

European Union-China Relations

Code: 42662
ECTS Credits: 12

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
4313666 European Union-China. Culture and Economy	OB	0	1

Contact

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Use of Languages

Principal working language: spanish (spa)

Teachers

Nora Sainz Gsell

External teachers

José García Cano
Lluc López i Vidal

Prerequisites

Having completed Module I

Objectives and Contextualisation

Through a gradual learning process that goes from the generic to the specific, this module pretends to introduce students in the diversity and complexity of the political, economic and business relations between the EU and China. Then, the contents of the module are divided in two parts: a first one that contextualizes the student with the political relations between EU and China, while the second focuses on the commercial legal relations between both actors.

The first part (formed by 3 different courses, although related to each other) provides the student with basic concepts and ideas from the field of International Relations (International System, actors, powers, etc.): these concepts are necessary not only to understand the insertion of China as well as the EU in the International System, but also to understand their mutual relations and their relations with other actors.

Afterwards, the student is introduced to the world of the EU with the aim of obtaining the basic concept and ideas to understand the institutional and political complexity of this sui generis international actor. The origins and evolution of the European project will be explained together with its main institutions, its functioning and its decision-making processes. From this point onwards, the student reaches the EU as an international power through the analysis of its external action. This approach lets the student to reach three goals: (1) analysis of EU-China relations through their security, economic and political agenda; (2) the cooperation and conflict areas between the EU and China at the time of establishing relations with different regions like Latin America, Central Asia and Southeast Asia; (3) the comparison of the positions and visions that EU, China and the United States hold regarding the functioning of the International System at different topics of the international agenda (sovereignty, human rights, climate change, etc.)

The second part of the module (commercial legal relations) provides the student basic concepts related to the Chinese and Spanish legal systems (constitution, civil code, legal personality, etc.); afterwards, the student enters into the mercantile sector of both countries (focusing on the role of the company) and make a small comparative study, providing practical elements for the future professional development of students in the trade sector between both countries.

Competences

- Apply distinct theoretical models to the analysis of complex discourse types (political, social, economic, business and cultural) from both an intercontinental and intercultural perspective.
- Carry out team work in interdisciplinary and multicultural environments.
- Compare and analyse the current political, institutional and legislative structures of the European Union and China, taking in their evolution and development in the 21st century.
- Continue the learning process, to a large extent autonomously.
- Make creative and original contributions in distinct fields, demonstrating an attitude of respect towards the opinions, values, behaviour and practices of others.
- Use acquired knowledge as a basis for originality in the application of ideas, often in a research context.

Learning Outcomes

1. Carry out team work in interdisciplinary and multicultural environments.
2. Continue the learning process, to a large extent autonomously.
3. Distinguish the differences among the political, institutional and legislative structures of the European Union and China.
4. Identify the languages of the political and social participants in the bilateral relations between the two regions.
5. Identify the main participants in those institutions relevant to relationships between the two regions.
6. Interpret and understand political and social evolution and development in the 21st century.
7. Make creative and original contributions in distinct fields, demonstrating an attitude of respect towards the opinions, values, behaviour and practices of others.
8. Make innovative proposals to address the problems and intercultural conflicts in the institutional relations between the European Union and China.
9. Recognise and apply theoretical models to specific cases in the field of institutional relations between the two regions.
10. Use acquired knowledge as a basis for originality in the application of ideas, often in a research context.

Content

The contents of this module are developed through 4 courses, grouped in two sections:

1) EU-China political relations

China as an international power: introduction to the basic concepts of the international system (Dra. Nora Sainz Gsell - 2 ECTS)

Introduction to the EU and its External Action (Federico Guerrero - 4 ECTS)

EU-China diplomatic relations (Dr. Lluç López - 2 ECTS)

2) EU-China commercial legal relations

Comparative research EU-China legal systems (José García Cano - 4 ECTS)

These are the contents of each course:

China as an international power: introduction to the basic concepts of the international system (Dra. Nora Sainz Gsell)

1. Introduction to the International System: basic concepts (actors, structures, dynamics and institutions)

- Basic analytical concepts of International Relations and main characteristics of the International Society
- Actors of International Society (Powers, hierarchy and intergovernmental organizations).

2. People's Republic of China in the International System

- Analysis of Chinese foreign policy: evolution of principles, discourse, policies, strategies and agenda of Chinese foreign policy

3. Chinese policy towards Latin America and Central Asia

- Political and economic strategies that EU and China follow separately towards Latin America and Central Asia. Possible complementarities and incompatibilities between these strategies

Introduction to the EU and its External Action (Federico Guerrero)

1. Introduction to the EU

- Historical process of its inception
- Institutional system and decision-making processes
- Competences and legal system

2. EU External Action

- Introduction to EU External Action (Common Foreign and Security Policy, Trade Policy, Development Aid Policy)
- Origins and historical evolution of EU Foreign Policy (CFSP/CSDP)
- Goals, tools and dimensions of CFSP, including EU's Global Strategy

3. The EU in a multipolar world

- Similarities and differences between the external action of China, the United States and EU

EU-China diplomatic relations (Dr. Lluç López)

1. EU-China relations: an introduction

- Presentation of the analytical framework of the main characteristics of EU-China relations
- Analysis of their relations in the security, economic and political sectors

2. Interregional relations between EU and Asia within the security and economic sectors

Comparative research EU-China legal systems (José García Cano)

1. Legal Systems

- Introduction to law and legal systems (*civil law, common law*)
- The Constitution (rights and duties of Chinese and Spanish people in China and Spain)
- Historical review of Chinese Law (Civil Code, Constitution and Laws)
- Natural and legal person
- Volunteer and legal representation

2. Commercial legal system

- Law of matrimonial property in Spain and China
- Law of succession in both countries and differences between them
- International trade and classification
- The company (classification, elements, constitutive requirements, operation, administration, accounting duties, dissolution and liquidation)

Methodology

The dedication of students to this module is divided into several types of activities, each of them with a certain number of hours of workload. These diverse typologies of activities imply different work methodologies:

- Directed activities are activities completed in the classroom with the presence of the lecturer, basically formed by master classes, including practical exercises to analyze case studies, problems and examples regarding the contents of the module, oral presentation of assignments (being group or individual assignments) and individual exams

- Supervised activities are activities performed by the student out of the classroom according to a workplan designed and assessed by the lecturers. Here we will find the preparation of several group or individual assignments ordered by each of the 4 courses included in this module

- Autonomous activities are those activities that students perform on their own: these may include mandatory as well as recommended readings, the study of classnotes and any other activities that may complement the training achieved with the course. These activities represent most part of the time students devote to the whole module

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Type: Directed			
Master classes and exams	60	2.4	3, 5, 4, 6, 2, 9
Type: Supervised			
Group assignment	60	2.4	3, 7, 8, 5, 4, 6, 2, 9, 10, 1
Type: Autonomous			
Mandatory and complementary readings; self-study; preparing classnotes and other study material from the module	116	4.64	3, 5, 4, 6, 2, 9, 10

Assessment

The 4 courses that are part of this Module will be assessed using the following system:

China as an international power: introduction to the basic concepts of the international system

1. Class attendance (20% of the grade of the course)
2. Group assignment regarding the preparation of a short report about topics of current international affairs that have been seen at the course (40% of the grade of the course).
3. Final individual exam (40% of the grade of the course)

Introduction to the EU and its External Action

1. Class attendance (20% of the grade of the course)
2. Group assignment regarding the preparation of a report about the external action of the EU, China and the United States (40% of the grade of the course).

3. Final individual exam (40% of the grade of the course)

EU-China diplomatic relations

1. Class attendance (20% of the grade of the course)
2. Group assignment at the classroom about the contents seen at the course (40% of the grade of the course)
3. Final individual exam (40% of the grade of the course)

Comparative research EU-China legal systems

1. Class attendance (20% of the grade of the course)
2. Class participation (20% of the grade of the course)
3. Individual assignment about the contents seen at the course (35% of the grade of the course)
4. Final individual exam (25% of the grade of the course)

Assessment Activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
Class attendance	20	54	2.16	3, 7, 8, 5, 4, 6, 2, 9, 10, 1
Final individual exam (one per subject)	40	6	0.24	3, 5, 4, 6, 9
Group assignment oral presentation (one per subject)	40	4	0.16	3, 7, 8, 5, 4, 6, 2, 9, 10, 1

Bibliography

The mandatory bibliography to correctly follow the 4 courses within this module is the following:

China as an international power: introduction to the basic concepts of the international system

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CORBETT, Richard, PETERSON, John and KENEALY, Daniel (2018), "Chapter 3. The EU's Institutions" in KENEALY, Daniel; PETERSON, John and CORBETT, Richard (eds.), *The European Union: how does it work? (Fifth Edition)*, Oxford: Oxford University Press

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