The EU and the Baltic-Black Sea Region

Brief description: The Baltic-Black Sea Region within its unique geographical context provides an exceptional comparative perspective on the manifold ways in which the EU and individual states are engaging with each other.

On the one hand, the course will offer rich empirical insights into a number of modalities of differentiated integration within the EU, including Danish opt-outs from a number of EU policies, the integration of the Baltic States into the EU, the Cooperation and Verification Mechanism for Bulgaria and Romania, the reluctance of Poland and Sweden to join the Eurozone and other relevant topics and issues.

On the other hand, the course will take a comparative focus on the patterns and dynamics of the EU’s interaction with non-member states and provide the opportunity to examine in-depth the effectiveness and consistency of EU’s actions in the Baltic-Black Sea Region. It will discuss the merits and limitations of various forms of cooperation with neighboring countries. The course will elaborate on key aspects of bilateral relationships with respective countries and critically explore different multilateral institutional arrangements and initiatives, including the European Economic Area, the European Neighbourhood Policy, the Eastern Partnership, the Northern Dimension or the Black-Sea Synergy.

Throughout the course, current challenges and new developments will be addressed in order to link the acquired knowledge to specific cases.

Objectives of the course:

• Provide an advanced understanding of the complex and multifaceted nature of the EU’s actorness in the Baltic-Black Sea Region;

• Explore a variety of bilateral and multilateral institutional arrangements of the EU’s engagement in this macro-region from comparative perspectives;

• Examine the EU’s impact on both member and non-member states in the Baltic-Black Sea Region;

• Stimulate the critical reflections on prospects, advantages and challenges for the European Union in this macro-region.

Learning outcomes:

• Empirically demonstrate and explain the role of the European Union in the Baltic-Black Sea Region;

• Discuss, compare and assess the dynamics of the EU’s interaction with both member and non-member states within different institutional frameworks;

• Contextualise and analyse how the European Union could affect domestic politics as well as international relations in the Baltic-Black Sea Region;

• Independently identify and evaluate constraints and opportunities for further integration and / or cooperation of individual countries with the EU.

Study materials, including bibliography:

Obligatory:

1. Bechev, D. (2018) Bulgaria and the European Union. Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics
2. Bureiko, N., Moga T. (2018) ‘Bounded Europeanisation’: The case of Ukraine. In: The European Union and its eastern neighbourhood: Europeanisation and its twenty-first-century contradictions. Flenley, P., & Mannin, M. (eds.) Manchester University Press. – pp. 71-85.
3. Całus, K., Kosienkowski, M. (2018). Relations between Moldova and the European Union. In: The European Union and its eastern neighbourhood: Europeanisation and its twenty-first-century contradictions. Flenley, P., & Mannin, M. (eds) Manchester University Press. – pp. 100-113.
4. Czachór, Z. (2017). The enlargement of the European Union – Poland’s example. Between unity and diversity. Przegląd Politologiczny, No 4, pp. 7-19
5. Delcour, L. (2016). Shaping the post-Soviet space? EU policies and approaches to region-building. – pp. 129-146
6. Dimitrov, G., Haralampiev, K., Stoychev, S. (2016) The Adventures of the CVM in Bulgaria and Romania. MAXCAP Working Paper Series, No. 29
7. Duszczyk, M. (2016). Periphery, or perhaps already the centre? The impact of ten years of membership in the European Union on the position and perceptions of Poland. In Laffan, B., Magone, J. and Schweiger, C. (eds). Core-periphery relations in the European Union. London: Routledge – pp. 251-265.
8. Gherghina, S., Soare S. (2016) A test of European Union post-accession influence: comparing reactions to political instability in Romania, Democratization, 23:5 – pp. 797-818
9. Kascian, K. (2018) Belarus: does Europeanisation require a geopolitical choice? In: The European Union and its eastern neighbourhood: Europeanisation and its twenty-first-century contradictions. Flenley, P., & Mannin, M. (eds) – pp. 86-100.
10. Kerikmäe, T., Chochia, A., & Atallah, M. (2018). The Baltic States in the European Union. Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics.
11. Kolodziejczyk, K. (2016). Poland in the European Union. Ten years of membership. Revista UNISCI/UNISCI Journal, Volume 40, pp. 9-26.
12. Korosteleva, E. (2017) The challenges of a changing eastern neighbourhood/ In The Routledge Handbook on the European Neighbourhood Policy Schumacher T., Marchetti A. and Thomas Demmelhuber (eds.) Abingdon: Routledge. – pp. 167-176
13. McCallion, M. S., Brianson, A. (2018). Nordic states and European integration: Awkward partners in the North? Cham, Switzerland : Palgrave Macmillan – pp. 79-128.
14. McCallion, M. S., Brianson, A. (2018). Nordic states and European integration: Awkward partners in the North? Cham, Switzerland : Palgrave Macmillan – pp. 13-78
15. Petrova, I. (2017). EU-Russia relations in the Wider Europe: From strategic partner to major competitor? In: The European Neighbourhood Policy in a comparative perspective: Models, challenges, lessons. Gstöhl, S (ed.) London, Routledge. – pp. 147-162
16. Simão, L. (2018) Armenia: Breaking Isolation to Reach Europe. In: The EU’s Neighbourhood Policy towards the South Caucasus. The European Union in International Affairs. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. – pp. 147-184
17. Simão, L. (2018) Azerbaijan: Strategic Partnership Instead of Europeanisation. In: The EU’s Neighbourhood Policy towards the South Caucasus. The European Union in International Affairs. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham. – p. 185-213
18. Simão, L. (2018) Georgia: Building a European State. In: The EU’s Neighbourhood Policy towards the South Caucasus. The European Union in International Affairs. Palgrave Macmillan, Cham – pp. 215-244
19. Weber, M. (2018). EU–Turkey relations need an honest new start. European View, Vol.17 (1), 52–57.
20. Yazgan, H. ( 2017). Black Sea Synergy: Success or Failure for the European Union. Siyasal Bilimler Dergisi n. 5/ 67-78.

Recommended:

1. Adler-Nissen, R. (2016). Opting Out of the European Union: Diplomacy, Sovereignty and European Integration. Cambridge : Cambridge University Press, Holzinger, K., & Schimmelfennig, F. (January 01, 2012). Differentiated integration in the European Union: Many concepts, sparse theory, few data. Journal of European Public Policy, 19, 2.)
2. Akgül, A. S., & In Triantaphyllou, D. (2017). The European Union and the Black Sea: The State of Play. Routledge
3. Baltag, D. (2018). EU External Representation Post-Lisbon: The Performance of EU Diplomacy in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine. The Hague Journal of Diplomacy, 13, 1, 75-96.
4. Bocse, A.-M. (2019). EU Energy Diplomacy: Searching for New Suppliers in Azerbaijan and Iran. Geopolitics, 24, 1, 145-173.
5. Casier, T., & In DeBardeleben, J. (2018). EU-Russia relations in crisis: Understanding diverging perceptions.
6. Cengiz, F., & In Hoffmann, L. (2016). Turkey and the European Union: Facing new challenges and opportunities. Abingdon, Oxon : Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group
7. Chaban, N., Elgström, O., & Gulyaeva, O. (, 2017). Russian Images of the European Union: Before and after Maidan. Foreign Policy Analysis.
8. Cierco, T. (2016). The European Union neighbourhood: Challenges and opportunities. London: Routledge.
9. Dosenrode-Lynge, S. Z., & In Halkier, H. (2018). The Nordic Regions and the European Union. London : Taylor and Francis
10. Gänzle, S. (2017). The European Union's Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region (EUSBSR): improving multilevel governance in Baltic Sea cooperation?. Journal of Baltic Studies, 48, 4, 407-420.
11. Gänzle, S., & Kern, K. (2016). The European Union Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region. A "macro-Regional" Europe in the Making : Theoretical Approaches and Empirical Evidence, 123-144.
12. Haukkala, H. (2016). A Perfect Storm; Or What Went Wrong and What Went Right for the EU in Ukraine. Europe-asia Studies, 68, 4, 653-664.
13. Heininen, L. (2017). The Arctic, Baltic, and North-Atlantic ‘cooperative regions’ in ‘Wider Northern Europe’: similarities and differences. Journal of Baltic Studies, 48, 4, 435-450.
14. Kobierecka, A. (2017). Nordic states: towards unity or diversity?. Polish Political Science, 46, 105-120.
15. Korosteleva, E. (2017). Eastern Partnership: bringing “the political” back in. East European Politics, 33, 3, 321-337.
16. Korosteleva, E. A. (2016). The European Union and Belarus: democracy promotion by technocratic means?. Democratization, 23, 4, 678-698.
17. Kuzio, T. (2017). Ukraine between a Constrained EU and Assertive Russia. Journal of Common Market Studies, 55, 1, 103-120.
18. Lacey, J., & Baubock, R. (2017). Enlargement, association, accession-a normative account of membership in a union of states. Journal of European Integration, 39, 5, 529-543.
19. Loda, C. (2017). The European Union as a normative power: the case of Armenia. East European Politics, 33, 2, 275-290.
20. Özer, Y., In Nas, C., & In Özer, Y. (2016). Turkey and the European Union: Processes of Europeanisation. London : Routledge
21. Van, G. E. (2018). Azerbaijan’s Foreign Policy Strategies and the European Union: Successful Resistance and Pursued Influence. Europe-asia Studies, 70, 5, 738-758.
22. Van, G. E. (2018). From ‘Unilateral’ to ‘Dialogical’: Determinants of EU-Azerbaijan Negotiations. Europe - Asia Studies, 70, 10, 1572-1596.
23. Vasilyan, S. (2017). "Swinging on a Pendulum". Problems of Post-Communism, 64, 1, 32-46.
24. Vieira, A., & Vasilyan, S. (2018). Armenia and Belarus: caught between the EU's and Russia's conditionalities?. European Politics and Society, 19, 4, 471-489.
25. Vuorelma, J. T. (2017). A narrative battle: debating Finland's EU policy during the economic crisis. National Identities, 19, 1, 11-31.