STUDY SUBJECT PROGRAMME

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**Title**

European Union and International Trade

**Subject annotation**

The European Union's economic and trade policy make the EU the strongest, most competitive single economy in the world. As the world’s leading trade power (account for more than a fifth of global imports and exports), the EU has a strong interest in creating conditions in which trade can prosper. That is why the EU is very active in a global economic system and plays a leading role in international trade and trade negotiations.

The course surveys the EU's evolution as a global economic actor and emergence as an economic superpower with a unified external trade policy. It examines main institutions and interests that have driven the process of the EU economic diplomacy (emphasis on trade); specific examples of global engagement of the EU; and the potential implication for global economy.

This course also covers the law governing trade relations of the EU with third countries on two main levels: the ‘multilateral’ level refers to the system of trading rules agreed by all WTO member countries worldwide; the ‘bilateral and regional’ level means trade between the EU and individual trading partners or with groups of countries that form a single trading bloc in a particular region of the world.

**Necessary background knowledge for the study of the subject**

Understanding of EU political system and international relations is required.

**Study outcomes**

Students will study the evolution of the EU’s engagement as a global economic player. A particular emphasis will be put on the role of international trade in economic and political development of the EU. Accordingly, students will learn about the institutions, interests and policy objectives that have been driving this process forward, as well as the challenges and problems that have arisen along the way. The course will also articulate how the EU determines and carries out its external economic relations. Case studies drawn from contemporary events will serve for a illumination of the ‘on-the-ground’ dynamics of the EU’s external trade activities.

With this background, students will be in a position:

- to explore the institutional organization of EU’s common commercial policy;
- to make their own assessments of the implications of the rise of the EU as a global player for international relations;
- to understand basic principals and aims of the EU engagement in international trade;
- to explore multilateral and bilateral trade relations of the EU;
- to be aware of key issues of the current world economy (trade disputes, WTO cases etc.);
- to analyse global trends of trade flows;
- to foresee further developments of international trade and the EU trade policy.

**Subject contents**
The EU’s role in a global economic system; institutional organization of EU’s common commercial policy; main instruments and dimensions of the EU’s external trade policy; principles and rules of international trade; basic law governing trade relations of the EU with third countries (political and legal aspects); Member States’ (Lithuania’s) interests in the formation of the EU common commercial policy; bilateral economic relations of the EU with individual trading partners or with groups of countries; the EU’s engagement in ‘multilateral’ level in a system of trading rules agreed by the WTO; the role and aims of the EU in WTO DDA negotiations; future developments of the EU’s external economic engagement (agreements, initiatives etc.)

### Study hours

- Lectures: 45 hours;
- Seminars: 15 hours;
- Research paper: 40 hours;
- Individual preparatory work: 60 hours.
- **Total:** 160 hours

### Evaluation of study results

Final grades will be based on a mid-term test (30%), a research paper (20%) and a final exam (50%).

### Literature

At the beginning of the course students will be supplied with hand-outs, a detailed list of literature and internet sources.

**Compulsory literature** (all selected units will provided in pdf-format by the lecturer):


**Supplementary literature**


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**Programme prepared by**

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