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# The European Union in the World: Crisis or Transformation?

PROF. STEFANO PROCACCI

<b>Area of study:</b>	International Relations
<b>Area Code:</b>	IRPO322
<b>Method of Instruction:</b>	In-person

## Description

What is a “Great Power”? Who is a “Great Power” in contemporary world politics? Is it still possible to argue that the European Union, with its complex and decentralized political mechanisms, will affirm itself as one of the future world powers? How could Europe overcome the current crisis? Should the EU relaunch its project on a new basis? How should it answer to the “Brexit” and address the current unbalance vis-à-vis the United States? The aim of the course is to analyze the structures and institutions of the European Union with a special attention to the past and present developments of its foreign and security policy.

## Course contents

The aim of the course is to analyze the structures of the European Union with a special attention to the past and present developments of its policies and institutions, from its birth at the end of WWII to the most recent changes introduced after the Lisbon Treaty. The study will focus on the EU controversial transformation from “Common Market” to “Political Union”, on the separation of powers between central structures and member states, on the complex EU policy-making process and on the balance of economic and political forces operating at national and supranational level. In raising these questions, the EU institutions will be the privileged empirical reference. Yet, when necessary to understand the problems of internal cooperation and competition, the national perspective will be also taken into consideration.

Finally, the course will look at the EU from the perspective of world politics and external actors. It will discuss the relevance of the EU as a player of the international system and analyze the internal mechanisms through which European countries try to build a common view of world affairs and define a common foreign policy agenda.

## Prerequisites

A background in Political Science/International Relations may prove helpful, but it is not compulsory.

## Method of instruction

Lecture and Seminar

## Course requirements

Students have to comply with the following requirements:

- Students are expected to regularly attend class sessions and actively contribute to in-class debate.
- Students are expected to study in advance the assigned course readings.
- Students are required to present a short presentation on a course-related topic. The aim of the presentation is to sum up and comment one of the readings of the day (about 20 minutes).
- Students will have to take two written exams: a mid-term test and a final test, at the end of the teaching period.



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## Credits

6 ECTS

## Grading

General class participation	20% of final grade
Mid-term exam	30% of final grade
Final exam	30% of final grade
Oral presentation (briefing)	20% of final grade

Both the mid-term and final exam will be made of open questions (and eventually multiple choice questions), and will take about 90 minutes. Students will be responsible for all material discussed prior to the exam date. Students who miss examinations for non-medical reasons will not have the opportunity to rewrite. Medical exemptions will require documentation. Alternative forms of examination can be considered only in exceptional cases, and upon instructors discretion.

## Course readings and materials

All required readings will be available in a course pack. Both readings and lectures/class activities are crucial components of the course and are interrelated.

## Instructor bio

**Prof. Stefano Procacci**

## E-mail address

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