

## Syllabus: Western Balkans and the EU--Current Challenges



This class will explore in a seminar format the current relations between the EU and the Western Balkans. In doing so, it will focus on three large thematic blocks: the multi-dimensional role of the EU in the region, the extended role of external actors outside the EU engaged in the Western Balkans and their position towards EU enlargement and finally indigenous and exogenous crises and how they shaped the relations between the EU and the Western Balkans.

In addition to academic literature, the class will be driven by reading and the discussion of key policy documents and reports of the EU and other actors.

The goal of the class is to familiarize students with the complexities of EU enlargement in the Western Balkans, to learn to read and analysis policy documents and thus gain greater insight and familiarity with EU-related policymaking processes.

This seminar is geared towards more advanced students who already have a background knowledge of the EU enlargement process and the Western Balkans

Lecture offered in the framework of the Jean Monnet Chair in the Europeanisation of Southeastern Europe"

**Office Hours:** by appointment via email

**Classes:**

Mi 13.01.2020 10:00 13:00 LS 15.01

Mi 20.01.2020 10:00 13:00 LS 15.01

Mi 27.01.2020 10:00 13:00 LS 15.01

**Requirements:**

1. Presentation (30%) (maximum length 30 minutes), hand out and power point. Present the actor (EU or non EU actor), offer context and interpret meaning of the document. Document and hand out must be uploaded at least 5 days before the presentation day.
2. Active Participation (20%), discussion, reading background materials.
3. Research Paper (50%), Paper with the approximate length of 6000-7000 words, references (at least 10 different titles), deadline 1 March 2020 (submission via email). Based on the presentation topic (including a research question, literature review and a broader context)

**Classes**

1. Balkans and the EU: Introduction

***Different Dimensions of EU Engagement***

2. European Commission (Reports, Strategy), Stefan Simic
3. The European Parliament and the Western Balkans, Casper Trevo
4. Council of Ministers
5. EU Member States and their Role in the Balkans, Vanja Cakic
6. European Party Families, Aleksa Radovanovic

***The Role of External Actors***

7. Russia
8. China
9. Turkey
10. The United States, Clarissa Gross

***Current Challenges to EU enlargement***

11. Exogenous Crises: Global Economic Crisis, Greek Crisis, Brexit and Migration Crisis
12. Indigenous Crises: Crisis of Democracy, Contested borders and bilateral disputes, Anesa Ferizovic

13. Conclusion

**Reading list:**

- Atlantic Council, *Balkans Forward: A New US Strategy for the Region*, Washington DC, 2017
- Balfour, Rosa, Stratulat, Corina (eds), *EU member states and enlargement towards the Balkans*. Brussels, EPC.
- Bechev, Dimitar. *Rival Power: Russia's Influence in Southeast Europe*. London and New Haven: Yale University Press 2017.
- Bieber, Florian (ed.), *EU Conditionality in the Western Balkans*. London: Routledge, 2013.
- Elbasani, Arolda (ed.), *European Integration and Transformation in the Western Balkans*. London: Routledge, 2013.
- European Commission, *Country Reports, 2010-2017*
- European Commission, *A credible enlargement perspective for and enhanced EU engagement with the Western Balkans*, 2018.
- Kajnič Lange, Sabina, Zoran Nechev, Florian Trauner (eds), *Resilience in the Western Balkans*. Paris, EUISS, 2017.
- Keil, Soeren and Bernhard Stahl (eds), *The Foreign Policies of Post-Yugoslav States From Yugoslavia to Europe*, Basingstoke: Palgrave.
- Kmezić, Marko and Florian Bieber (eds), *The Crisis of Democracy in the Western Balkans. An Anatomy of Stabilitocracy and the Limits of EU Democracy Promotion*. Balkans in Europe Policy Advisory Group, <http://www.biepag.eu/>
- Richardson, Jeremy and Sonia Mazey (eds), *European Union. Power and Policy Making*. London and New York: Routledge, 2015.
- Wallace, Hellen, et al. *Policy Making in the European Union*. Oxford: OUP, 2015.