

Syllabus Common Challenges

General information

Credits: 2 ECTS

Dates: 29.08.2022 - 09.10.2022

Final assessment: non-differentiated
(pass/fail)

Target audience: BA, prospective and first year MA students interested in political science and international relations

Language: English

Course homepage: Moodle

MOOC coordinator: Anna Beitane (general management)

Lecturers: Dr. Stefano Braghiroli, Prof. Andrey Makarychev, Kristel Vits, Maili Vilson, Mari-Liis Sulg, Anna Beitane

Guest lecturers: Dr. Shota Kakabadze, Dr. Iryna Maksymenko, Dr. Ryhor Nizhnikau, Dr. Reina Shehi (Zenelaj), Dr. Nikoleta Djukanovic

Course Description

The course will focus on the multifaceted nature of regionalism in different geo-territorial and geo-political contexts in Europe and Eurasia and on its conceptual and theoretical definition by looking at the relevant cleavages in contemporary societies and at the fluid and ever changing nature of inter- and intra-state interaction and supranational/intergovernmental trends of integration. Historical and institutional comparative perspectives will allow students to practically assess the developments in the European and Eurasian regions and to investigate their impact on specific case studies.

Course is divided into six issue specific blocks and will cover such core questions as:

1. What is regionalism? How can it be defined conceptually and theoretically?

2. What are the distinctive traits of regionalism in the context of the process of European integration?
3. Which features of EU regionalism have become part of the Eurasian process of regional integration?
4. How does Eurasian integration address aspects related to supranationalism, parliamentarism, and democracy?
5. How compatible are the distinct patterns of regionalism in the EU and in Eurasia?
6. What are the future trends of regional integration in Europe and Eurasia?



Course format

The course will combine various formats of e-learning possibilities, which could be grouped in the following categories:

- **Knowledge clips** - short videos commentary on basic definitions and concepts (between 15-20 minutes per each), which will give participants of the course a general overview of key concepts related to comparative regionalism, actors and factors related to integration processes in Europe and Eurasia. It will also contain references for further exploration of the topic. The following format of material will be provided during weeks 1-2.
- **Academic commentary/round-table discussions** – video lectures with interventions from academic experts will provide a more in-depth and critical overview of integration process and comparative dimension between EU and EEU in terms of regional integration. The video lectures are up to 30 minutes in length and will be facilitated between weeks 3-4 and 6.
- **Guest interviews** - video interviews are aimed at providing specific perspectives on different case studies in the context of competing regional integration projects. The interviews will include academic representatives from the region (Georgia, Ukraine, Belarus, Montenegro and Albania). Each interview is between 20-40 minutes in length and will be provided during week 5.
- **Additional background material** - links and references to relevant documents and interactive material, which provide additional context to the course topics. These sources are optional but they give students supplementary suggestions for exploring different angles of discussed topics in the course on their own. NB! Links to relevant sources are going to be provided on the Moodle page.

In addition to video material, students will have access to readings, course glossary, course supporting materials (course syllabus, tips for studying online and completing the course successfully, support material for preparing written assignments; video clip on navigating through Moodle for external participants) as well as communication platform in the form of Moodle forum.

Recommended background

Basic knowledge of comparative regionalism and integration processes in Europe and Eurasia are suggested. However, the course will provide useful background material to any participant, who is interested in comparative regionalism and international affairs in general. In addition, participants should have at least basic web communication skills and basic familiarity of using digital tools for information searching and learning. Participants should be able to work independently; and be able to work and contribute to a discussion in a multicultural online environment.

Course objectives

- Introduce participants to key theoretical concepts and fundamentals to make sense of the processes of regional integration;
- Explain the main institutional and historical developments in the EU;
- Give an overview on the process of regional integration in Eurasia and compare its milestones with the ones of the EU;
- Introduce participants to the dynamics of the democratic process and the dimension of supranationalism, parliamentarism, and governance in different regional contexts;
- Enable participants to analyse and discuss concrete cases of regional integration in the light of the relevant concepts;
- Provide an analysis of the current state of regional integration in Europe and Eurasia, the room for interaction and the potential future trends.

Learning outcomes

A participant, who has successfully completed the course:

- understands and distinguishes the key concepts and fundamentals to make sense of the processes of regional integration;

- understands and distinguishes the institutional and historical developments in the EU;
- examines the process of regional integration in Eurasia and compares its milestones with the ones of the EU;
- identifies the dynamics of the democratic process and the dimension of supranationalism, parliamentarism, and governance in different regional contexts;
- analyses and argues on concrete cases of regional integration in the light of the relevant concepts;
- evaluates the current state of regional integration in Europe and Eurasia, the room for interaction and the potential future trends.



Assignments and grading policy

The course consists of 100 points. In order to pass the course students need to get at least 51 points accumulated from all assessed assignments. The course assignments are comprised of the following elements:

- **Short multiple-choice quizzes** – are organized during weeks 1-2, and are aimed at testing basic knowledge and understanding of learning material. The first knowledge test will be focused on terminology (toolbox) discussed during the first week of the course; while the second quiz will contain questions related to the knowledge of European processes. Each quiz consists of 10 questions, giving 2 points per each correct answer. The quiz can be taken twice with no penalty. The submission with the maximum score is used as the effective score for that quiz. The following assignment gives 40 points in total towards the final grade.
- **Submission of homework/short independent written assignment** - brief written assignments (1-pagers) are conducted during weeks 3,4 and 6. The first written assignment will focus on finding the comparison between EU and EaEU; the second written assignment will require participants to highlight the points of deviation in the text; while the third assignment will provide the opportunity for participants to apply their knowledge and reflect on the future trends of regionalism. Each written assignment gives 20 points. For written assignments, students need to get at least 11 out of 20 points for each assignment. In total, 33 points should be acquired from the written assignments. Detailed instructions about each specific written assignment will be posted on Moodle. NB! In order to

be considered for the final assessment, students are expected to take the two multiple-choice tests (week 1 and 2); submit and received at least 11 points for written assignments (week 3 and 4); as well as to submit a forum post entry in accordance with the provided criteria to the forum discussion during week 5. More detailed and specific grading criteria for each written assignment is provided on Moodle, however, as a general rule, the evaluation will follow these guidelines in assessment:

Points	Description
20 pt	Both the analytical and descriptive part of the written assignment appear equally well developed and present a remarkably high level of sophistication in their arguments and consistency. All sources are properly referenced and identified.
15 pt	The descriptive part presents a very high level of sophistication. The analytical part appears highly developed and satisfactory, and presents only very marginal weakness that does not affect the final result. All sources are properly referenced and identified.
10 pt	The descriptive part of the project presents a good level of sophistication. The analytical part appears well developed, but still presents some weakness at times. All sources are properly referenced and identified.
5 pt	The descriptive part of the project presents a satisfactory level of development; however, the analytical part appears basic, inconsistent, and underdeveloped in most of the parts. Sources are referenced, although with some minor inconsistencies.
0 pt	The descriptive and analytical part of the project present does not present a satisfactory level of development. Sources are not referenced.

- **Written contribution to forum discussion (comment in regard to the case study)** - contribution to the course forum will be facilitated during week 5. Participants of the course will be required to watch and select at least **one video interview** with a case study and address the respective questions by the means of a forum post. Forum contribution is a **prerequisite** to qualify for the final assignment; it does not give points, but it would be evaluated with "**sufficient or insufficient**" label. In order for the task to be considered achieved, the content of the forum post should demonstrate the ability to connect concepts discussed in the video interview with material and readings provided in the course and to directly address the questions posed in the forum by clearly summarising ideas and meaningful arguments. The forum post will not be

considered, if a response is unrelated to the questions posed or if it does not meet the criteria described above.

The final assessment of the course consists of the following elements:

- **Two multiple-choice quizzes** - 2x20 =max 40 points
- **Written assignments** - 3x20 = max 60 points
- **Contribution to the forum** - "sufficient/insufficient"

Total: 100 points

Provided that the prerequisites are met, a passing grade is determined by a final computation of points higher or equal to 51 out of 100.

Check-list for passing the course:

- I attempted Quiz 1
- I attempted Quiz 2
- I submitted and received at least 11 points for written assignment (week 3)
- I submitted and received at least 11 points for written assignment (week 4)
- I submitted forum contribution and received "sufficient" as a feedback (week 5)



Fulfilling these steps gives me access to the final assignment (week 6)

- I submitted and received at least 11 points for written assignment (week 6)



If you completed all these steps and got at least 51 points accumulated from all assessed assignments - you are eligible for the digital certificate

Grades and feedback accessibility

Students can track their progress and access their grades on Moodle, in the section "Grades" → "User report". Grades for all multiple-choice quizzes are graded automatically and available right away upon completion of the test. Please note that grading time for all written assignments (week 3, 4 and 6) might take between 2-3

days. As soon as the grades and feedback will become available, course instructors will post a forum announcement about the availability of the results.

Course certificate

Students who complete all compulsory tasks and who meet at least the minimum passing threshold criteria (51 points from the overall grade) will receive **the digital certificate** from the University of Tartu. More information about the specifications of the digital certificate can be found [here](#).

Deadlines

We recommend participants of the MOOC to complete assignments **on a weekly basis**, however, a certain degree of flexibility is allowed during the first weeks of the course:

- Quizzes (week 1 and 2) - **September 11, 2022 (23:59 PM, Eastern European Summer Time)**
- Written assignments (week 3 and week 4) - **September 25, 2022 (23:59 PM, Eastern European Summer Time)**
- Forum contribution (week 5) - **October 2, 2022 (23:55 PM, Eastern European Summer Time)**
- Written assignment (week 6) - **October 9, 2022 (23:59 PM, Eastern European Summer Time)**

Working load and credits

The course contains around 5 hours of video study material as well as 221 pages of compulsory reading material.

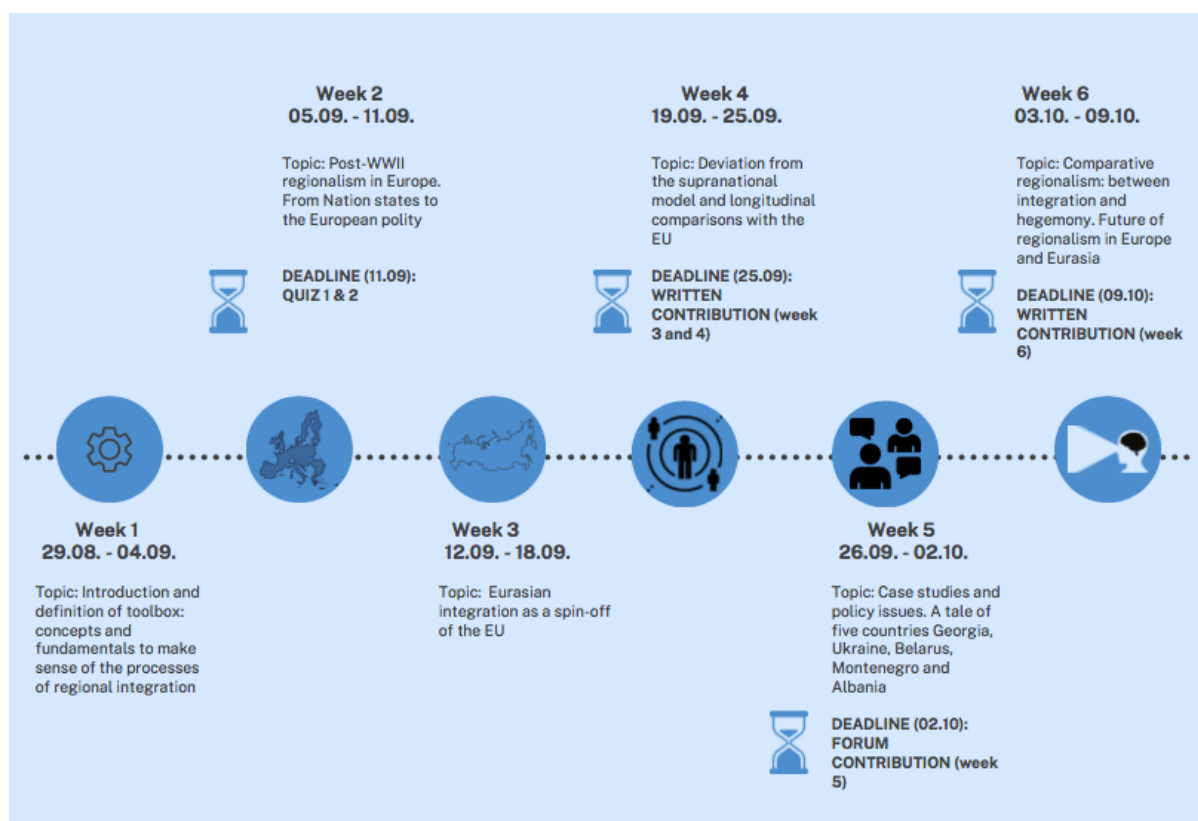
Throughout the course we expect students to:

- read all compulsory readings (*takes between 25-30 hours*)
- watch video lectures (including guest interviews) (*takes up to 5 hours*)
- participate in the discussion forum (prerequisite for final assignment) (*takes up to 1 hour*)

- follow weekly announcements and communication with the lecturers (*takes up to 6 hours in total*)
- prepare and complete all compulsory assignments (quizzes and written short assignments) (*takes up to 9 hours in total*)

We estimate that students should spend between 7-11 hours per week (around 52 hours in average of working load for the course in total), which equals 2 ECTS. Estimations of workload are based according to *Learning Design Toolkit* by Akseli Huhtanen, Aalto University.

Course Schedule



#Week	Topic	Format	Lecturer
Week 1 29.08.2022	Introduction and definition of toolbox: concepts and fundamentals to make sense of the processes of regional integration	Knowledge clips	Stefano Braghiroli

Week 2 05.09.2022	Post-WWII regionalism in Europe. From Nation states to the European polity	Knowledge clips	Stefano Braghiroli
Week 3 12.09.2022	Eurasian integration as a spin-off of the EU	Academic commentary/round-table discussions	Stefano Braghiroli, Andrey Makarychev, Maili Vilson, Anna Beitane
Week 4 19.09.2022	Deviation from the supranational model and longitudinal comparisons with the EU	Academic commentary/round-table discussions	Stefano Braghiroli, Andrey Makarychev, Kristel Vits, Anna Beitane
Week 5 26.09.2022	Case studies and policy issues. A tale of five countries Georgia, Ukraine, Belarus, Montenegro and Albania	Guest interviews	Nikoleta Đukanović, Reina Shehi (Zenelaj), Iryna Maksymenko, Shota Kakabadze, Ryhor Nizhnikau, Anna Beitane
Week 6 03.10.2022	Comparative regionalism: between integration and hegemony. Future of regionalism in Europe and Eurasia	Academic commentary/round-table discussions	Stefano Braghiroli, Mari-Liis Sulg

Readings list:

Week 1

Compulsory

- Söderbaum, F. (2015). Early, Old, New and Comparative Regionalism: The Scholarly Development of the Field. Kolleg-Forschergruppe (KFG) "The Transformative Power of Europe", Freie Universität Berlin, KFG Working Paper Series No. 64, pp.5-23.
- Börzel, T. A. (2011). Comparative Regionalisms. New Research Agenda. Kolleg-Forschergruppe (KFG) "The Transformative Power of Europe", Freie Universität

Berlin, KFG Working Paper Series. No. 28, pp.5-27.

Optional

- Hayrapetyan, A. (2020). Federalism, Functionalism and the EU: The Visions of Mitrany, Monnet and Spinelli. E-International Relations.
- Spinelli, A. and Rossi. E. The Ventotene Manifesto.

Week 2

Compulsory

- Meerts, F. (2008). Explaining European Integration: The Merits and Shortcomings of Integration Theory. E-International Relations.
- Fossum, J. E. (2016). Democracy and Legitimacy in the EU: Challenges and Options. IAI Working Paper Series, pp.2-15.
- Schuman, R. Schuman Declaration.

Optional

- Patel, K. K. (2019). Widening and deepening? Recent advances in European Integration History. *Neue Politische Literatur*, Vol.64 , pp. 327–357. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s42520-019-00105-4> (CC BY 4.0)
- Thatcher, M. Speech to the College of Europe ("The Bruges Speech").

Week 3

Compulsory

- International Crisis Group (2016). The Eurasian Economic Union: Power, Politics and Trade. Europe and Central Asia Report N°240.
- Mostafa, G. and Mahmood, M. (2018). Eurasian Economic Union: Evolution, challenges and possible future directions, *Journal of Eurasian Studies*, Vol. 9, Issue 2, pp.163-172, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.euras.2018.05.001> (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0).
- Vinokurov, E. (2017). Eurasian Economic Union: Current state and preliminary results. *Russian Journal of Economics*, Vol. 3, pp. 54–70. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ruje.2017.02.004> (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0).

Optional

- Obydenkova, A. (2011). Comparative regionalism: Eurasian cooperation and European integration. The case for neofunctionalism? *Journal of Eurasian*

Studies, Vol. 2, Issue 2, pp.87-102. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.euras.2011.03.001> ([CC BY-NC-ND 3.0](#)).

- Putin, V. (2011). New Integration Project for Eurasia – Making the Future Today, *Izvestia*, October 4.
- Dragneva , R. and Wolczuk, K. (2017). *The Eurasian Economic Union Deals, Rules and the Exercise of Power. Russia and Eurasia Programme*. Chatham House, pp.1-27.

Week 4

Compulsory

- Krickovic, A. and Pellicciari, I. (2021). From “Greater Europe” to “Greater Eurasia”: Status concerns and the evolution of Russia’s approach to alignment and regional integration. *Journal of Eurasian Studies*, 1–14 ([CC BY-NC 4.0](#))
- Ball, J. (2019) As Russia Identifies As A Eurasian Power, It Turns Away From Europe, *Global Security Review*.

Optional

- Popescu, N. (2014) Eurasian Union: the real, the imaginary and the likely, CHAILLOT PAPER N° 132, pp. 7-44.
- Delcour Laure, et al (2015) The Implications of Eurasian Integration for the EU’s Relations with the Countries in the Post-Soviet Space. *STUDIA DIPLOMATICA*. 68(1). p.5-33.

Week 5

Optional

- European Commission (2021). Albania 2021 Report. 2021 Communication on EU Enlargement Policy. Commission Staff Working Document, Brussels, 19.10.2021, SWD(2021) 289 final, [pp. 3-8](#).
- Standard Eurobarometer. The key indicators, Albania, Summer 2020.
- European Commission (2021). Montenegro 2021 Report. 2021 Communication on EU Enlargement Policy. Commission Staff Working Document, Brussels, 19.10.2021 SWD(2021) 293 final/2, [pp. 2-8](#).
- Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (2020). Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum Structured Consultation on Eastern Partnership. The civil society perspective: Country Report Ukraine.

- Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (2020). Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum Structured Consultation on Eastern Partnership. The civil society perspective: Country Report Georgia.
- Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (2020). Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum Structured Consultation on Eastern Partnership. The civil society perspective: Country Report Belarus.
- update: Eastern Partnership Civil Society Forum (2021). EaP CSF Steering Committee statement on the decision made by Belarusian authorities to suspend Belarus' participation in the Eastern Partnership and the Readmission agreement. Accessible at: <https://eap-csf.eu/project/sc-statement-on-the-suspension-of-belarus-participation-in-the-eap/>

Week 6

Compulsory

- Korosteleva, E.A. and Petrova, I. (2020). From 'the global' to 'the local': the future of 'cooperative orders' in Central Eurasia in times of complexity. <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41311-020-00262-4> (CC BY 4.0)
Int Polit
- Korosteleva, E. and Paikin, Z. (2020). Russia between east and west, and the future of Eurasian order. <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41311-020-00261-5> (CC BY 4.0)
Int Polit
- Wolfschwenger, J. (2020) The EU's Eastern Partnership between a rock and a hard place, AIES Fokus, pp.1-4.

Optional

- Stronski, P. (2020) There Goes the Neighborhood: The Limits of Russian Integration in Eurasia, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, pp. 1-19.
- Minesashvili, S. (2020). European identity discourses in the contested neighborhood of Europe and Russia: The case of Ukraine, Discussion Paper, No. 2/20, Europa-Kolleg Hamburg, Institute for European Integration, Hamburg.

Communication and feedback:

Before starting the course, students will be asked to fill in the pre-course survey to help the organizers better understand students' demographics, learning experience as well as the expectations from the MOOC. The survey should take no longer than 10 minutes to complete.

During the course, Moodle forum will be available for the participants. Students are highly encouraged to use **Moodle Forum (section Technical Questions and Course Questions)** to ask questions that might arise in relation to MOOC:

- for questions related to general coordination and structure of the MOOC, assignments and academic assessment, please contact - **Anna Beitane** (anna.beitane@ut.ee);
- for questions related to the MOOC practical matters (course deadlines, communication on Moodle forum), please contact **MOOC assistant (TBC)**;
- questions on specific lectures should be addressed to the instructor responsible for the given lecture.

At the end of the course, students will be asked to submit the post-course survey to reflect on their learning experience and rate the quality of lectures, teaching and reading materials as well as to propose their own recommendations and suggestions on how to improve the course.

Technical requirements and compatibility:

To successfully follow the course we recommend the following technical requirements:

- Windows 7 or newer.
- MAC OS X 10.10 (Yosemite) and higher.
- Microsoft Office 2010 or newer.
- Backup device or service.
- Security Software. (Anti-virus/firewall)
- Current Web Browser(s), Firefox, Chrome, Safari.
- Internet Connection, preferably high speed ADSL, Cable or similar.
- Speakers/Headphones.

To view the course certificate with an e-signature, participants will have to install the free ID-software (<https://www.id.ee/en/article/install-id-software/>) . Detailed instructions will be provided separately. Please note that if you are accessing the following course on a smart-device (tablet, iPad, smartphones, etc) - there might be some minor visual deviations from the original course design. In case of technical difficulties, please contact the course team.