(1) Learning goals
Focusing on the central topic of EU relations to the East, this course is broadband in terms of the way it addresses EU’s external relations from a conceptualization perspective, and specialized in its approach to the topic through a regional lenses. The course starts by discussing dynamics of integration and enlargement in the process of building the EU internally and the impact it has on its dimension as an international actor. The course focuses on the Eastern neighbourhood of the EU, looking at the main issues on the agenda as well as how relations with the Russian Federation contribute to enhancing or hindering EU policies and approaches towards this neighbouring area. It also draws on potentialities and limitations and discusses challenges ahead.

This course explores and studies the topics defined through different materials that will be available online. Short course-videos summarizing the main topic for that session, the goals to be achieved and the materials leading you to learning those specific contents; powerpoint presentations focusing on central concepts and debates; short podcasts and videos with experts’ interviews, relevant analyses from different media sources, short documentaries relevant for the topic in analysis; reading materials; guiding questions and exercises to assist the students in preparing the topics. There will also be a discussion forum where we all can debate issues, exchange views on the topics, clarify doubts or any questions that might arise. This will be the privileged means of communication during the lecture assigned time on Thursdays between 4pm and 7pm.

(2) Continuous assessment evaluation.
Two essays to be handed in through the platform, the first one by March 29 (written essay) and the second one - audio and video essay - by May 24.
- The first essay question will be made available on March 22, 2019 and students have one week to develop a well-informed, well-systematised and convincing argument to the exercise proposed. The essay should range between 2000-2500 words, and include at least 8 references from books, book chapters and scientific articles. Deadline for submission: March 29, 7pm.
- The second essay will have a different format and structure – students should prepare a short video presentation of 5 minutes where they discuss one of the issues
proposed – topics for the video will be made available on May 17 and students can choose one topic of their preference. The video recording should systematize well the topic, including concrete examples to illustrate the argument. You may use a phone to record the short video, that should be uploaded in the platform. **Deadline: May 24, 7pm.**
(3) Syllabus:

1. EU dynamics of integration and enlargement and the development of relations with the EU’s eastern neighbourhood
2. Issues: political and security triangulation in EU-Russia-EaP countries relations
3. New agents: business, civil society, parliamentary cooperation
4. Possibilities and limits to the development of the Eastern Partnership agenda: from decision-making to implementation
5. Challenges ahead

PLANNING

7 February: Syllabus, e-learning format and materials, evaluation. Introduction to the EU as an international actor.

14 February: 1. EU dynamics of integration and enlargement: debate widening versus deepening. Theoretical approaches to integration.

15 February: 1. EU dynamics of integration and the development of relations with the EU’s eastern neighbourhood. Mapping exercise: The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) and the Eastern Partnership (EaP): policies, goals, instruments, actors. [please notice this is an extra lecture this week]

21 February: 1. EU dynamics of integration and the development of relations with the EU’s eastern neighbourhood. Case-studies: looking into practice. The ENP and the EaP possibilities and limits in Moldova and Azerbaijan.

28 February: 2. Issues: political and security triangulation in EU-Russia-EaP countries relations. Focus on EU-Russia relations: legal and institutional framework, partnership goals and instruments, cooperation difficulties and opportunities.

7 March: 2. Issues: political and security triangulation in EU-Russia-EaP countries relations. Ukraine and Georgia as case-studies.


21 March: 3. New agents in EU-EaP relations: the role of civil society actors.

Written essay question: available on March 22
Written essay: Deadline for submission: March 29, 7pm.

4 April: 3. New agents in EU-EaP relations: the role of Parliamentary cooperation.

11 April: 4. Possibilities and limits to the development of the Eastern Partnership agenda: from decision-making to implementation. Review exercise: how do different players contribute to relations between the EU and the EaP countries?
2 May: 4. Possibilities and limits to the development of the Eastern Partnership agenda: from decision-making to implementation. How does the EU negotiate? How do the EaP countries develop their policies towards the EU?

16 May: 4. Possibilities and limits to the development of the Eastern Partnership agenda: from decision-making to implementation. The role of propaganda and (mis)information.

17 May: 5. Challenges ahead. Is the EaP moribund?

Choice of short video presentation topics: May 17

23 May: 5. Challenges ahead. Which new avenues can be thought of in relations between the EU and its eastern neighbours? Practical exercise.

Short video. Deadline for submission: May 24, 7pm.


Suggested readings

Monographs


Articles


Costa, Oriol (2013) A force for and because of multilateralism: when is the EU a multilateralist actor in world society?, Journal of European Public Policy, 20:8, 1213-1228.


Schmidt-Felzmann, Anke (2008) All for One? EU Member States and the Union's Common Policy Towards the Russian Federation, Journal of Contemporary European


