

Basics of the European Union Foreign Action

Code: 40890

ECTS Credits: 15

2025/2026

Degree	Type	Year
European Integration	OT	0

Contact

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Teachers

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Teaching groups languages

You can view this information at the [end](#) of this document.

Prerequisites

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

Objectives and Contextualisation

Become familiar with the theoretical and political debates raised by the European Union's role in the international arena.

Examine the EU's external action across its various dimensions: political, economic, and security-related.

Acquire a solid theoretical understanding of the EU's external action through the analysis of key readings and documents addressing its core aspects.

Analyze the instruments of EU external action through case studies, with particular emphasis on their versatility, limitations, and effectiveness.

Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

The use of AI technologies is permitted exclusively for support tasks: proofreading, or translations. Students must clearly identify which sections were generated with this technology, specify the tools used, and include a reflection on how they influenced the process and final outcome of the activity. Lack of transparency in the use of AI in assessable activities will be considered academic dishonesty and may result in a partial or total penalty on the grade for the activity, or greater penalties in serious cases.

Competences

- Analyse, synthesise, organise and plan projects and assignments related to the area of study.
- 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).
- 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.

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.

Content

Session 1. From Informality to Formality: From EPC to CFSP

Session 2. The European Union's External Action: Conceptual Delimitations

Session 3. Theories of External Action

Session 4. The EU and the Concept of Power

Session 5. Objectives and Principles of the European Union's External Action

Session 6. Instruments of External Action

Session 7. The New Institutional Architecture of the European Union's External Action

Session 8. The EU and Palestine

Session 9. Development Cooperation

Session 10. Europeanisation and De-Europeanisation

Session 11. The Analysis of the European Union's International Competences

Session 12. The EU and Strategies

Session 13. The EU and Defence

Activities and Methodology

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning Outcomes
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Type: Directed			
Master class with ICT support	25	1	6, 5, 7, 4
Tutorials and regular monitoring of activities	112	4.48	1, 3, 7, 4
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Type: Supervised			
Seminar activities and practical sessions	50	2	1, 3, 7
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Type: Autonomous			
Individual study and work related to seminars and practical sessions	188	7.52	1, 9, 5, 8, 3, 7, 4
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The methodology combines active learning and problem-based learning approaches, structured around four main components: lectures, student presentations, debates among students, and practical case studies or simulation sessions.

Annotation: Within the schedule set by the centre or degree programme, 15 minutes of one class will be reserved for students to evaluate their lecturers and their courses or modules through questionnaires.

Assessment

Continuous Assessment Activities

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

The module is assessed through continuous assessment and is divided into three graded blocks.

To pass the module, it is essential to pass all three blocks with a minimum grade of 5 in each.

The weighting is as follows: Block I (60%), Block II (30%), and Block III (10%).

Each block is led by one or more instructors, and each of them provides specific guidelines regarding assessment in their respective part of the syllabus.

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Software

No use of "programari".

Groups and Languages

Please note that this information is provisional until 30 November 2025. You can check it through this [link](#). To consult the language you will need to enter the CODE of the subject.

Name	Group	Language	Semester	Turn
(TEm) Theory (master)	1	Spanish	first semester	afternoon