(1) Learning goals
This undergraduate course aims at addressing a critical issue in the EU agenda, external relations. It seeks to unpack the processes that underline the European integration process and the development of its institutional and procedural dimensions, with a focus on the development of EU external relations. Foreign policy, identity issues, relations with the neighbourhood to the East and South, as well as with strategic partners and the challenges associated to the EU’s actorness are fundamental topics covered by the course. It is expected that students learn about these issues in an integrated and balanced way as well as develop critical skills.

(2) Evaluation by final exam.
In-class discussions, interactive exercises and simulation exercise will assist in the preparation for the exam.

(3) Syllabus:

1. Conceptual framework: the EU as an international actor
2. Legal and political-institutional framework of European foreign policy:
   decision-making in external relations; institutional balance –
   intergovernmentalism and communitarianism; post-Lisbon foreign policy
3. European identity and foreign policy: from enlargement to the wider Europe; the
   ENP (a particular focus will be given to the EaP)
4. EU global actorness: regionalism, effective multilateralism, development
   assistance, strategic partnerships
5. The EU as a global actor: possibilities and limits

PLANNING

14 September: Syllabus, readings and evaluation. Introductory concepts: international actor, foreign relations, CFSP/ESDP.

21 September: Mapping the field of study: EU foreign relations – actors, contexts and processes.
26 September: Foreign policy theories and decision-making. Setting the frame: rationalist approach, bureaucratic approach, leader approach. Foreign policy and International Relations theories: from positivist approaches to reflexivism.


3 October: 1. Conceptual framework: Analysing the internal-external nexus in foreign policy and what this means for the EU. Views from the outside: external visions on the EU.


24 October: 3. Looking inside, East and South – European identity and foreign policy: from enlargement to the wider Europe. The European Neighbourhood Policy: southern and eastern dimensions. Discussing the neighbourhood dimension of EU external relations.

26 October: 3.1. The EaP: dimensions, instruments, objectives. The policy functioning. A critical look over the EaP.

2 November: 3.1. Case study: The contested neighbourhood between the EU and Russia: framing EU external relations with Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus.

23 November: 4. EU global actor-ness: regionalism, effective multilateralism, development assistance, strategic partnerships.

30 November: 4. EU global actor-ness: EU relations with other international actors. Reaching out in different dimensions: is the EU a global power?

7 December: 5. The EU as a global actor possibilities and limits.

12 December: Simulation exercise.

14 December: Simulation exercise – wrap up. Conclusion.
Suggested readings

Official documents from relevant institutions.

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.


