



Course Title	The Transatlantic Relationship in the Age of Trump: Politics, Law, and Culture
Category	Social Sciences, Politics & Education
Class Time	Session 2, July 22nd – August 16th 2019 Track B Weekly schedule Monday: 9 am – 10.30 am & 11 am – 12.30 pm Wednesday: 9 am – 10.30 am & 11 am – 12.30 pm Thursday: 1.30 pm – 3 pm & 3.30 pm – 4.15 pm
Course Level & Target Group	Undergraduate students of all relevant subjects with a strong interest in the course topic.
Course Language	This course is taught in English, including readings in English. For the understanding of the texts and the discussions in class a language level B2 (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) is required.
ECTS	5 ECTS (45 contact hours)
Instructor	Philip Michelbach, Ph.D.

Course Description

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 new US leadership and foreign policy goals of the Trump Administration. 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 Objective & 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

Students will be provided a bound course reader at the beginning of the course. All other readings will be posted on the course *Moodle* page.

Course Schedule

Week I. Background and Orientation: History of the Transatlantic Relationship; Understanding the political, legal, and cultural context

Week II. Theory and Practice: Cultural and political bases of the US-European relationship

Week III. Challenges: Trump's America, Europe, and the contemporary crisis in transatlantic relations

Week IV. The Way Forward: Re-imagining the US-European Relationship

Assignments

There will be daily reading assignments as well as required attendance of class excursions. Attendance is required.

Assessment Components

The final grade will be composed of a final paper and active participation in the class discussion. A minimum of 80% class attendance is required. Failure to fulfil one of the mentioned components results in failure of the class.

Expectations & Policies

Preparation for lively discussions in the 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 schedule including handing over to the lecturer.

Commitment in class: pay particular attention to the lecturer and respect differences of opinions (classmates', lecturers, locals engaged with on the visits).

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 (see *FAQs* on www.huwisu.de).

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 (80% class attendance are required).

Field trips: if classes involve a field trip or other external visits, these require attendance as well as appearance in time – transportation difficulties are never valid reasons for an excused absence.

Cultural Extra-curricular Activities

HUWISU offers a fine selection of interesting extra-curricular activities and aims to give all participants an unforgettable stay in Berlin. Your program includes excursions, sport activities and social gatherings providing you the opportunity to get to know the city, the university and your classmates better and to meet students from all parts of the world. The costs for these offers are included in the course fees.

Below you will find examples of previously offered cultural activities. You will be informed about the respective cultural program after your enrolment via email as well as during the course period.

Political and historical guided tours:

- **Federal Chancellery (Bundeskanzleramt):** It's the central coordination point for the entire government policy. The office is in constant contact to departments and other authorities.
 - **German Parliament (Bundestag):** As the highest organ of the legislative in Germany it's elected by the German people. In practice Germany is governed by a bicameral legislature, of which the Bundestag serves as the lower house and the Bundesrat equals the upper house.
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- **House of Representatives (Abgeordnetenhaus):** It's the state parliament (Landtag) of Berlin and located in the center of the reunified city. Together with the Martin Gropius Bau, the Topography of Terror and the Bundesrat, it presents an arresting contrast to the flair of the new Potsdamer Platz.
- **Topography of Terror:** A permanent exhibition with focus on the central institutions of the SS and police during the "Third Reich" and the crimes they committed throughout Europe. With the help of mostly photographic material, visitors are led through the major themes of the exhibition's five main segments.
- **Political Archive:** As the "memory" of the Federal Foreign Office it preserves the files on German diplomacy since 1867, as well as the international treaties signed by the Federal Republic of Germany and its predecessors in title. The records are preserved, processed and made available for academic research.

Cultural guided tours:

- **Kreuzberg Tour:** Kreuzberg has emerged from its history as one of the poorest quarters in Berlin in the late 1970s to a cultural center of today's Berlin. A unique area and one of the hippest neighborhoods in Berlin with many bars, pubs and clubs.
- **Museum Island (Museumsinsel):** was awarded UNESCO World Heritage Status in 1999 and is an ensemble of five museums: Old Museum, New Museum, Old National Gallery, Pergamon Museum and Bode Museum.
- **Berlin Cathedral (Berliner Dom):** Berlin's largest and most important Protestant church is located on the Museum Island.
- **Daytrip to Potsdam:** Be inspired by the illustrious attractions of the UNESCO's World Heritage while underway through the city of Potsdam. Immerse yourself in the history and present of Potsdam and discover many palaces, gardens, and historic quarters such as the "Holländisches Viertel" or the "Nikolaikirche".
- **Exhibitions:** Berlin is known for its unique galleries and exhibitions, that is why we will visit at least one during the Winter University.

Social gatherings

- **Welcome Get-Together:** We invite you to meet all participants as well as the HUWISU staff in a relaxed atmosphere.
- **Boat trip:** Get to know Berlin from a completely new perspective and see Berlin's famous sights while floating along the river Spree.
- **Beach Volleyball:** A fun outdoor sport activity on long warm summer evenings for those who love to play and everyone who just want to enjoy watching the others play, lying in the sand, meet friends for some drinks, or simply relax in the middle of Berlin.
- **Biergarten:** You can't leave Berlin without having experienced a Biergarten. The perfect place to finish off your busy day with a cool "Feierabend" drink.
- **Farewell Party:** At the end of the Summer University we will come together to celebrate the exciting time with HUWISU.

Your Instructor

Philip A. Michelbach 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.

Please note that the course and its syllabus are subject to change. Last update: December 2018