

## POLS-4702 – 10008 European Union Affairs

School of Public and International Affairs | ADA University | Fall

Lecturer: Dr Anar Valiyev, Dean of School of Public and International Affairs, ADA University

Office Hours: By appointment

Teaching days: Monday, Wednesday

Teaching hours: 08.30-09.45

Classroom: A109

### **Introduction and Basic Concepts**

This course offers a solid understanding of the history of European integration, the EU institutions, decision-making processes, policies and theoretical approaches to the phenomenon of the European Union. Students will be introduced to the workings of the EU institutions such as the Council, the Commission, the Parliament and the Court of Justice. Through lectures and readings, they will also explore the key areas of EU competence, such as the European Single Currency, the Single Market and free movement, Common Foreign and Security Policy, Neighborhood Policy, current security challenges in the Europe and its neighborhood, get an understanding of Brexit and its implications for the European Union, etc. In addition to exposing you to some of the more frequently cited literature on the EU, the material covered will help you think analytically about the Union. Every student should come to class prepared to discuss the week's reading assignments and vigorously engage in class discussions and exercises. Through small group debates, during the interactive classes will be address questions such as: Is the European Union an economic giant but a political dwarf? Why did the UK vote for Brexit and what will that mean for both Britain and the EU? Can the EU be an effective conflict negotiator and moderator? How far and how fast should the EU be enlarged? Course delivery will be conducted through short lectures, weekly news reports, small group discussions and in-class debates.

### **Aims and Learning Outcomes**

#### *Academic Aims*

The academic aims of the course are to expand and deepen students' knowledge of European Union institutions, history, decision-making, foreign and security policy and challenges the EU is facing today. Specific attention will be given to foreign policy of the EU and its Neighborhood Policy, as well as EU-Azerbaijan relations.

#### *Learning Outcomes*

By the end of the course the students will:

- Demonstrate a competent understanding of major theoretical approaches in the domain of European Affairs
- Develop analytical skills and practice coherent argumentation in the field of European affairs
- Identify key issues and challenges in European Affairs, its foreign and security policy and formulate solutions and its implications in EaP region

- Understand the rationale and dynamics behind the interconnected social, political, geopolitical and economic transformations that re-define the Europe and processes on the continent
- Have a conceptual understanding of the European integration and the EU
- Be able to describe the functions of the EU and the role of this supra-national government in the world
- Be able to analyse role of the EU as an international actor across the world and in EaP region
- Be able to formulate and develop a policy brief and policy recommendations on the topic.

### Teaching Methodology

Since the course consists of theoretical and practical materials, it will be taught through lectures, discussions, case studies, individual and group works. The course will employ a student and learning centered approach. Discussions based on student contributions add a vital and dynamic element to the class. As a rule of thumb, everyone should come to class with comments or questions from the core readings.

### Assigned Readings

All the materials and assigned readings will be uploaded to Blackboard.

### Course Content

Weeks	Session Topic
Week I	Syllabus Introduction Introduction to the European Union
	History of European integration
Week II	Theoretical approaches to European integration
	Legal Framework of the European Union. Treaties and Acquis
Week III	EU Institutions and decision-making processes: European Commission
	EU Institutions and decision-making processes: European Parliament
Week IV	EU Institutions and decision-making processes: European Council and The Council
	EU Institutions and decision-making processes: Court of Justice and Agencies
Week V	EU Foreign and Security Policy. EU External Relations.
	EU in the Global Context. Role of the EU in international processes.
Week VI	EU and Ongoing Security Challenges
	EU Strategic Autonomy (EU-SA)
Week VII	<b>Individual Assignment Reflection paper</b>
	<b>Interactive class:</b> 'An economic giant but a political dwarf.' Do you agree with this assessment of the EU's international role?

Week VIII	European Union as a Normative power
	External Images of the EU: Energy Power across the Globe
Week IX	<b>Midterm exam</b>
	<b>No classes</b>
Week X	European Green Deal: How could the European Green Deal become a normative tool in EU's climate diplomacy?
	EU, United Kingdom and BREXIT
Week XI	EU – USA relations
	EU – China relations
Week XII	EU - Turkey relations
	European Neighborhood Policy. Eastern Partnership Policy.
Week XIII	Eastern Partnership after Ukrainian crisis.
	EU – Azerbaijan relations
Week XIV	<b>Interactive class:</b> Future of EaP. Scenario development
	Final assignment Group Presentations
Week XV	Final assignment Group Presentations
	Final assignment Group Presentations

**Students will be assessed based on the following structure (tentative):**

Assessment Formats	Timeframe (Submission Deadline)	% Of Final Grade
Participation		25
Reflection paper	October 23	20
Midterm exam	November 6	25
Group Paper Submission	December 10, 11:59 pm	20
Group Paper Presentation		10

## Grading

<b>A+</b>	98-100%	<b>A</b>	94 – 97%	<b>A-</b>	90 – 93%	<b>B+</b>	87 – 89%	<b>B</b>	83– 86%	<b>B-</b>	80 – 82%
<b>C+</b>	77– 79%	<b>C</b>	73 – 76%	<b>C-</b>	70 – 72%	<b>D+</b>	67 – 69%	<b>D</b>	60-66%	<b>F</b>	0 – 59%

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### **Regular attendance and participation in class discussions – 25 %**

Class attendance is required but is not sufficient. To earn points for attendance and participation students are encouraged to actively contribute to class discussions in multiple ways:

- From 0 to 5% of the course grade will depend upon regular attendance. Even regular attendance will be granted as 0% if no participation in class discussions will take place. Physical/online presence alone without in class participation will not earn any points for the course.
- 5% of the course grade will depend on the quality of student’s contributions to the class sessions. Instead of lecturing, the instructor will be mostly leading class discussions where ideas are discussed and challenged. This will require students to have completed the assigned reading, searched out other sources on the topics to share, and be respectful and attentive when a fellow student is speaking.
- 5% of the course grade will depend on participation and contribution to News Sessions which will take place every Wednesday during the first 15 minutes of the class. Students are expected to follow EU news. Useful online sources include but are not limited to:
  - [https://european-union.europa.eu/index\\_en](https://european-union.europa.eu/index_en)
  - <http://euobserver.com/>
  - <http://www.euractiv.com>
  - <https://www.euronews.com/>
  - <https://www.ceps.eu/>
- Another 10 % of the course grade will depend on students’ participation in interactive classes. Separate instructions will be shared upon each interactive class with required reading materials and instructions.

**IMPORTANT:** Students must attend all classes. Unavoidable absence should be communicated to the instructor in advance and should be supported with documented proof of the stated reason for the absence. Students will fail the course if they miss more than 25% of classes for any reason.

**IMPORTANT:** No laptops, tablets, or mobile phones are allowed in the class. Using computers, cellphones or any other electronic devices is strongly **PROHIBITED** unless instructor for certain classes allows it. All electronic devices must be switched off/put on the silence mode and stored in students’ bags. Students violating the rule will get 0 points for participation. There will be no warnings.

### **Individual Assignment Reflection paper – 20 %**

This individual assignment will take place in class on October (tba). One of the main themes and readings integrated with your classroom experience will be selected and assigned by professor at least three days prior to the assignment date. A reflection paper is your chance to add your thoughts and analysis to what you have read and experienced. It is meant to illustrate your understanding of the material and how it affects your ideas and possible practice in future. The paper length should be no less than 1000 words.

### **Midterm Exam – 25 %**

Midterm exam will consist of three essay questions. Essays will be graded based on student's critical thinking and writing skills, as well as ability to link several different ideas together in an innovative way.

The midterm examination will be conducted on November (tba) at the ADA University campus. The precise venue and details will be communicated later during the class. Students are not supposed to miss the midterm exam. Make-up examinations will be given only in extreme and verifiable circumstances and must be discussed with the instructor before the exam date. The decision whether to grant a make-up is solely at the discretion of the instructor.

### **Final Assignment: Group Paper – 20 %**

Students will have to prepare an analytical paper including policy recommendations for a specific course of action on the contemporary international relations of the European Union (20% of the final grade). This policy paper will be prepared in small groups (4 students). The main objectives of this exercise are a) that the students understand some of the contemporary international relations of the EU, using the historical and theoretical knowledge reviewed during the course; and b) that students develop their skills to analyze and present information in different formats. For this paper there will be four issue areas to choose from: EU-China relations, EU-EaP relations, EU-USA relations, and EU-Russian relations.

The report length to be between 2500-3000 words, excluding bibliography, +/-10%, everything below and above the word count will negatively impact the grade. Line spacing should be set at 1.15, with standard font (12 pt Times New Roman), in the APA style. It should be stapled and include a cover sheet with students' names, the course name, and the date submitted. Students should cite the materials they use professionally and have a bibliography section. Papers that use citations carelessly will be marked down accordingly. Late submissions will not be accepted.

### **Group Paper Presentation – 10%**

The final sessions of the course will be dedicated to students' group presentations based on their group papers. All team members are expected to actively participate in the presentation. Reading during presentation is prohibited. For each group, 15 minutes will be allocated for the presentation of their analysis followed by a 5-minute Q&A session. All members of the group are expected to equally participate in the presentation. Other students are expected to ask critical questions and provide constructive criticism.

## ACADEMIC HONOR CODE

ADA University has no tolerance for acts of academic dishonesty. Honor Code of ADA University defines the responsibilities of both students and faculty about academic dishonesty. By teaching this course, the instructor has agreed to observe the entire faculty responsibilities described in that document. By enrolling in this class, you have agreed to observe all student responsibilities described in that document. Academic dishonesty in this course includes disallowed assistance for case analysis, collaborating on individual assignments, discussing or divulging the contents of individual and / or group work with another student and/ or non-own-group-members who are doing the same assignment, and use of take-home work from other students, cheating.

Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, the following:

*Cheating:* The act of deception by which a student misrepresents mastery of information on an academic exercise. These acts can be either premeditated or not.

*Plagiarism:* The unacknowledged inclusion of someone else's actual words or paraphrases, ideas, or data as one's own. This means that sources of information must be appropriately cited with footnotes or quotation marks and identified, whether published or unpublished, copyrighted or uncopyrighted.

*Academic Misconduct:* The actual or attempted tampering or misuse of academic records or materials such as transcripts and examinations.

*Falsification/Fabrication:* The intentional use of false information or the falsification of research, findings, or personal or university documents with the intent to deceive.

*Accessory to Acts of Academic Dishonesty:* The act of facilitating, supporting, or conspiring with another student to commit or attempt to commit any form of academic dishonesty.

Please refer to the link below for definitions and consequences:

[https://www.ada.edu.az/frq-content/plugins/policies\\_x1/entry/20210820115209\\_06140500.pdf](https://www.ada.edu.az/frq-content/plugins/policies_x1/entry/20210820115209_06140500.pdf)