Contemporary Issues in European Foreign and Security Policy

Course convenor: Dr. Luis Simón
Institute for European Studies
Office: Pleinlaan 5
Tel: 02/ 629 8036
E-mail: luis.Simon@vub.ac.be

Instructors:  Prof. Dr. Sven Biscop, Egmont Institute/College of Europe
Dr. Tom Casier, University of Kent, Brussels
Prof. Dr. Eva Gross, Vrije Universiteit Brussel
Dr. Isabelle Ioannides, European Commission
Dr. Susan Penksa, Westmont College
Dr. Jakob Skovgaard, Lund University
Dr. Luis Simón, Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Course objectives:
This course focuses on contemporary security challenges facing Europe - and on how the EU is adapting to its emerging role as a security provider beyond its borders. The course will examine the institutions of EU foreign and security policy; the future of the transatlantic relationship; regional challenges such as integrating the Balkans and engaging Russia; and tackling new security challenges, including climate change. The aim of the course is to give students a thorough overview of contemporary security issues and the ability of European security institutions to address them. The course is taught by academics and practitioners to provide students with a multi-faceted understanding of the analytical and the empirical issues of European security institutions.

Requirements:
To secure course credit, students must write one final two-hours exam. The final exam will count for 40% of the grade. Students will also be required to write two short essays of 1500 words each on selected topics in the course. Each essay will count for 10% of the grade. The internship, in addition to an internship end report of approximately 3000 words will count for 30% of the grade. To succeed in these assignments, students must complete the readings ahead of the lectures, and attend lectures on a regular basis. Regular attendance thus counts for 10% of the grade.
**Course reading:**
Selected readings (course pack to be distributed upon arrival)

**Course outline:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Introduction to European Institutions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6 June</td>
<td>Conceptualizing the EU as a foreign policy actor (Dr. Simón)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 June</td>
<td>An introduction to the EU and its institutions (Dr. Simón)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>An Introduction to European Foreign Policy</em>, chapter 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 June</td>
<td>The institutional development of EU foreign policy (Dr. Simón)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>An Introduction to European Foreign Policy</em>, chapters 2, 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 June</td>
<td>CFSP in action (Dr. Simón)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>An Introduction to European Foreign Policy</em>, chapters 3, 13 and Appendix 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Week II: EU Foreign Policy: The Strategic Dimension

#### 13 June
Public Holiday – no class

#### 14 June
Visit to the European Commission. Lecture by Dr. Antonio Missiroli on the European External Action Service.


#### 15 June
The European Security Strategy and EU Grand Strategy (Dr. Biscop)


**12-2pm Policy forum: European Defence After Libya** (attendance required). Confirmed speakers: Prof. Jolyon Howorth (Yale University), Prof. Dr. Sven Biscop (Ghent University).

#### 16 June

#### 17 June
EU-US relations (Prof. Dr. Gross)

*An Introduction to European Foreign Policy*, ch. 6


Recommended:


Link: http://www.ecfr.eu/content/entry/towards_a_post-american_europe_a_power_audit_of_eu-us_relations_shapir

**Essay # 1 due**

**Week III**  
**EU Foreign Policy: Regional and Global issues.**

20 June  
Reconstructing the Western Balkans: Between stabilization and integration (Dr. Ioannides)

*An Introduction to European Foreign Policy*, ch. 8


21 June  
Visit to the European Parliament

22 June  
The International Climate Change Negotiations until and beyond Copenhagen  (Dr. Skoovgard)


23 June

The EU in the Global Climate Change negotiations (Dr. Skoovgard).


24 June

The impact of CSDP operations on host states and societies (Dr. Penksa).


Recommended:


Essay #2 due

---

**Week IV**

**EU Foreign and Security Policy: Operational Aspects**

27 June

Towards EU Peacebuilding: Merging security and development (Dr. Ioannides)

*An Introduction to European Foreign Policy*, ch. 10


28 June EU-Russia relations (Dr. Casier)


Lyne, Roderic (2006). Russia in the EU? We should never say never. Europe’s World, Spring, pp. 38-41

Internship Report due

29 June Climate Change and security (Dr. Skoovgard)


30 June Review session (Dr. Simón)

1 July In-class exam
Essay Questions

1. What is the nature of the capabilities-expectations gap in European foreign policy? Is it closing?

2. Are Americans from Mars and Europeans from Venus?

3. How successful has been the EU in stabilizing the Western Balkans?

4. Is the EU a ‘paper tiger’ in security and defence?