

**Basics of the European Union Foreign Action**

Code: 40890  
ECTS Credits: 15

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
4313791 European Integration	OT	0	1
4313800 International Relations, Security and Development	OT	0	1

**Contact**

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**Use of Languages**

Principal working language: spanish (spa)

**Teachers**

Esther Zapater Duque  
Marta Isern  
Eduard Soler Lecha

**External teachers**

Alfons Gonzalez (URV)

**Prerequisites**

Students have to work correctly in both languages Spanish and English.

**Objectives and Contextualisation**

Get acquainted with the theoretical and political debates related with the EU external action.

Study the EU external action from several perspectives (economic, political and security).

Get theoretical knowledge about EU external action through reading and documents related with EU external action basic dimensions.

Analyze the EU external action instruments using case studies to underline its flexibility, limitations and effectiveness.

**Competences**

European Integration

- Analyse the legal, political and economic instruments implemented by the EU in its relations with other countries (specialisation in External Action).
- Analyse the mechanisms and standpoints adopted by the EU within its participation in various multilateral international institutions and other bodies (specialisation in External Action).

- Analyse, synthesise, organise and plan projects and assignments related to the area of study.
- Communicate and justify conclusions clearly and unambiguously to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Continue the learning process, to a large extent autonomously
- Integrate knowledge and use it to make judgements in complex situations, with incomplete information, while keeping in mind social and ethical responsibilities.
- Seek out information in the scientific literature using appropriate channels, and use this information to formulate and contextualise a research topic.

International Relations, Security and Development

- Analyse, synthesise, organise and plan projects and assignments related to the area of study.
- Communicate and justify conclusions clearly and unambiguously to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Continue the learning process, to a large extent autonomously
- Integrate knowledge and use it to make judgements in complex situations, with incomplete information, while keeping in mind social and ethical responsibilities.
- Seek out information in the scientific literature, skilfully handling specialised documentary and bibliographic sources on international relations, and integrate this information to formulate and contextualise a research topic.

## Learning Outcomes

1. Analyse, synthesise, organise and plan projects and assignments related to the area of study.
2. Classify international agreements reached by the EU and/or other countries and international organisations.
3. Communicate and justify conclusions clearly and unambiguously to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
4. Continue the learning process, to a large extent autonomously
5. Identify the mechanisms used by the European institutions that design the EU's external action.
6. Identify the unilateral instruments employed by European institutions in the implementation of external action in both regional and multilateral frameworks.
7. Integrate knowledge and use it to make judgements in complex situations, with incomplete information, while keeping in mind social and ethical responsibilities.
8. Interpret the positions that the EU defends within the framework of other international organisations or multilateral international meetings .
9. Seek out information in the scientific literature using appropriate channels, and use this information to formulate and contextualise a research topic.
10. Seek out information in the scientific literature, skilfully handling specialised documentary and bibliographic sources on international relations, and integrate this information to formulate and contextualise a research topic.

## Content

1. EU external action: Constitution of a political and security actor. Dr. Esther Barbé. Professor of International Relations UAB. One session: Diplomacy and security in the EU framework. Levels of analysis (international, European, domestic). Europeanization of foreign policies. Constitutive negotiation in a changing international context.
1. Comunitarization, decision making, defense, institutions and instruments of external action: theory and practice. Dr. Pol Morillas (CIDOB). Session 1. Towards the Lisbon Treaty (Context and political negotiations. Member states preferences and European institutions. Negotiations and global context. Session 2. Formulation of foreign policy in the Lisbon Treaty. Decision making process. New institutions role. Member states role Session 3: Implementing foreign policy with Lisbon Treaty. Foreign policy instruments. Inter-institutional coordination. Case-study: EU responses to Haiti earthquake. Session 4: Europeanization of foreign policy? Reviewing the debate between Europeanization and intergovernmentalism in European foreign policy. Changes and the Lisbon Treaty. Theory and practice: EU's Spanish presidency (first semester 2010). Session 5: Practical implementation of the new foreign

policy (I). EU responses to Arab spring: a political approach. Decision making mechanisms. Institutions and member states role. Session 6: Practical implementation of the new foreign policy (II). EU responses to Arab spring: a practical approach. New cooperation instruments in the Mediterranean. Priority areas and cooperation results. Session 7. Simulation: Agenda applied to research. Analyzing EU in regard with the Arab Spring and defining research lines.

1. EU external action: A legal-practical analysis. Dr. Esther Zapater. Lecturer of Public International Law UAB. Session 1. EU external action: concepts. The EU, international actor or subject? EU subjectivity and member states. Distinction between external action, foreign policy and common security. Examples of subjectivity. Session 2. Goals and principles of EU external action. Goals of EU external action. Respect of fundamental rights: democratic conditionality. Flexibility of the external action: reinforced cooperation, structured cooperation. Coherence and external action, solidarity clause among the member states. Session 3. New institutional architecture. The institutions role regarding representation and formulation of external action: interactions between the EU President, the Council Presidency, the High Representative, the President of the Commission and the President of the European Parliament. EU foreign policy implementation: EU External Service and the Comission role. International treaties procedures. Institutional debate regarding new equilibrium in Lisbon Treaty. Session 4. Analyzing transfer of international competencies to the EU. Attribution principle. Explicit competences. External competences derived from internal competences: the principle of parallelism. External competences and EU goals (article 352 TFUE) Delimitation of external competencies between the EU and the member states: exclusive competencies and concurrent competencies. Problems of delimitation: examples. Session 5. Legal and financial instruments to develop communitarian actions. Unilateral communitarian actions with external projection. International agreements as a privileged instrument. Typology. Implementation of international agreements. Financial instruments (2006 reform). Session 6. Dimensions of external action: traditional and strategic. Trade policy: Instruments. Aid policy: Instruments. Communitarian dimensions (agriculture, fishing, transport).
  
1. EU external action: Cases in security and defense. Dr. Alfons González. Lecturer of International Public Law URV. Session 1. EU missions in the CSDP framework. Typology of CSDP missions. Basics of CSDP missions. CSDP missions goals. Session 2. Relations between EU and NATO regarding security and defense. EU-NATO relations: The legal framework. EU-NATO relations: The strategic framework. EU-NATO relations: Operational framework. Political problems and practices in EU-NATO relations. Session 3. Case study (practical session following PBL methodology).
  
1. EU external action: International Relations perspective. Dr. Esther Barbé. Professor of International Relations UAB. Session 1. Power and identity: EU as an international actor. EU power: capabilities, instruments and influence. Power dimensions. EU international identity: roles and norms. Case Study: European Strategies. Session 2. Neighbourhood policy: a dilemma on stability, security and transformation. How to transform EU neighbourhood? ENP dimension: sectors and regions. Exporting norms : power and identity of the EU. Europeanization, internationalization and coordination. Session 3. Transformative power: conflict prevention. EU roles in the international system: Milieu goals. Concepts and instruments (toolbox). Post conflict: democracy promotion, elections monitoring Session 4. EU and multilateral institutions. Promotion of multilateralism. EU representation and participation models in multilateral diplomacy. EU and United Nations: Representation, participation and priorities. The EU influence in multilateral institutions as a paradox.

## Methodology

Methodolgy is based on four working frameworks: Lectures, students presentations, debates between students and invited lecturers (PHD researchers, practitioners) and practical cases or simulation sessions.

## Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			

Master class with ICT support	25	1	7, 4
Tutorials and regular monitoring of activities	112	4.48	1, 9, 3
Type: Supervised			
Seminar activities and practical sessions	50	2	2, 5, 8, 7, 3
Type: Autonomous			
Individual study and work related to seminars and practical sessions	188	7.52	1, 9, 7, 4

## Assessment

The unit is based on continuous assessment. The assessment is responsibility of each lecturer (27% Esther Barbé, 27% Esther Zapater, 33% Pol Morillas and 13% Alfonso González).

Each lecturer instructs the students regarding their assessment criteria. In general, delivering essays (50%) and delivering exercises plus participation during the course (50%).

Presence in the class room is mandatory; under 80% of presence entails failing the unit. In order to pass the unit the minimum mark is 5, at least in three out of the four sub-units (lecturers).

There are no additional tests during the academic year. Students must necessarily succeed, following the lectures, being present in the sessions, delivering essays and participating in practical sessions.

## Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Class discussion and follow-up practical session	50%	0	0	1, 9, 10, 2, 6, 5, 8, 7, 3, 4
Delivery of assignments previously assigned	50%	0	0	1, 9, 10, 2, 5, 8, 7, 3, 4

## Bibliography

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- CREMONA, M. y B. DE WITTE, EU Foreign relations Law. Constitutional Fundamentals, Hart Publishing, 2008.
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