University of Gdańsk

Subject card

Subject name and code	Migration crisis and the EU multicultural policy, PG_00149103		
Field of study	National Security		
Date of commencement of studies	October 2024	Academic year of realisation of subject	2025/2026
Education level	Bachelor's studies	Subject group	Obligatory subject group in the field of study Optional subject group
Mode of study	full-time studies	Mode of delivery	at the university
Year of study	2	Language of instruction	Polish
Semester of study	3	ECTS credits	2.0
Learning profile	practical	Assessment form	credit
Conducting unit			
Name and surname of lecturer (lecturers)	Subject supervisor	dr Konrad Ćwikliński	
	Teachers	dr Konrad Ćwikliński	

Lesson types

Lesson type	Lecture	Tutorial	Laboratory	Project	Seminar	SUM
Number of study hours	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	30

E-learning hours included: 0.0

Learning activity and number of study hours

Learning activity	Participation in didactic classes included in study plan	Participation in consultation hours	Self-study	SUM
Number of study hours	30	0.0	30.0	60

Subject objectives

The Migration Crisis and Multicultural Policy of the EU examines recent migration challenges and integration strategies within the European Union. Over the past decade, the EU has experienced several major migration crises. The year 2015 marked the peak of the so-called migration crisis, with over 1.8 million people crossing the EUs external borders an unprecedented event at the time. Five years later, the outbreak of the war in Ukraine triggered a new wave of displacement, bringing over 8 million Ukrainian nationals into the EU more than five times the scale of the 2015 crisis.

During the course, students explore the causes and trajectories of these crises and analyze the EUs institutional responses, including reforms of the asylum system, the strengthening of the Frontex agency, migrant relocation mechanisms, and new migration policy instrument.

Contemporary EU migration policy aims to balance effective border management with the protection of human rights and the principle of solidarity. The European Commission emphasizes that effective migrant integration is essential for the prosperity of European societies, and supports member states through knowledge sharing and integration funding programs. The new Pact on Migration and Asylum, adopted in 2024, is designed to ensure strong and secure external borders, respect for the rights of different groups, and solidarity among EU member states. Furthermore, the EUs Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion (20212027) highlights that integration is a two-way process: migrants gain access to skills and opportunities, while host societies create the conditions for full participation in economic and social life.

Learning outcomes

Course outcome	Subject outcome	Method of verification

Subject contents

Course content

1. Introduction to migration and multiculturalism: definitions of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers; contemporary migration trends; functioning of the Schengen Area and the EU Single Territory.
2. EU law and institutions in migration policy: EU Treaties (Articles 7980 TFEU), the Dublin system, roles of the European Commission, Parliament, and Council in shaping migration policy; key agencies (Frontex, EMN).
3. The 20152016 migration crisis: causes (Syrian war, Middle Eastern and North African conflicts), migration flows into the EU, member state responses (border fences, relocation initiatives), conclusions.
4. EU asylum policy and the Migration Pact: asylum procedures, EU Asylum Directive, EU solidarity mechanisms (relocation principle), main elements and controversies of the new Migration Pact (20202024).
5. Migrant integration: goals and tools of EU integration policy (Commission Action Plans, AMIF, national programs); integration models (assimilation, two-way integration, interculturalism); indicators of integration.
6. Multiculturalism and public debate: the concept of multiculturalism, experiences of non-EU countries (e.g., Canada, USA), criticism of multiculturalism in Europe (social tensions, populism), and examples of inclusion-promoting initiatives.
7. Migration and EU foreign policy: the Global Approach to Migration, partnerships with countries of origin (e.g., Turkey, African countries), the link between development policy and migration.
8. Selected case studies and current issues: impact of migration on EU demography and labor markets; intra-EU vs international migration; the issue of climate refugees; social tensions and civic responses.

Prerequisites and co-requisites

Prerequisites and Additional Requirements

- Basic political science knowledge: familiarity with EU institutions and integration processes; basic understanding of international and European law (including human rights and asylum law).
- Social awareness: awareness of global migration trends and current international events (conflicts, humanitarian crises).
- Analytical skills: ability to work independently with academic texts and statistical data (Eurostat, EMN/ UNHCR reports), and to draw conclusions based on them.
- Foreign language proficiency: reading the course literature requires knowledge of English (as most key documents from the European Commission, UNHCR, etc., are available primarily in English).
- Communication and participation: willingness to engage in discussion, present ones own analysis, and work in a team (class debates, seminar activities).

Assessment methods and criteria

Subject passing criteria	Passing threshold	Percentage of the final grade
topic relevance, content accuracy, analytical skills, use of academic sources and EU documents, clarity of argumentation, and language correctness	50.0%	35.0%
class participation, involvement in discussions, individual or group presentations	50.0%	65.0%

Recommended reading

Basic literature

Core reading:

- Ohanyan, T., Naychuk-Khrushch, M. (2022). The European Unions Migration Policy and the Challenges of Recent Years. Studia Europejskie, vol. 3.
- Markowska-Manista, U., Pasamonik, B. (Eds.) (20182019). The Migration Crisis. A Socio-Cultural Perspective, vols. 12, Warsaw.
- European Commission (2020). Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion 20212027, Communication COM(2020) 758 final. Available via EUR-Lex.
- European Commission (2024). Pact on Migration and Asylum. Official documents and summaries available on the website of the European Commission (including key policy outlines).
- European Migration Network (EMN) (2022, 2023). Annual Reports on Migration and Asylum. Especially trend summaries, including those related to the Ukrainian refugee crisis. Available on the EMN website.

	Supplementary literature	• EU reports and statistics: e.g., Eurostat data on migration, publications by the EPRS (European Parliamentary Research Service), websites of the European Commission on Migration and Integration. • International publications: reports by UNHCR, IOM, and OECD on migration and integration policies. • Selected academic articles: e.g., Council of Europe analyses on migrant integration, political science and sociology journal articles on migration-related topics. • Books and reports on multiculturalism: studies on cultural pluralism in Europe (comparative studies, analyses of national policies), integration strategy documents from EU member states (e.g., Poland, Germany, Sweden).
	eResources addresses	
Example issues/ example questions/ tasks being completed	Sample exam questions / assignments • Discuss the causes and development of the 20152016 migration crisis in the EU. What measures were taken at the EU level and what were their outcomes? • Describe the main assumptions of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum (20202024) and assess its significance for EU migration policy. • Present and compare the migrant integration policies of two selected EU member states. What are their successes and challenges? • Explain the concept of two-way integration of migrants what steps are taken by newcomers and what by the host society? Justify why the EU promotes this approach. • Discuss the social and political consequences of admitting a large number of refugees (e.g., from Syria or Ukraine). What societal attitudes and communication challenges are involved? • Practical task (group project): Prepare a debate or presentation on the topic Multiculturalism in Europe does it have a future? Use statistical data and case studies (e.g., EU countries and their migration policies).	
Work placement	Not applicable	

Document generated electronically. Does not require a seal or signature.