The relationships between the United States and the European Union (EU) have been impacted by the election of Mr Trump in 2016. The main policy areas that made the headlines in the USA during the past years are trade (the discontinuation of the negotiations on a trade agreement between the USA and the EU, TTIP and the recent initiatives to rebalance the US trade deficit with the EU), data protection (the recent disclosures of Facebook data and the new General Data Protection Regulation - GDPR) and security issues, such as the increased pressure by the Trump administration on EU and NATO members to increase defense expenditures.

This course will provide an overview of the context and legal framework underpinning the policy areas that made these headlines. For trade policies, it will address the size and composition of the trade flows between the two blocs, the EU legal framework and the competences of the European Commission to monitor trade and to conclude trade agreements. In addition, it will address in general terms the EU’s legal framework in relation to public procurement as public expenditures comprise a substantial share of the EU’s GDP and public service obligations. The course will give a general overview of the EU’s competition policy and the role and responsibilities of the European Commission in this respect. It will pay attention to the different areas: competition (abuse of dominant position; illicit agreements between economic actors), mergers and state aids. The course will equally provide an overview of the causes of the Eurocrisis since 2008 as well as the main developments since then. Special attention will be given to the EU provisions in relation to data protection and the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) that will apply from May 2018 onwards in the EU.

The course will also provide a quick overview of the institutional framework set up under the Treaties, the roles of the main institutions within this framework and the main differences compared with the US. If new policy issues arise, these may be addressed during this course, if appropriate or if asked for.

**Instructor:** Winfried KLEINEGRIS (Mr), Senior EU Fellow, Schar School of Policy and Government; e-mail: wkleineg@gmu.edu, office: Founders Hall, Office 662

**Office Hours:** Before class, and by appointment.

**Learning Outcomes:**

1. Knowledge and understanding of:
The main social, economic and political drivers and trends in relation to the policy areas mentioned above: trade, competition, the Euro and data protection;

- The decision-making procedures of the EU as conflict settlement mechanism;
- The impact these policy areas may have on the relationship between the US and the EU;

2. Qualitative and quantitative skills
- Ability to approach problems and situation from multiple, different perspectives and views
- Ability to present findings in a concise but comprehensive manner

3. Professional development
- Ability to draft research papers and/or policy briefings

Readings:
The required textbooks are:
- There will be a number of other required readings, such as newspaper, magazine and journal articles, and think-tank pieces, relating to topics covered in the course. These will be available on the Web, either in open sources or through Mason’s library databases. Weblinks will be provided in due course.

(Strongly) recommended books:
- *The Passage to Europe, How a continent became a Union*, Luuk van Middelaar (Yale University Press, 2013);
- *Immigrant Nations*, Paul Scheffers, (Polity Press, 2011);
- *The rescue of the European Nation State*, Alan S. Milward

In addition to reading the required material, students should keep up-to-date with European developments, notably by checking the following sources:

Eurointelligence: [http://www.euromonitor.com/](http://www.euromonitor.com/) (includes a daily press overview with the main articles on political and economic developments)
EurActiv, [https://www.euractiv.com](https://www.euractiv.com)
Politico (Europe), [http://www.politico.eu](http://www.politico.eu)
Spiegel International, [http://www.spiegel.de/international/](http://www.spiegel.de/international/)
Strategic Europe (Carnegie Endowment), [http://carnegieeurope.eu/strategiceurope/](http://carnegieeurope.eu/strategiceurope/)

Useful links:

Europa website: [https://europa.eu/european-union/index_en](https://europa.eu/european-union/index_en) (This site is the main portal to information on the European Union and contains links to the sites of all the institutions, bodies, offices and agencies of the EU)
Assessment:
The assessment will be based on:

- a research paper on a topic pertaining to European Integration, chosen in consultation with the instructor (60%). Students will discuss their research-in-progress during the semester;
- Presentation of the research findings toward the end of the semester (10%);
- Presentation of a book or a series of articles related to EU migration problems (30%). The date of the presentation will be selected in consultation with the instructor. The instructor will provide a list of books/articles to choose from or students may propose a book or articles related to EU migration problems in consultation with the instructor.

Class Schedule
Two classes will be given per week (Mo-We; or Tu-Thursday) Topics may change or spillover from one session to another during the semester: this schedule is subject to updates and completion

(Detailed schedule will be provided later)

University Policies

Academic Integrity
Mason is an Honor Code university; please see the Office for Academic Integrity for a full description of the code and the honor committee process (see: http://mason.gmu.edu/~montecin/plagiarism.htm). The principle of academic integrity is taken very seriously and violations are treated gravely. What does academic integrity mean in this course? Essentially this: when you are responsible for a task, you will perform that task. When you rely on someone else’s work in an aspect of the performance of that task, you will give full credit in the proper, accepted form. Another aspect of academic integrity is the free play of ideas. Vigorous discussion and debate are encouraged in this course, with the firm expectation that all aspects of the class will be conducted with civility and respect for differing ideas, perspectives, and traditions. When in doubt (of any kind) please ask the instructor for guidance and clarification.
All submitted work must be your own, and it is imperative that you accurately cite all sources in your work.

Classroom behavior

In order to enable everybody to fully participate in the course, electronic devices may only be used to take notes. As a matter of courtesy, do not arrive after the start of the course and do not use smartphones or other electronic devices for oral or written conversations with persons within or outside the classroom.

Attendance policy

Full attendance of all class periods is an expectation of the course. Please note that it is not possible to miss more than one class period and still get credit for the course. Rare exceptions are provided in truly exceptional circumstances and cannot be presumed. Depending on how much class time is missed, partial attendance of a class period is equivalent either to a missed day or to 50% attendance of which two such days are equivalent to one missed class period. If you anticipate having to miss class time, or if you have an emergency and miss class at the last minute, please inform the instructor at the earliest possible opportunity.

Disability

If you have a documented learning disability or other condition that may affect academic performance you should: 1) make sure this documentation is on file with Disability Services (SUB I, Rm. 4205; 993-2474; http://ods.gmu.edu) to determine the accommodations you need; and 2) speak to your instructor about your accommodation needs.