

ANALYSIS OF EU FOREIGN POLICY

Professor: Tom Delreux

Academic Year 2026-2027: Fall semester

SHORT BIOGRAPHY

Name of the instructor: Tom Delreux

Title: Professor

Organization/Affiliation: UCLouvain (Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium)

Short biography: Tom Delreux is professor of political science at the 'Institut de sciences politiques Louvain-Europe' (ISPOLE) at the UCLouvain (Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium). He is also the Head of the UCLouvain's School of European Studies and he is a visiting professor at the College of Europe. His research interests include the EU's external relations, EU environmental policy, inter- and intra-institutional relations in the EU, and principal-agent modelling. Tom Delreux is the author of four academic books: *The EU as International Environmental Negotiator* (Ashgate, 2011), which studies internal EU decision-making processes in the context of multilateral environmental negotiations; *Environmental Policy and Politics in the European Union* (co-authored with Sander Happaerts, Palgrave Macmillan, 2016), which provides a state-of-the-art analysis of EU environmental policy and the political dynamics that shape it; *The Principal Agent Model and the European Union* (co-edited with Johan Adriaensen, Palgrave Macmillan, 2017), which assesses the use and limitations of the principal-agent model for studying the increasingly complex political system of the European Union; and *The Foreign Policy of the European Union (3rd edition)* (co-authored with Stephan Keukeleire, Bloomsbury Academic, 2022), which presents a comprehensive analysis of the foreign policy of the EU.

COURSE OUTLINE

This course analyses the foreign policy of the European Union and the political dynamics that drive this policy field. Starting from the observation that EU foreign policy is multifaceted, multimethod and multilevel, the course offers a number of analytical frameworks allowing students to understand the nature and specificities of EU foreign policy. These analytical frameworks highlight the history, institutional framework and policy-making practices, as well as the interactions with national and international actors. The course applies a broad understanding of 'EU foreign policy', which encompasses the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), external action (trade, development, enlargement, etc.) and the external dimension of internal policies (environment, energy, etc.).

Session 1 & 2: The nature of EU foreign policy

Required readings:

- Keukeleire S., Delreux T. (2022), *The Foreign Policy of the European Union. Third Edition*, London, Bloomsbury: Introduction (p. 1-10)
- Keukeleire S., Delreux T. (2022), *The Foreign Policy of the European Union. Third Edition*, London, Bloomsbury: Chapter 1 (p. 11-41)

Session 3 & 4: Historical overview & recent developments

Required readings:

- Keukeleire S., Delreux T. (2022), *The Foreign Policy of the European Union. Third Edition*, London, Bloomsbury: Chapter 2 (p. 43-76)
- Alcaro R., Dijkstra H. (2024), 'Re-imagining EU Foreign and Security Policy in a Complex and Contested World' in *The International Spectator*, 59(1): p. 1-18.
- Fiott D. (2023), 'In every crisis an opportunity? European Union integration in defence and the War on Ukraine' in *Journal of European Integration*, 45(3), p. 447-462.

Session 5 & 6: Actors, institutions and foreign policy-making

Required readings:

- Keukeleire S., Delreux T. (2022), *The Foreign Policy of the European Union. Third Edition*, London, Bloomsbury: Chapter 3 (p. 77-116)
- Keukeleire S., Delreux T. (2022), *The Foreign Policy of the European Union. Third Edition*, London, Bloomsbury: Chapter 4 (p. 117-141)

Assignment for this session:

Presentation of groups 1 and 2 (see below: 'Evaluation' > 'Groupwork: presentation').

Session 7 & 8: Common Foreign and Security Policy & Common Security and Defence Policy

Required readings:

- Keukeleire S., Delreux T. (2022), *The Foreign Policy of the European Union. Third Edition*, London, Bloomsbury: Chapter 5 (p. 143-166)

- Keukeleire S., Delreux T. (2022), *The Foreign Policy of the European Union. Third Edition*, London, Bloomsbury: Chapter 6 (p. 167-184)
- Keukeleire S., Delreux T. (2022), *The Foreign Policy of the European Union. Third Edition*, London, Bloomsbury: Chapter 7 (p. 185-213)

Assignment for this session:

Presentation of groups 3, 4 and 5 (see below: 'Evaluation' > 'Groupwork: presentation').

Session 9 & 10: External action & external dimension of internal policies

Required readings:

- Keukeleire S., Delreux T. (2022), *The Foreign Policy of the European Union. Third Edition*, London, Bloomsbury: Chapter 8 (p. 215-245)
- Keukeleire S., Delreux T. (2022), *The Foreign Policy of the European Union. Third Edition*, London, Bloomsbury: Chapter 9 (p. 247-272)

Assignment for this session:

Presentation of groups 6, 7 and 8 (see below: 'Evaluation' > 'Groupwork: presentation').

Session 11 & 12: Questions & final exam

EVALUATION

Students will be evaluated for this course as follows:

- active participation in class: 10% of the final grade
- oral presentation (groupwork): 30% of the final grade
- written exam: 60% of the final grade

Groupwork: presentation

We will start sessions 5-6, 7-8 and 9-10 with two or three presentations on the EU's foreign policy towards a particular third country, taking a topical issue as the starting point (based on a recent newspaper article).

There will be eight groups, giving a presentation. Each group of 4 or 5 students will give an oral presentation on the EU's foreign policy of the third country of their choice. The presentation should take approximately 20 minutes, followed by a Q&A of approximately 10 minutes with the audience, moderated by the presenting students.

The composition of the eight groups will be decided by the students themselves, under the responsibility of the class representative. The class representative will send an email to the professor with the composition of the groups, as well as the planning (which group presents when?).

One member of each group will then send an email to the professor with the recent newspaper article that the group will use as the starting point, as well as a clear indication of the third country chosen by the group. The professor will verify whether the proposed topic corresponds to the requirements and whether the third country has not yet been chosen by another group of students (a 'first come first served' principle will be applied here). The professor will send a confirmation that the group can work on the EU's foreign policy towards that third country by email.

At least 24 hours before the presentation, one member of the group will send an outline of the presentation to the professor.

All students of the group will receive the same grade for this assignment.

In the presentation, students will provide an analysis of the EU's foreign policy towards a third country of their choice. They start from an article that was published in the period July-November 2026 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). That article should deal with a current event in EU foreign policy towards a third country. It will serve as a starting point for a broader and more comprehensive analysis of EU foreign policy towards that third country.

The presentations should address the following topics:

- a brief **presentation of the event** discussed in the article;
- a brief **historical contextualization** of that event within the broader framework of the EU's foreign policy towards the third country in question;
- an analysis of how this event is positioned within the broader
 - **multifaceted nature** (how is it related to the other facets and policies of EU foreign policy towards that third country?);
 - **multilevel nature** of EU foreign policy (how is it embedded in the multi-level structure of EU foreign policy, with attention for both the national and the international level?);
- a discussion of the main **issues that are currently at stake** for the EU in its foreign policy with the third country in question, as well as the EU's interests/objectives.

Each presentation will be followed by a Q&A with the other students in the audience. It will be moderated by the presenting students.

Written exam

During the last session, there will be a written exam. The exam will be a closed-book exam and it will assess the students' knowledge and insights about the content of the course.

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

To benefit from Disability Accommodations and obtain an accommodation letter, please contact Sciences Po's Disability Services promptly at pole.handicap@sciencespo.fr. Upon receipt of your accommodation letter, and if necessary, your teacher may need to discuss how your specific needs can be met most effectively. Accommodations are not retroactive. We can't guarantee that they can be put in place if they are received with too short notice prior to an assessment.

ABSENCES

Attendance is mandatory and it is taken on a factual basis in accordance with Science Po's [Academic Rules and Regulations](#). If you are absent, you should inform your teacher(s). Please note that teachers are not able to excuse absences. All absences need to be justified with a medical note or equivalent official document which relates to the date of your absence and need to be submitted to your academic team within 5 days of your absence. Extracurricular activities (work, conferences, internships, interviews, family celebrations, travel etc.) are not considered valid reasons to miss a session.

Students are required to be available for rescheduled sessions and assessments throughout the semester and until the last official day of the semester.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

It is vital that all the oral and written work you hand in and complete in class be your own and produced for this course only. Cheating and plagiarism are serious offenses that will not be tolerated. If you have any questions or concerns about what cheating and plagiarism comprise, you should review again the online Academic Integrity Module, Sciences Po's web-based information about [Academic Integrity](#) and in particular, its [Academic Integrity Charter](#). Please ask your teacher(s) if you need any clarification about this course and its assignments.

All written work must be submitted via Moodle or to your teacher's Urkund email address as notified by the teacher.

Unless the teacher notifies you otherwise, the use of Artificial Intelligence is allowed in this class. However, you must clearly mention the fact that you used it and explain how you used it.