. In other words, a 'first come first served' principle will be applied for the selection of the third countries.
- As the students will decide on the composition of the groups themselves, no complaints on freeriding or other potential problems within the group will be considered.

#### 4.3. Content of the analysis

The analysis should focus on the multi-faceted nature and the multi-level nature of the EU's foreign policy.

- a. On the multi-faceted nature (i.e. the entirety of CFSP, CSDP, external action and the external dimension of internal policies) of EU foreign policy, the following questions should be addressed:
  - a.1. To what extent is the CFSP relevant in the EU's foreign policy vis-à-vis the chosen country? Is the CFSP mainly declaratory, or is it also operational? If so, via which activities or instruments?
  - a.2. To what extent is the CSDP relevant in the EU's foreign policy vis-à-vis the chosen country? Does the EU have a mission/operation in the country (or in the region with repercussions for the country)? If so, what are its main objectives and its main challenges? To what extent is the EU achieving these objectives?
  - a.3. Select at least one external action field (trade, development cooperation, humanitarian aid, sanctions or enlargement) that is relevant in the EU's foreign policy vis-à-vis the chosen country. How is/are the selected external action field(s) relevant in the EU's foreign policy vis-à-vis the chosen country?
  - a.4. Select at least one internal policy field with an external dimension (e.g. energy, environment, migration, fisheries, transport) that is relevant in the EU's foreign policy vis-à-vis the chosen country. How is/are the selected field(s) relevant in the EU's foreign policy vis-à-vis the chosen country?
  - a.5. To what extent and why is the EU's foreign policy vis-à-vis the chosen country horizontally consistent? Discuss the extent to which the EU's foreign policy vis-à-vis the chosen country is characterized by a comprehensive/integrated approach.
- b. On the multi-level nature (i.e. the interaction with national and the international level) of EU foreign policy, the following questions should be addressed:
  - b.1. To what extent and how is the EU's foreign policy vis-à-vis the chosen country embedded in international activities to which the EU and/or member states contribute?
  - b.2. To what extent and how is the EU's foreign policy vis-à-vis the chosen country affected by national foreign policies of EU member states?
  - b.3. To what extent and why is the EU's foreign policy vis-à-vis the chosen country vertically consistent?

#### 4.4. Deliverables

##### a. Oral presentation:

- The presentation of the EU's foreign policy vis-à-vis the chosen country should take 25 minutes. It includes an analysis of the questions presented above (see section 4.3). It will be followed by a Q&A session and a debate with the other students, which should take 15 minutes. The group is responsible for a dynamic moderation of the Q&A and the debate.
- The group should use attractive and relevant slides for the presentation.
- At least 24 hours before the presentation, the slides as well as an outline of the presentation (1-2 pages) should be sent to the professor by email.

##### b. Written report:

- The report starts with concise 'fact sheet', which has a creative and clear layout<sup>1</sup>, on the EU's foreign policy vis-à-vis the chosen country (2 pages).<sup>2</sup> The fact sheet should include a factual overview of:
  1. *objectives*: what are the main objectives of the EU's foreign policy vis-à-vis the chosen country?
  2. *history*: what are the main steps in the history of the EU's foreign policy vis-à-vis the chosen country?
  3. *agreements*: what are the main agreements (e.g. trade agreements, cooperation agreements, issue-specific agreements, memorandums of understanding) that are at the basis of the EU's foreign policy vis-à-vis the chosen country?
  4. *contextualizing numbers*: provide the basic numbers on the relation between the EU and the chosen country, including on trade, financial support, investments and other fields that are relevant for the chosen country
  5. *actors*: who are the main actors/institutions in the EU's foreign policy-making vis-à-vis the chosen country? Be specific here! Which DGs (and subunits) in the Commission?; which committees and working parties in the Council?; which committees and/or interparliamentary delegations in the EP?; which sections of the EEAS?; which EU Delegations?; are there relevant headquarters of CSDP missions or operations? etc.
- The main part of the report is a written analysis of the questions presented above (see section 4.3).<sup>3</sup> This part should include at least 20 references to relevant academic literature (books and journal articles) and at least 5 references to reports from think tanks or NGOs.<sup>4</sup> The part with the written analysis should be between 5500 and 6500 words (footnotes/endnotes included, references excluded).

<sup>1</sup> Google 'fact sheet layout' or 'fact sheet template' for inspiration on how a fact sheet should look like.

<sup>2</sup> Importantly, the elements presented in the fact sheet should only be part of the paper, not of the presentation.

<sup>3</sup> This part of the paper corresponds to the content of the presentation.

<sup>4</sup> The online resource guide 'Exploring EU Foreign Policy' might be a useful starting point.

- The report should be submitted as a single pdf file (including cover, fact sheet and analysis) to the professor by email before the presentation. Late submissions will be penalized with 1 point per 24 hours.

## 5. Schedule and readings

Thu 06/02 10h00-10h30 Brussels	<b>Course presentation</b>	Professor presents the content of the course and the assignment
Wed 12/03 18h00-21h00 Teams	<b>Class 1: What is EU foreign policy and how to analyse EU foreign policy?</b>	Professor provides an online lecture on the nature of EU foreign policy
Wed 19/03 18h00-20h00 Teams	<b>Class 2: History, actors and institutions in EU foreign policy</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In preparation of this class, students <i>read the following chapters and watch the corresponding videos</i><sup>5</sup>:           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• for 19/03:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- chapter 2: 'Historical overview'</li> <li>- chapter 3: 'Actors'</li> <li>- chapter 4: 'Policy-making'</li> </ul> </li> <li>• for 26/03:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- chapter 6: 'CFSP'</li> <li>- chapter 7: 'CSDP'</li> </ul> </li> <li>• for 02/04:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- chapter 8: 'External action'</li> <li>- chapter 9: 'External dimension of internal policies'</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Students <i>post their questions and comments</i> on Moodle before           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• for 19/03: Monday 17/03 at noon</li> <li>• for 26/03: Monday 24/03 at noon</li> <li>• for 02/04: Monday 31/03 at noon</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. During the online session, we will <i>discuss the questions</i> that have been put on Moodle. I expect all students to think about the questions beforehand and to try to provide an answer to these questions.</li> </ol>
Wed 26/03 18h00-20h00 Teams	<b>Class 3: CFSP &amp; CSDP</b>	
Wed 02/04 18h00-20h00 Teams	<b>Class 4: External action &amp; External dimension of internal policies</b>	
Wed 09/04 18h00-21h00 Teams	<b>Group presentations on work in progress</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Each group presents the current state of its research (20 minutes).</li> <li>2. For each presentation, 2 or 3 other students will be appointed as the discussant.<sup>6</sup> The discussants give feedback to the presenting group: strengths, weaknesses, questions and suggestions for improvement (10 minutes). After the discussants, the other students and the professor will also have the opportunity to comment.</li> <li>3. Each group is supposed to send its draft presentation to the professor and to the discussants before Friday 04/04 at 23h59.</li> </ol>
Mon 12/05 09h00-12h00 Brussels	<b>Final group presentations</b>	Each group presents its final work. See instructions above (section 4.4).

<sup>5</sup> The videos serve as an introduction to each chapter, they do not replace the reading of the chapters.

<sup>6</sup> The order of the presentations and the discussants will be posted on Moodle in the course of March.

## 6. Recap: deadlines and todos

as soon as possible after 06/02, when students have been attributed their optional course	decide on composition of group and choice of third country: send email to professor
12/03 – 18h00	attend online class
17/03	watch videos and read chapters 2, 3 and 4 + post questions and comments on Moodle
19/03 – 18h00	attend online class
24/03	watch videos and read chapters 6 and 7 + post questions and comments on Moodle
26/03 – 18h00	attend online class
31/03	watch videos and read chapters 8 and 9 + post questions and comments on Moodle
02/04 – 18h00	attend online class
04/04	send draft presentation to professor and discussants by email
09/04 – 18h00	present work in progress + discuss the work of another group
11/05	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- send slides and outline of the presentation to professor by email</li><li>- submit written report by email</li></ul>
day before August presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- send slides and outline of the presentation to professor by email</li><li>- submit written report by email</li></ul>

## 7. Evaluation

Students will be evaluated for this course as follows:

10% of the final grade	active participation of the student during and before the online sessions
45% of the final grade	final presentation of the group (including quality of the slides and moderation of the Q&A with the other students) <i>if a student of the group does not participate to the presentation, his/her grade for the presentation will be 0</i>
45% of the final grade	written report of the group (including factsheet and analysis) <i>if no written report is submitted, the grade of all students of the group for the report will be 0</i>

In case of evaluation in August (retake exam), the 10% of active participation of the May evaluation will be maintained. The 45% for the presentation and the 45% for the report will be evaluated on the basis of the work presented/submitted in August. Importantly, all deliverables need to be (re-)submitted in August: the deliverables submitted in May no longer count!