Spring 2011

Trans-Atlantic Relations and World Politics

Jacques Fomerand
Seton Hall University

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarship.shu.edu/diplomacy-syllabi

Recommended Citation
Fomerand, Jacques, "Trans-Atlantic Relations and World Politics" (2011). Diplomacy Syllabi. 353.
https://scholarship.shu.edu/diplomacy-syllabi/353
JOHN C. WHITEHEAD SCHOOL OF DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

SETON HALL UNIVERSITY

DPL 6422 Trans-Atlantic Relations and World Politics (Spring 2011)

"Je t'aime, moi non plus"

Thursday 4:00 – 6:10 P.M.
Fomerand@gmail.com

I. Objectives of the course

The transatlantic relationship between Europe and North America has been one of the most peaceful and durable partnership among states in history. It has also been and remains the bedrock of international relations since the end of World War II. Transatlantic relations initially grew of the fears prompted by the Cold War and focused on security concerns as evidenced by the creation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) which was designed to “keep the Russians out, the Germans down, and the Americans in.” They have all along been shaped (and reshaped) by an ever widening range of security as well as non-security concerns prompted by changes in the tectonics of international relations, an evolving balance of power between the United States and Europe and changing global issues of common but increasingly differentiated interest. Conflict and cooperation have in any case been one of the perennial characteristics of transatlantic relations, the latter appearing increasingly to give way to the former, especially since the end of the Cold War. But as shall be seen, there is considerable disagreement among scholars and practitioners as to whether the divide is deep and structural or is simply attributable to the vagaries of partisan politics and dashing personalities in each camp.

Against this broad-stroked background and drawing from lectures, class discussions and intensive readings, the purpose of this course is to provide tentative answers to three interrelated questions about transatlantic relations: one, what is the nature and character of the Atlantic political order? Is it a “pluralistic security community? A cooperative security alliance? A reflection and manifestation of United States hegemony?, A political community? An economic region?...Second: how has that political order functioned and operated over time in dealing with such security, economic and human rights challenges as the Cold War, nuclear proliferation, terrorism, the Palestinian question, Iraq, globalization, trade and investment, climate change, international criminal justice in the context of broader structural change within the global arena? Third: what are the prospects for the future of the Atlantic order? Are US-European relations likely to become more divisive and conflict ridden to the point of that they might undo the great
“historical bargains” they were built upon? Or will they simply lead to systemic change and adaptation? The course will accordingly be structured into three parts. The first portion of the course will seek to elucidate the historical and theoretical foundations of the Atlantic political order with particular attention to the Atlantic Charter of 1941, the Bretton Woods Agreements of 1944, the United Nations Charter of 1945, the Marshall Plan of 1947, the Atlantic Pact of 1949 and the parallel process of unification and integration of Europe. The second part of the course will assess the determinants of the transformations of the Atlantic political order through an in depth examination of selected case studies. The final part of the course, blending theory and case study lessons, will take stock of the transformations of the Atlantic political order and endeavor to ascertain how it might evolve in the years ahead.

II. Requirements of the course:

1. Readings and reading presentations:

   • Under each topic listed in the syllabus, students will find a “core reading” and “background/optimal reading” sections. Core readings include two basic texts:


   Additional documents or articles listed in the syllabus are also required reading as they will be the basis for our class discussions. So-called “background/optimal reading(s)” are listed to draw attention to a number of important works in the literature on the subject which students may wish to explore depending on their interests.

   • For those who are fuzzy about the European Union:


   • For a good general introduction to international politics the following book (onerous) is recommended:


   • The success of a course in large part depends on the sustained participation of students. All students are thus expected to attend every class session. Students who may
unavoidably be prevented from attending a particular meeting are asked to notify the instructor in advance. Active participation in class discussions is a requirement. Sessions will be organized around student led presentations of the weekly readings to kick off the discussion. The presentation should briefly summarize the readings (i.e., key arguments, methods, theoretical underpinnings, etc...) and offer a critique/commentary on their strengths and weaknesses. Discussions leaders will be asked to provide one or two discussion questions which will serve as a springboard for the seminar’s review of the particular issue under review.

To keep abreast of the latest developments, students are strongly advised to consult the daily and weekly press on a regular basis including among others, The New York Times, The Financial Times, The Washington Post, Le Monde, The Economist or the BBC online: www.bbc.co.uk. Students may wish to subscribe to the following free newsletter services which contain useful material on transatlantic and European affairs.

German Marshall Fund of the United States: www.gmfus.org/

Center for Transatlantic Relations: http://transatlantic.sais-jhu.edu/publications/books.htm

www.atlantic-community.org/

European Union Website Information: www.euractiv.com

Europe’s World: www.expousesworld.org

Additional resources for further information and/or research purposes (periodicals, non-governmental organizations and governmental or inter-governmental organizations) are provided below:

Useful periodicals:

Cold War History
International Affairs
International Security
Journal of Cold War Studies
Journal of Common Market Studies
Journal of Contemporary History
Journal of European Integration
Journal of Transatlantic Studies
International Affairs
International Security
Journal of Cold War Studies
The National Interest
Foreign Affairs
Foreign Policy
Policy Review
Survival
The Washington Quarterly
Academic institutions and think tanks

Atlantic Council of the United States  
Center for European Reform  
Center for Strategic and International Studies  
Center for Transatlantic Relations  
EU Council on Foreign Relations  
EU Institute for Security Studies  
The European Institute  
European Institute of Public Administration  
Friends of Europe  
Institute for International and European Policy  
Institute for National Strategic Studies  
Institute for Security Studies  
National Defense University  
Transatlantic Economic Council

Intergovernmental/governmental

NATO  
European Union (main site)  
EU Delegation to US  
Atlantic Community Initiative  
Atlantische Initiative  
European Union  
Council of Europe  
European Delegation to the United States  
United States Mission to the European Union

2. Research paper:

Students will submit a 15 page long written essay on a topic to be agreed to by the instructor. The essay may be either (a) A policy paper with recommendations with respect to some specific issue, for some specific actor (a government, NGO, multinational organization, etc.) OR (b) An exploration paper, an examination of a topic inadequately covered in the course. Further guidelines will be made available.

3. Grading policy:

Grades will be determined as follows: policy paper (50%), oral presentations (35%); and class participation (15%).
SYLLABUS

January 20: Introduction

► Students to come prepared to discuss:


OR either one of

► The EU and the world in 2009 European perspectives on the new American
foreign policy agenda
http://www.eurunion.org/eu

► Fact Sheet on the United States’ Relationship with the European Union: An Enduring
Partnership http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2010/11/20/fact-sheet-
united-states-relationship-with-european-union-enduring-partn

Recommended/Optional:

► Tomas Valasek, “What Europe wants from President Obama,” Policy Brief, Center for
European Reform, Brussels, November 2008,
http://www.cer.org.uk/pdf/ph_obama_27nov08.pdf

Kramer, Steven Philip. “The Absence of Europe: Implications for International
Security,” Strategic Forum No. 235, Institute for National Strategic Studies, October
2008.
http://www.atlanticcommunity.org/Kramer%20on%20Europe.pdf

► Discussion of syllabus, requirements and assignments for the course

PART ONE: The foundations of the Atlantic political order as
a constructed regional interstate system

January 27: Theoretical underpinnings

Core reading:

► Lundestad, introduction
Background/optional reading:


February 3: Historical foundations of the Atlantic political order

Core reading:
- Lundestad, ch. 1-2
- Anderson et al.: ch. 1

Background/optional reading:

February 10: Power and Security

Core reading:
- Lundestad, ch. 3-4, 6-9
- Anderson et al.: Ch. 3-5

Background/optional reading:
- Garton Ash, Timothy, In Europe's name: Germany and the divided continent. London: Jonathan Cape, 1993.
February 17: Economic Interests

Core reading
- "Lundestad, ch. 3-4, 6-9
- "Anderson et al., 6-7"

Background/optional reading:
- "Center for Transatlantic Relations. The Transatlantic Economy (annual)
- "Vayrynen, Raimo, Interactions of Economics and Politics in Transatlantic Relations
  http://transatlantic.sais-jhu.edu/partnerships/cu-u-s-partnership.htm"

February 24: Shared values, norms. Perceptions

Core reading
- "Anderson et al., Ch.: 8-11
- "U.S.-EU Summit Declaration of November 3, 2009

Background/optional reading:
- "Brimmer, Esther, Seeing Blue: American Visions of the European Union, EU Institute
- "Dorman, Andrew and Joyce Kaufman (eds.). The Future of Transatlantic


PART TWO: The Praxis of the Atlantic partnership

March 3: NATO at 60 Challenges at the end of the Cold War (with NATO video supplement)

Core reading


   http://transatlantic.sais-jhu.edu/bin/y/i/nato_executive_summary_final.pdf


Background/optional reading:


- Goldgeier, James M. Not Whether but When: The US. Decision to Enlarge NATO. Brookings Institution Press, 1999


Sloan “Negotiating Article 5”, *NATO Review*, Summer 2006


---

**March 7-12: Spring break**

**March 17: Terrorism**

**Core reading**

- US-EU Declaration on Combating Terrorism, June 2004

- Sundelius, Bengt, “Beyond Anti-Terrorism: Ensuring Free and Resilient Societies,”

**Background/optional reading:**


- Asmus, Ronald D., Jeremy Rosner A New Mission for NATO November 1, 2001
  Blueprint, November/December 2001, Issue 13 German Marshall Fund of the
United States

http://www.gmfus.org/news_analysis/news_article_view?newsarticle.id=131


March 24: Iraq

Core reading


Background/optional reading :


► Hoffmann, Stanley with Frederic Bozo, Gulliver Unbound: America's Imperial


March 31: Transatlantic Economic Relations

Core reading

► The Transatlantic Economy 2010 Annual Survey of Jobs, Trade and Investment between the United States and Europe (Executive Summary)

http://transatlantic.sais-ihu.edu/bin/g/r/te2010 executive summary.pdf

► Altman, Roger C “The Great Crash, 2008: A Geopolitical Setback for the West,” Foreign Affairs, Jan/Feb 2009, pp. 2-1


Background/optional reading:


### April 7: Cooperation for Development

**Core reading**


**Background/optional reading:**

### April 14: Transatlantic approaches to human rights

**Core reading**


**Background/optional reading:**

http://transatlantic.sais-jhu.edu/bin/m/l/defending_the_gains_text.pdf


April 21-22 University closed

April 28 Climate Change

Core reading:

Background/optional reading:
➤ McKibben, Bill “Climate Change“ Foreign Policy, January/February 2009, pp.32-38.
http://www.cgdev.org/content/publications/detail/1424645

PART THREE: CONCLUSIONS, DRIFTING APART OR GROWING TOGETHER?
May 5: The changing tectonics of the Atlantic Political Order

Core reading
- Anderson et al., ch. 12
- Lundestad, Ch. 10

Background/optional reading:

- Daalder, Ivo, "Are the U.S. and Europe Headed for Divorce?" International Affairs (Summer 2001), pp. 553-567.
- Fogel, Robert "$ 123,000,000,000,000. China’s estimated economy by the year 2040. Be warned,” Foreign Policy, January/February 2010, pp. 72-75.
Simon, Jeffrey “NATO’s Uncertain Future: Is Demography Destiny?,” Strategic Forum No. 236, National Defense University Institute for National Strategic Studies, October 2008