

INTA 4230 Syllabus

Seminar on the European Union

Summer 2026

Study Abroad Program on the EU and Global Affairs

Instructor Information

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General Course Information

Description

The aims of this seminar are to introduce the historical context and evolution of European integration and to examine the core institutions, political actors and policy-making processes of the European Union. The course will also consider the major challenges facing the EU today, especially the security and humanitarian crisis provoked by Russia's war against Ukraine, now a candidate country to the EU, but also the impact of the Trump Administration's trade policies and the energy crisis and economic fallout from the conflict in Iran. The course will also expose students to the institutional changes implemented with the Lisbon Treaty, new initiatives such as the banking and fiscal union, the proposed Defense Union and the EU's approach to the digital and green transitions. The rise of euroscepticism and the increasing significance of far-right parties in the European parliament will also be examined. Other topics addressed include the political and cultural dimensions of European unification and identity, the changing nature of sovereignty, citizenship and democracy and the meaning of these concepts beyond the nation-state.

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to...

- Build knowledge and understanding of the origins and current issues facing the European Union
- Develop basic analytical skills to assess the impact of European integration on domestic and international politics.

- Display an understanding of the functioning of European institutions and the policy making influence of the EU on regional and global governance
- Demonstrate the ability to describe the social, political, and economic forces that influence Europe and the global system.
- Increase awareness of the diversity of cultural, political and ethical systems across the EU.

Required Course Materials

The course readings will be uploaded to **Canvas under “Files”** and available under the **Required Readings**.

To enhance the quality of this experiential learning opportunity in the study abroad setting, it will be helpful to follow current events and the news related to developments in the EU and European politics. The best sources for staying informed about current issues in Europe for English speakers are the BBC and EuroNews websites, France 24 (English) *The Financial Times* and *The Economist*. Many articles from the latter two publications will be made available for required supplemental reading throughout the semester. For French speakers, *Le Monde* and *Le Figaro* are leading national newspapers and France Info, France Culture and France Television (TF 1, FR 2, 3 and TV 5) are other useful sources of information. Der Spiegel is a German weekly news magazine that has an international version in English for news and analysis of German, European and International Affairs, Deutsche Welle (dw.com) is 24/7 on-line and available in English.

For a wealth of information on the institutions, Member States and current policies of the European Union, consult the EU’s official website, Europa. The URL is: https://european-union.europa.eu/index_en

Information from the European Union’s Delegation to the United States: https://www.ecas.europa.eu/delegations/united-states-america_en?s=253

Grading Policy:

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Your final grade will be assigned as a letter grade according to the following scale:

A	90-100%
B	80-89.9%
C	70-79.9%
D	60-69.9%
F	0-59.9%

Assignment	Percentage
Participation, Site-Visit Engagement and De-briefings/discussions	25%
Membership Presentation	25%
Quiz	25%
Role-Playing Game at Parliamentarium	25%

Description of Graded Components

Participation: Well-informed, engaged participation throughout the study abroad program, especially during site visits, policy briefings and museum exhibitions will be key to maximizing the experiential learning experience and earning a good grade.

Membership Presentations: Guidelines are posted on Canvas and will be due during the first week of the program.

Quiz: The format of this quiz is Multiple Choice, True/False and Short Answer and will be administered on the Georgia Tech Europe campus in Metz, France on May 28th.

Role-Playing Game: This game simulates debates amongst members of the European Parliament, consultations with the Commission and Council and video-interactive dialogue with constituents. This active learning activity is the culminating academic exercise for this course.

Course Policies

Attendance and/or Participation: See statement above.

Academic Integrity

Georgia Tech aims to cultivate a community based on trust, academic integrity, and honor. Students are expected to act according to the highest ethical standards. Review [Georgia Tech's Honor Code](#) and the student [Code of Conduct](#).

Any student suspected of cheating or plagiarism on a quiz, exam, or assignment will be reported to the Office of Student Integrity, who will investigate the incident and identify the appropriate penalty for violations.

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with learning needs that require special accommodation, [contact the Office of Disability Services](#) (404-894-2563) as soon as possible to make an appointment to discuss your special needs and to obtain an accommodations letter. Please also e-mail me as soon as possible in order to set up a time to discuss your learning needs.

Student-Faculty Expectations Agreement

At Georgia Tech, we believe that it is important to strive for an atmosphere of mutual respect, acknowledgement, and responsibility between faculty members and the student body. [The Student-Faculty Expectations](#) articulate some basic expectations that you can have of me and that I have of you. In the end, simple respect for knowledge, hard work, and cordial interactions will help build the environment we seek. Therefore, I encourage you to remain committed to the ideals of Georgia Tech while in this class.

Student Well-Being:

At Georgia Tech, we are concerned about your overall physical, social, and mental well-being. A [comprehensive list](#) of wellness related resources has been compiled and maintained by the Office of the Vice President for Student Engagement and Well-being ([student-resource-guide](#) ([gatech.edu](#)))

