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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 and live-streaming (dual mode) |
| <b>Participation:</b>         | synchronous/live and asynchronous        |

### Description

After the pandemic, world politics and the international system are entering into a period of deep transformations. New powers are rising, and old balances are shaken. What is the place of the European Union in contemporary world politics? Is it still possible to argue that the EU, with its complex political mechanisms, will affirm itself as one of the future world powers? Economic and financial troubles, as well as socio-political issues related to the pandemic, have plunged Europe and its countries into a serious institutional crisis. How could the EU relaunch its project on a new basis? How should it answer to “Brexit” and address the current unbalance vis-à-vis the United States?

### 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 members 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

Lectures and Seminars



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## Course requirements

Students have to comply with the following requirements:

- a. Students are expected to regularly attend class sessions and actively contribute to in-class debate.
- b. Students are expected to study in advance the assigned course readings.
- c. 1 - Students attending in person will take two written exams: a mid-term test and a final test.  
2- Students in live-streaming or asynchronous participation will take an oral exam (at midterm) and submit a written essay on a course-related topic (at the end of the teaching period).

## Credits

6 ECTS

## Grading

### In person:

|              |                    |
|--------------|--------------------|
| Midterm exam | 50% of final grade |
| Final exam   | 50% of final grade |

### Live-streaming and asynchronous modality:

|                       |                    |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Oral exam (midterm)   | 50% of final grade |
| Written essay (final) | 50% of final grade |

In person: both the midterm and final exam will be made of open questions. Students' participation in class will be highly appreciated, though it will not be subject to formal evaluation, due to the special teaching conditions.

Live-streaming and asynchronous modality: the oral exam is based on a list of required readings (different lists for live-synchronous and asynchronous participation, see the Course Syllabus for more information). The final essay is a standard term paper (length is approx. 3500-4500 words).

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.

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