

EU-US Relations Course Syllabus

Course Description

The present course is concerned with recent developments in the relations between the European Union (or: Europe) and the United States. It mainly focuses on the transatlantic “crisis” that occurred after the terrorist attacks of 11 September 2001 and especially with regard to the 2003 U.S. intervention in Iraq. Overarching points of reference include the causes of disintegration, the nature of the crisis, as well as possible outcomes and the future of the Atlantic order. The latter is conceived of as a pluralistic security community, that is, a particular social structure based on interests, institutions, norms, and collective identities. This definition allows approaching the issue from several distinct theoretical perspectives, namely realism, (neo-) liberalism, and constructivism, each shedding its own bit of light on the configuration of material and ideational factors driving EU-US relations. Accordingly, it proceeds in analyzing aspects such as power and security, economy, international law, as well as norms and values. Finally, we attend to the revitalization of transatlantic relations under the Obama presidency assessing the degree of continuity and change with regard to the critical period before.

Course Objectives

At the end of the course, students should be able to:

- Describe the foundations of EU-US relations and their historical background
- Compare different moments of crisis in the Atlantic order and identify the respective driving forces
- Understand and explain the crisis over Iraq from different theoretical perspectives
- Describe the evolution and current state of affairs in transatlantic economic relations and their role in preventing conflict
- Assess the degree of divergence in European and American conceptions of international law and sovereignty
- Identify conflicts over norms and values that impede a closer cooperation between the United States and Europe
- Describe policy shifts under President Obama and the resulting reconfiguration of transatlantic relations.

Course Outline

Module 1: Introduction – Critical junctures of EU-US relations

Module 2: Power

Module 3: Economy

Module 4: Law

Module 5: Values

Module 6: The Obama bounce: recent developments in EU-US relations

Readings

This class will mainly draw on the following textbook, which is recommended for purchase:

Anderson, Jeffrey/Ikenberry, John/Risse, Thomas (eds.) 2008: The End of the West? Crises and Changes in the Atlantic Order, Cornell University Press, New York.

Also, you will have to read additional scholarly articles, access specified web sites as well as documents and search for further information when necessary.

Except for the textbook, all required readings will be provided in form of PDF-files on GeorgiaView (the class's online-platform).

Grading

Grading decisions are generally made in-country. That is, the US instructor handles US grading issues and the German instructor handles Munich students' grades.

- **Online-Participation (25 % of your final grade)**
 - You are required to participate at least once per module session in the online-discussion.
 - The instructors will guide the flow of the discussion; your contributions should demonstrate the depth of your knowledge and the incisiveness of your analysis.
 - Try to engage in a conversation with other participants, i.e. reply to and comment on contributions by others. If you decide to raise a new issue, make sure you create a new thread.
 - Online-discussions are not about exchanging personal opinions about the state of the world in general and EU-US relations in particular. While there is nothing wrong with normative statements per se, they need to make explicit the normative theory upon which they are based.
 - Note that your grade will depend on the analytical quality of your posts and not on quantity.
 - In module 5 we will have discussions in smaller groups with specific tasks. Instructors will assign you to one of the groups.

- **Written Essays (75% of your final grade)**
 - You will have to write a total of *three* essays (25% of final grade each). We provide two essay questions per module. You will have to respond to one of these questions in three modules of your preference.
 - The papers will be four pages in length (including references), double-spaced, Times New Roman and in size 12 font.
 - Papers have to be based on academic literature. Also use literature beyond the required course readings. Be sure to cite all references.
 - Include all relevant information (author, topic, date) in the header.
 - Only online-submission via GeorgiaView is accepted, no direct emails to the instructors. GeorgiaView shows your submitted files, and you can even view them. This is all the proof you need of a successful file submission.
 - You have to upload your essays as PDF-files, not as Word-files.
 - Essays will not be accepted when submitted after the due date.

Course Schedule

Every week you will be assigned a module on which to work. You should access that module online and read the required literature as well as the material provided online. For each module, make sure you participate in the online-discussion. For three modules, write and submit an essay.

While all modules will be accessible from the very start of the course, you can only post your online-contributions for a particular module during a certain period of time. The same holds true for the submission of essays. Therefore it is essential for you to meet all deadlines.

Note that the course is on Eastern Time. A October 24th deadline, for example, allows Munich students to submit their papers/online-contributions until October 25th, 6 a.m.

Module	Date
Module 1	Online discussion: October 18 - October 24 Deadline essay submission: October 24
Module 2	Online discussion: October 25 - October 31 Deadline essay submission: October 31
Module 3	Online discussion: November 1 - November 7 Deadline essay submission: November 7
Module 4	Online discussion: November 8 - November 14 Deadline essay submission: November 14
Module 5	Online discussion: November 15 - November 21 Deadline essay submission: November 21
Module 6	Online discussion: November 22 - November 28 Deadline essay submission: November 28