



SYLLABUS

The evolution of and current approaches to EU enlargement

University year 2025-2026

1. Information regarding the programme

1.1. Higher education institution	Babeș-Bolyai University of Cluj Clu-Napoca
1.2. Faculty	Faculty of European Studies
1.3. Department	Department of European Studies and Governance
1.4. Field of study	International Relations and European Studies
1.5. Study cycle	Doctoral studies
1.6. Study programme/Qualification	Doctoral School International Relations and European Studies
1.7. Form of education	Full time

2. Information regarding the discipline

2.1. Name of the discipline		The evolution of and current approaches to EU enlargement				Discipline code		SDR0003			
2.2. Course coordinator					Assoc. Prof. Dr. Adrian-Gabriel Corpădean						
2.3. Seminar coordinator					Assoc. Prof. Dr. Adrian-Gabriel Corpădean						
2.4. Year of study		1	2.5. Semester		1	2.6. Type of evaluation		C	2.7. Discipline regime		OP

3. Total estimated time (hours/semester of didactic activities)

3.1. Hours per week	4	of which: 3.2 course	2	3.3 seminar/laboratory	2
3.4. Total hours in the curriculum	48	of which: 3.5 course	24	3.6 seminar/laborator	24
Time allotment for individual study (ID) and self-study activities (SA)					hours
Learning using manual, course support, bibliography, course notes (SA)					100
Additional documentation (in libraries, on electronic platforms, field documentation)					100
Preparation for seminars/labs, homework, papers, portfolios and essays					64
Tutorship					Var.
Evaluations					Var.
Other activities:					
3.7. Total individual study hours	264				
3.8. Total hours per semester	312				
3.9. Number of ECTS credits	11				

4. Prerequisites (if necessary)

4.1. curriculum	-
4.2. competencies	working use of English

5. Conditions (if necessary)

5.1. for the course	-
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5.2. for the seminar /lab activities -

6.1. Specific competencies acquired ¹

Professional/essential competencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The use of accurate terminology in the field of EU enlargement • Conducting analyses of the EU enlargement framework, in the broader context • Conducting text analyses on EU enlargement reports • Debating on the advantages, costs and risks of EU integration • Creating scenarios on future EU membership, amid divergent geopolitical interests
Transversal competencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating risk management strategies • Advanced text and discourse analysis • Debating on matters of EU interest • Simulating decision-making processes

6.2. Learning outcomes

Knowledge	The student knows: the past, present and future course of the EU enlargement policy, set against the background of changing geopolitical contexts, with an emphasis on the mechanisms, costs and tools developed by the EU for this endeavour.
Skills	The student is able to analyse the history of EC/EU enlargement through the lens of the interests of all actors involved in the process, as well as to present the EU's interests in its neighbourhood and the mechanisms developed to pursue such goals.
Responsibility and autonomy:	The student has the ability to work independently to make critical assessments of accession criteria, negotiations and reform.

7. Objectives of the discipline (outcome of the acquired competencies)

¹ One can choose either competences or learning outcomes, or both. If only one option is chosen, the row related to the other option will be deleted, and the kept one will be numbered 6.

7.1 General objective of the discipline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To familiarise PhD students with the past, present and future course of the EU enlargement policy, set against the background of changing geopolitical contexts, with an emphasis on the mechanisms, costs and tools developed by the EU for this endeavour
7.2 Specific objective of the discipline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To analyse the history of EC/EU enlargement through the lens of the interests of all actors involved in the process To make critical assessments of accession criteria, negotiations and reform To present the EU's interests in its neighbourhood and the mechanisms developed to pursue such goals

8. Content

8.1 Course	Teaching methods	Remarks
Introduction to EU enlargement terminology	Lecture	European Commission, "EU enlargement", https://commission.europa.eu/stategy-and-policy/policies/eu-enlargement_en
The timeline of the EU enlargement waves	Lecture	European Commission, DG Near, "From 6 to 27 members", https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/enlargement-policy/6-27-members_en
Political reasons for EC/EU enlargement	Lecture	rola Elbasani, Senada Šelo Šabić (2018), "Rule of law, corruption and democratic accountability in the course of EU enlargement", Journal of European Public Policy, 25:9, pp. 1317-1335, https://doi.org/10.1080/13501763.2017.1315162
Economic reasons for EC/EU enlargement	Lecture	Jan Hagemeyer, Jan J. Michałek, Pavel Svatko (2021), "Economic impact of the EU Eastern enlargement on New Member States revisited: the role of economic institutions", Central European Economic Journal, 8(55), pp. 126-143, https://doi.org/10.2478/ceej-2021-0008
The Regional Policy as a tool of enlargement	Lecture	John Bachtler, Peter Berkowitz, Sally Hardy, Tatjana Muravska (eds.) (2017), EU Cohesion Policy Reassessing performance and direction, Routledge, https://library.oapen.org/bitstre

		am/handle/20.500.12657/24255/1005876.pdf?sequence=1
Decision-making on EU enlargement	Lecture	Tanja A. Börzela, Antoaneta Dimitrova, Frank Schimmelfennig (2017), "European Union enlargement and integration capacity: concepts, findings, and policy implications", Journal of European Public Policy, vol. 24, no. 2, pp. 157–176, http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13501763.2016.1265576
The costs of enlargement	Lecture	European Commission, DG Near, "Overview - Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance", https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/enlargement-policy/overview-instrument-pre-accession-assistance_en
Current candidates to EU membership	Lecture	Spyros Economides (2020), "From Fatigue to Resistance: EU Enlargement and the Western Balkans", Dahrendorf Forum IV, Working Paper no. 17, https://eprints.lse.ac.uk/104393/1/Economides_from_fatigue_to_resistance_published.pdf
Membership negotiations and reports	Lecture	European Commission, DG Near, "Chapters of the acquis / negotiating chapters", https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/enlargement-policy/glossary/chapters-acquis-negotiating-chapters_en
The EU's Neighbourhood Policy	Lecture	European Commission, DG Near, "European Neighbourhood Policy", https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/european-neighbourhood-policy_en
The Eastern Partnership	Lecture	David Cadier (2019), "The Geopoliticisation of the EU's Eastern Partnership", Geopolitics, 24:1, pp. 71-99, https://doi.org/10.1080/14650045.2018.1477754
The future of EU enlargement	Lecture	Michael Emerson, Steven Blockmans (2022), "Next Steps for EU Enlargement – Forwards or Backwards?", SCIEUS Guest

		Platform for Eastern Europe Policy, no.12, https://www.ui.se/globalassets/ui.se-eng/publications/sceeu/next-steps-for-eu-enlargement-forwards-or-backwards.pdf
<p>Bibliography</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bachtler, John, Berkowitz, Peter, Hardy, Sally, Muravska, Tatjana (eds.) (2017), EU Cohesion Policy Reassessing performance and direction, Routledge, https://library.oapen.org/bitstream/handle/20.500.12657/24255/1005876.pdf?sequence=1 2. Börzela, Tanja A., Dimitrova, Antoaneta, Schimmelfennig, Frank (2017), "European Union enlargement and integration capacity: concepts, findings, and policy implications", Journal of European Public Policy, vol. 24, no. 2, pp. 157-176, http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13501763.2016.1265576 3. Cadier, David (2019), "The Geopoliticisation of the EU's Eastern Partnership", Geopolitics, 24:1, pp. 71-99, https://doi.org/10.1080/14650045.2018.1477754 4. Economides, Spyros (2020), "From Fatigue to Resistance: EU Enlargement and the Western Balkans", Dahrendorf Forum IV, Working Paper no. 17, https://eprints.lse.ac.uk/104393/1/Economides_from_fatigue_to_resistance_published.pdf 5. Elbasani, Arolda, Šelo Šabić, Senada (2018), "Rule of law, corruption and democratic accountability in the course of EU enlargement", Journal of European Public Policy, 25:9, pp. 1317-1335, https://doi.org/10.1080/13501763.2017.1315162 6. Emerson, Michael, Blockmans, Steven (2022), "Next Steps for EU Enlargement – Forwards or Backwards?", SCEEU Guest Platform for Eastern Europe Policy, no.12, https://www.ui.se/globalassets/ui.se-eng/publications/sceeu/next-steps-for-eu-enlargement-forwards-or-backwards.pdf 7. European Commission, "EU enlargement", https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/policies/eu-enlargement_en 8. European Commission, DG Near, "Chapters of the acquis / negotiating chapters", https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/enlargement-policy/glossary/chapters-acquis-negotiating-chapters_en 9. European Commission, DG Near, "European Neighbourhood Policy", https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/european-neighbourhood-policy_en 10. European Commission, DG Near, "From 6 to 27 members", https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/enlargement-policy/6-27-members_en 11. European Commission, DG Near, "Overview - Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance", https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/enlargement-policy/overview-instrument-pre-accession-assistance_en 12. European Commission, DG Near, "Overview - Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance", https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/enlargement-policy/overview-instrument-pre-accession-assistance_en 13. Hagemeyer, Jan, Michałek, Jan J., Svatko, Pavel (2021), "Economic impact of the EU Eastern enlargement on New Member States revisited: the role of economic institutions", Central European Economic Journal, 8(55), pp. 126-143, https://doi.org/10.2478/ceej-2021-0008 		
8.2 Seminar / laboratory	Teaching methods	Remarks
Introduction to EU enlargement terminology	Glossary	EU Council, "EU enlargement policy", https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/enlargement/
The timeline of the EU enlargement waves	Debate	European Parliament Multimedia Centre, "History: The Mediterranean Enlargement 1981-1986", https://multimedia.europarl.europa.eu/enlargement-1981-1986

		pa.eu/en/video/history-the-mediterranean-enlargement-19811986_V001-0014
Political reasons for EC/EU enlargement	Debate	Edward Whitfield (2015), "The 1995 enlargement of the European Union: The accession of Finland and Sweden", Historical Archives of the European Parliament, European Union History Series, November, https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2015/563509/EPRS_STU(2015)563509_EN.pdf
Economic reasons for EC/EU enlargement	Debate	Edward Whitfield (2015), "The 1995 enlargement of the European Union: The accession of Finland and Sweden", Historical Archives of the European Parliament, European Union History Series, November, https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2015/563509/EPRS_STU(2015)563509_EN.pdf
The Regional Policy as a tool of enlargement	Factsheets	European Union, "Regional Policy", https://european-union.europa.eu/priorities-and-actions/actions-topic/regional-policy_en
Decision-making on EU enlargement	Simulation	Michael Leigh (2022), "New approaches to EU governance and enlargement", GIS Reports, https://www.gisreportsonline.com/r/eu-governance-enlargement/
The costs of enlargement	Group presentations	European Commission, "2021-2027 long-term EU budget & NextGenerationEU", https://commission.europa.eu/stategy-and-policy/eu-budget/long-term-eu-budget/2021-2027_en
Current candidates to EU membership	Case study presentations	Jiffer Bourguignon, Maria Demertzis, Ekaterina Sprenger (2022), "EU Enlargement: Expanding the Union and Its Potential", Intereconomics, 57(4), pp. 205-208, https://link.springer.com/conten

		t/pdf/10.1007/s10272-022-1063-4.pdf
Membership negotiations and reports	Text analyses	European Commission, DG Near, "Strategy and Reports", https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/enlargement-policy/strategy-and-reports_en
The EU's Neighbourhood Policy	Individual presentations	Euractiv, "About: European Neighbourhood Policy", https://www.euractiv.com/topics/european-neighbourhood-policy/
The Eastern Partnership	Individual presentations	OECD, "EU4Business: From Policies to Action in the Eastern Partnership", https://www.oecd.org/eurasia/competitiveness-programme/eastern-partners/eescinitiative-project1.htm
The future of EU enlargement	Debate, scenario-building	Kataryna Wolczuk (2023), "Overcoming EU Accession Challenges in Eastern Europe: Avoiding Purgatory", Carnegie Europe, https://carnegieeurope.eu/2023/06/28/overcoming-eu-accession-challenges-in-eastern-europe-avoiding-purgatory-pub-90039
<p>Bibliography</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bourguignon, Jiffer, Demertzis, Maria, Sprenger, Ekaterina (2022), "EU Enlargement: Expanding the Union and Its Potential", <i>Intereconomics</i>, 57(4), pp. 205-208, https://link.springer.com/content/pdf/10.1007/s10272-022-1063-4.pdf 2. EU Council, "EU enlargement policy", https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/policies/enlargement/ 3. Euractiv, "About: European Neighbourhood Policy", https://www.euractiv.com/topics/european-neighbourhood-policy/ 4. European Commission, "2021-2027 long-term EU budget & NextGenerationEU", https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/eu-budget/long-term-eu-budget/2021-2027_en 5. European Commission, DG Near, "Strategy and Reports", https://neighbourhood-enlargement.ec.europa.eu/enlargement-policy/strategy-and-reports_en 6. European Parliament Multimedia Centre, "History: The Mediterranean Enlargement 1981-1986", https://multimedia.europarl.europa.eu/en/video/history-the-mediterranean-enlargement-19811986_V001-0014 7. European Parliament, "40 Years of EU Enlargements", https://www.europarl.europa.eu/external/html/euenlargement/default_en.htm 8. European Union, "Regional Policy", https://european-union.europa.eu/priorities-and-actions/actions-topic/regional-policy_en 9. Leigh, Michael (2022), "New approaches to EU governance and enlargement", GIS Reports, https://www.gisreportsonline.com/r/eu-governance-enlargement/ 		

10. OECD, "EU4Business: From Policies to Action in the Eastern Partnership", <https://www.oecd.org/eurasia/competitiveness-programme/eastern-partners/eescinitiative-project1.htm>
11. Whitfield, Edward (2015), "The 1995 enlargement of the European Union: The accession of Finland and Sweden", Historical Archives of the European Parliament, European Union History Series, November, [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2015/563509/EPRS_STU\(2015\)563509_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2015/563509/EPRS_STU(2015)563509_EN.pdf)
12. Wolczuk, Katarzyna (2023), "Overcoming EU Accession Challenges in Eastern Europe: Avoiding Purgatory", Carnegie Europe, <https://carnegieeurope.eu/2023/06/28/overcoming-eu-accession-challenges-in-eastern-europe-avoiding-purgatory-pub-90039>

9. Corroborating the content of the discipline with the expectations of the epistemic community, professional associations and representative employers within the field of the program




- This course is meant to provide PhD students with the historical, terminological and analytical tools that will enable them to better integrate their research topics into the field of European Studies (and International Relations), in keeping with the requirements of the Doctoral School and with the general approach to the topics of its theses. The skills and knowledge acquired will be a competitive advantage for the graduates of the course in terms of career development, in the broader EU institutional environment and specific consultancy sectors, while broadening their research outreach.

10. Evaluation

Activity type	10.1 Evaluation criteria	10.2 Evaluation methods	10.3 Percentage of final grade
10.4 Course	Final paper or presentation	Quality of arguments, analytical accuracy	60
10.5 Seminar/laboratory	Active attendance	No. of presentations and contributions	30
Ex officio: 1 point			
10.6 Minimum standard of performance			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final paper/presentation with at least three arguments and a case study. 			

11. Labels ODD (Sustainable Development Goals)²

² Keep only the labels that, according to the [Procedure for applying ODD labels in the academic process](#), suit the discipline and delete the others, including the general one for *Sustainable Development* – if not applicable. If no label describes the discipline, delete them all and write „Not applicable.”.

	General label for Sustainable Development							
								
								

Date:
3 November 2025

Signature of course coordinator

Signature of seminar coordinator

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Date of approval:

Signature of the head of Doctoral School

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