

## The Transatlantic Relationship After Trump: Politics, Law and Culture

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19 July – 13 August 2021

**CATEGORY** Social Sciences, Politics & Education

### COURSE STRUCTURE

The course offers 45 contact hours, the equivalent to an on-site course. The study time is comprised of:

- virtual classroom lessons with the lecturer and the fellow students (50%)
- group exercises (25%)
- assignments and self-study (25%)

### TRACK C – WEEKLY SCHEDULE OF VIRTUAL CLASSROOM LESSONS

- Course days: Monday, Wednesday, and Friday
- Time: Time: 4.15 pm – 6.30 pm (Berlin time, UTC+2)  
10.15 pm – 0.30 am (Beijing time, UTC+8)  
0.15 am – 2.30 am (Sydney time, UTC+10)  
9.15 am – 11.30 am (Chicago time, UTC-5)

### COURSE LANGUAGE

This course is taught in English, including the readings. For the understanding of the texts and the discussions in class, language-level B2 (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) is required.

### TARGET GROUP

Undergraduate students of all relevant subjects with a strong interest in the course topic.

### CREDITS = 5 ECTS

*All courses are accredited according to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).*

### TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Fully functional device (laptop, tablet, PC)
- Stable internet connection
- Software: Zoom (video/audio)
- Registration on Moodle (HU's e-learning platform)
- Recommended hardware: external headset for better sound quality

## CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

Learning extends beyond your virtual course! As a participant in HUWISU, you are invited to join cultural, social, and academic programs. Cultural activities are designed to help students meet fellow international students, learn more about Berlin, and practice German language abilities. Apply what you learn in class, share your extracurricular interests, and expand your social network beyond your course through these programs!



## VIRTUAL ACTIVITIES

With the support of the online format, HUWISU introduces new cultural and social activities. The cultural activities will be both synchronous and asynchronous.

Our scheduled live meetings might include games, cooking/baking together, or a trivia night. You still have the unique opportunity to build community across time zones and meet your fellow international students through synchronous programming. More information about the specifics is TBA.

Learn and read about Berlin history or German culture in between classes! No matter your field of study or interests, Berlin has artistic, political, and cultural significance. Take a look at the eBook "Perspectives on Berlin". It will include an extensive collection of digital resources about Berlin. Although you may be oceans away from Germany, connecting ourselves to Humboldt-Universität's culturally and historically rich location is still incredibly valuable.

## EXPECTATIONS & POLICIES

**Preparation for lively discussions in the virtual classroom:** be on time, have at least the required readings completed, and points in mind for discussion or clarification.

**Assignments:** complete all assignments according to the specified requirements on the schedule including handing them over to the lecturer.

**Commitment in online-class:** pay particular attention to the lecturer and respect differences of opinions (classmates', lecturers).

**Academic guidelines:** Comply with academic integrity policies (such as no plagiarism or cheating, nothing unethical) especially the academic honor code and the student code of conduct.

**Attendance policy:** No unexcused absences are permitted. Students must contact their class teachers to catch up on missed work – to excuse absence please contact the HUWISU office.

## **COURSE DESCRIPTION & LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Defined by both the post-World War II Cold War, the fall of the Berlin Wall, and global conflict since 9/11, the transatlantic relationship now stands under new and unique strains. This course aims to explore the contemporary relationship between the US and its European partners—in and outside the EU and NATO. This relationship has frayed in the almost 20 years of the new century and seems especially challenged under the US leadership and foreign policy goals of the Trump Administration. While the Biden administration signals in some ways a return to normalcy, complications remain. European domestic policy also contributes to the complexity of the relationship, and especially policies of America's vital ally Germany.

This course aims to clarify continuities and changes in the transatlantic relationship. First, what is the history of US involvement in Europe? What theories and practical necessities background the relationship? How are these concerns increasingly challenged by factors such as globalism, populism, nationalism, and cosmopolitanism? Perhaps most importantly, how do political and cultural changes in the US and Europe contribute to our understanding of the relationship going forward?

## **COURSE OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES**

By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- demonstrate a knowledge of the transatlantic relationship in historical context
- critically assess the character of contemporary US-European relations
- Suggest pathways for the future of the transatlantic relationship
- Understand the role of important actors such as the EU and NATO as well as the importance of cultural and legal factors

## **READINGS**

Reading materials will be available via Moodle during the course.

## **ASSIGNMENT INFO**

1) Active participation in all course meetings and discussions

- Minimum 10 course meetings for passing grade
- Preparation for discussion through course readings (Reader and Moodle)

2) Individual Project

- Presentation, last week of course meetings
- 10-15 minute presentation (PowerPoint or other) on a topic relevant to the course theme.
- This will lead into or embed into 35-40 minute group discussion
- Topics approved via discussion with professor
- Time slots: (first come, first served)
- Chosen topics should either expand on themes discussed in course meetings, or bring new topics and perspectives into discussion.
- Students should assign one or two readings
- Sample topics: Transatlantic relations from a non-Western perspective; focus on specific countries or regions (i.e. Britain, Ireland, etc.) and the transatlantic relationship; topics in race/gender/human rights in the transatlantic relationship;

depictions of the transatlantic relationship in media; cultural aspects of the transatlantic relationship

**The final grade will be composed of weekly assignments and active participation in class (70%) and the final individual project paper (30%).**

## YOUR INSTRUCTORS

**Mr. Philip A. Michelbach, PhD** is Associate Professor of Political Science at West Virginia University in the US. He also has experience teaching in Europe — 2013-2014 he was Fulbright Lecturer in American Studies at the University of Potsdam, and he also led the Fulbright American Studies Summer Sessions at the Humboldt University from 2015-2017.

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## COURSE SCHEDULE

- I. A. Introduction and US-European Perspectives
  - I. B. Sources of American International Relations
  - II. A. The American Foreign Policy? Orientations Before WWII
  - II. B. The Cold War
  - III. A-B. Guest lecturer (9/11)
  - IV. A. The Neoliberal Order
  - IV. B. Trump and Biden Presidencies (domestic sources)
  - V. Guest Lecturer (Neo-conservatism)
  - VI. A. The Trump and Biden Presidencies and Transatlantic Relations
  - VI. B. Contemporary European Responses
  - VII. A. Topics in Contemporary Transatlantic Relations: Law, Governance, and Rights
  - VII. B. Topics in Contemporary Transatlantic Relations: Refugees and Immigration
  - VIII. A. Topics in Contemporary Transatlantic Relations: NATO
  - VIII. B. Topics in Contemporary Transatlantic Relations: Russia/Ukraine
  - IX. A. Topics in Contemporary Transatlantic Relations: Populism and Nationalism
  - IX. B. Topics in Contemporary Transatlantic Relations: Finance and Trade
  - XI. Presentations
  - XII. Presentations
  - XIII. Presentations
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The course and its syllabus are subject to change. Last update: 21 April 2021