

Information list of a subject

University: Bratislava International School of Liberal Arts (BISLA)	
Faculty:	
Subject code	Subject name: The EU and Geopolitics
Type, scope, and method of educational activities: Two weekly meetings of 90 minutes each, amounting 42 hours total. Every week, the first meeting takes the form of a lecture and the second of a seminar.	
Number of credits: 6 ECT	
Suggested semester: –	
Level of studies: 1	
Conditional previous subjects: none	
<p>Requirements for the course: Passing the course assumes that student was not absent at more than 4 class sessions. Late arrival is marked as a “tardie”. Three tardies equal one absence. Missing more than 15 minutes of the class is considered an absence.</p> <p>Assignments and evaluation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mid-term Geopolitical Positioning Brief (2–3 pages): 30% • Final Geopolitical Analysis Paper (1,500–2,000 words): 40% • Class participation: 20% • Attendance: 10% 	
<p>Learning outcomes: By the end of the course, students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understand the European Union as a geopolitical actor 2. Analyse how EU institutions and law shape strategic action 3. Assess EU enlargement as a security- and power-driven process 4. Evaluate the EU’s foreign, security, and defence policies under geopolitical pressure 5. Apply geopolitical reasoning to EU external relations and internal divisions 6. Produce clear, structured analytical writing on EU geopolitical challenges 	
<p>Brief outline of the course: This course examines the European Union as a geopolitical actor operating in an increasingly conflictual and competitive international environment. It analyses how the EU’s institutional structure, legal order, enlargement policy, trade and customs regime, and foreign and security policy are shaped by — and respond to — war, power competition, regional instability, and internal political fragmentation. Rather than treating the EU primarily as a normative or integration-driven project, the course focuses on power, interests, constraints, and strategic choice. Students will critically assess the EU’s capacity to act geopolitically, the instruments it deploys, and the limits it faces in a changing international order. The course complements <i>Advanced International Relations: Conflict & Security</i>. While that course analyses conflict dynamics and security governance, EU and Geopolitics focuses on the EU itself as a political and strategic actor within those dynamics.</p>	
<p>Recommended readings: Besch, S. (2022). <i>EU Defense and the War in Ukraine</i>. Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. https://carnegieendowment.org/2022/12/21/eu-defense-and-war-in-ukraine-pub-88680</p>	

Borchardt, K.-D. (2000). *The ABC of European Union Law*. Office for Official Publications of the European Communities.

European Union – Treaties, Commission, Council, and EEAS documents

Kaeding, M., Pollak, J., & Schmidt, P. (Eds.). (2024). *Enlargement and the Future of Europe*. Springer Nature.

Leonard, D. (2002). *Guide to the European Union* (Eight). The Economist.

Morina, E., & Buras, P. (2023, July 3). *Vision 2030: Four Steps Towards the New EU Enlargement*. ECFR.eu. <https://ecfr.eu/article/vision-2030-four-steps-towards-the-new-eu-enlargement/>

Tiryaki, S. (2006). The Debate on the EU Prospect of Turkey. In P. Kaźmierkiewicz (Ed.), *EU Accession Prospects for Turkey and Ukraine*. Institute of Public Affairs.

Wilson, K., & van der Dussen, J. (Eds.). (1995). *The History of the Idea of Europe*. Routledge.

Language of the course: English

Notes:

Evaluation

Total number of evaluated students:

A	B	C	D	E	FX
(percentage of students who got A)	(percentage of students who got B)	(percentage of students who got C)	(percentage of students who got D)	(percentage of students who got E)	(percentage of students who got FX)

Instructor: Assoc. Prof. JUDr. Sylvia Tiryaki, PhD.

Date of the last change: 15.12.2025

Approved: Prof. PhDr. František Novosád, CSc.