Syllabus SNU-GSIS

**Research project in International area studies 1: Aid Policy of the European Union**

Spring 2014

Instructor: Dr. Frédéric Ojardias

Time: Friday 9:00 am – 12:00 am

Office hours: ?

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Language: English

**[Course description]**

The European Union (EU) provides over half of the world’s aid and has committed to increase its assistance (European Consensus on Development, 2005). This practical course will introduce the aid policy of the EU through basic theories, analysis of the EU aid organizational framework and concrete case studies.

The students will develop a better understanding of EU development and humanitarian aid policy, its organizational structure (EuropeAid, ECHO), its implementation mechanisms, its relations with other actors in charge of implementation and distribution of aid (NGOs, UN agencies, Red Cross), its political interests and the influence of these interests on the outcome and the effectiveness of aid. The current debates related to humanitarian aid and development will be analyzed through the lens of EU policy.

**[Requirements and grading]**

All students are expected to be active participants during class, ask questions and make valuable contribution during debates. Critical thinking is expected. Class participation will constitute 30% of the grade.

1- Presentations (20% of grade)

Students are required to make two oral presentations on a given subject. (First half of semester: presentation of one EU member state as a donor, its policies, vision, interests, targets, and political use of aid; and the potential tensions with the European Commission related to aid. Second half of semester: comparative study, such as China aid vs EU aid in Africa, US aid vs EU aid, etc.). Critical use of the assigned reading material is expected. Each presentation will last approximately 15-20 minutes.

2- Class participation (30% of grade)

Students are expected to read all the required material before class and prepare questions, so they can participate actively to the class and contribute to the debates. The professor might ask question to students about reading material during class.

3- Mid-term take home exam (20% of grade)

Students will write a short paper (5 pages max) that will be submitted at the middle of the semester. Take-home paper has to be submitted 24 hours after receiving it.

4- Final paper (30% of grade)

Students are required to submit a policy or strategy paper on a case study. Max 10 pages in length (Times New Roman, 1,5 spaced, notes and bibliography not included), due at the end of the semester. Students are recommended to discuss with the professor before choosing their paper topic.

If a student misses the class more than twice without (prior) due excuses, he or she will fail the class.

At least one aid professional or development expert will be invited to join the class, share his experience and participate to the debate with the students; the schedule will be adapted to fit this opportunity.

**[Course Schedule]**

**March 7 - week 1: Overview of the course, introduction**

Objectives of the class. Overview of EU aid policy. What is aid? Definitions and categories.

**March 14 - week 2 – Aid : theories and practice**

Basic theory: recipient need vs donor interests (McKinlay). Debate: alleviate poverty or tool of foreign policy? (Maizels Nissanke 1984, Alesina Dollar 2000). Definition of humanitarian space. Concrete testimonies from the field (Maren)

**March 21 - week 3 - EU Aid : Organizational Structure**

Decision making structure of EU aid policy. EuropeAid and ECHO. Interactions between member states and the European Commission. Challenges and criticisms.

**March 28 - week 4 – Assessing Aid Impact**

How to evaluate the impact of aid and the performance of donor policies? Does aid improve the welfare of recipient? Impact on growth, poverty reduction, democracy. EU policy on needs and performance assessment. Clues from the NGO side: SPHERE project.

**April 4 - week 5 – EU Aid as a Foreign Policy Instrument**

Theoretical principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality and independence. EU Aid as a foreign policy instrument and a soft power tool. Consequences. How does EU foreign and economic policy affect the development quality of aid? Interaction between foreign policy and domestic politics.

**April 11 - week 6 - Debates: Untying Aid, the Question of Conditionality**

Practice of tied aid: challenges and EU policy. Aid and conditionality (as a punishment or an incentive). Promoting human rights and democracy.

**April 18 - week 7 – Relations between EU and NGOs**

Relations between EuropeAid and NGOs. Humanitarian aid: project cycle for implementation by NGOs. Codes of conducts of NGO. Debate.

**April 25 - week 8 - mid-term take-home exam**

Apply the concepts above to a concrete case.

**May 2 - week 9 – EU Aid Policy in Africa**

Main themes of EU strategy for Africa. June 2005 European Council Commitment to Africa. EU-Africa Lisbon Summit 2007. Criticisms.

**May 9 - week 10 – EU Aid and Mediterranean Neighborhood**

Mediterranean and Europe: interdependence, spheres of influences, EU interests, the European Neighborhood Policy (ENP), financial aid program MEDA.

**May 16 - week 11 – EU Aid in post-communist countries**

TACIS (Technical Assistance for CIS), PHARE program and aid for pre-accession, Eastern Partnership (EaP).

**May 23 - week 12 – EU Aid in Emerging Markets**

ASEAN, Latin America, India, China. Thematic funding priorities, ALA, Asia-Invest, challenges.

**May 30 - week 13 – EU and North Korea – humanitarian relief**

EU involvement in North Korea through humanitarian NGOs. Dilemmas, challenges and opportunities.

**June 13 - week 14 - EU and North Korea – development aid**

Transition of EU aid from humanitarian relief to development projects in North Korea. Examples of development projects. EU discussion on Human Rights. Ongoing debates.

**June tbd - week 15 - wrap up class**

EU aid policy: conclusion, challenges ahead.