



Course Title: The European Union and Contemporary European Affairs

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Course Description

This course is an introduction to the European integration process which is creating “an ever-closer Union among the peoples of Europe”. The course will focus on three questions: Who are the main European actors? How is the European Union working? What is the European Union doing? In this perspective, the course will present the European Union compared to the Council of Europe and the Federal States. Then, the institutional system of the EU will be examined, that main: the interest of the treaty and the EU legal framework and the present decision-making process. Finally, the European citizenship will be studied, and the difficulties of the last enlargement will be discussed. Throughout the course, the United States and the American International Organizations (NAFTA and OAS...) will be used as comparative referents.

Course Objectives

The objective of the course is primarily to teach students how to provide impartial expertise on European affairs. Students will also learn to develop analytical and anticipation skills on international affairs in general. Last but not least, students will have to demonstrate a capability to give oral presentations an exchange views with interlocutors conveying opposite ideas.

Class Schedule and Sequence of Instruction: 45 hours (Lectures & Visits)

Lectures:	Duration: 35 hours	Content: (see below the detailed program)
1	4 hours	Who are the actors of European integration process? The Council of Europe
2	4 hours	Who are the actors of European integration process? The European Court for Human Rights
3	4 hours	Who are the actors of European integration process? The European Union, general presentation & origins
4	4 hours	How is the European Union working? The Institutional framework of the EU and the respect of the sovereignty of the Member States 1
5	4 hours	How is the European Union working? The institutional framework of the EU and the respect of the sovereignty of the Member States 2
6	4 hours	How is the European Union working? The Legal framework of the EU and the principles of Primacy and Direct Effect
7	4 hours	What is the EU Citizenship? 2
8	4 hours	What is doing the EU? Comparative Studies EU/USA (e.g. Nafta / ESM...)
9	3 hours	What is doing the EU? Comparative Studies EU/USA (e.g. OAS / Coe...)
Visits:	Duration: 10 hours	Content:
1	3 hours	Strasbourg: the EU Parliament and the Council of Europe
2	5 hours	Brussels: European Commission & International Institutions (e.g. Shape or Nato, US Mission,)
3	3 hours	Deutsche Bundesbank in Frankfurt

Detailed program of the lectures

I - WHO ARE THE ACTORS OF THE EUROPEAN INTEGRATION PROCESS? THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

1 – WHAT ARE THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE AND THE EUROPEAN COURT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS?

1. THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE

1.1 – General presentation

1.1.1 – *Origins and Key dates*

1.1.2 – *Aims and Activities*

1.1.3 – *Member States, Candidates and Observers*

1.1.4 – *The European Symbols: Flag, Anthem and Prizes*

1.2 – Institutional Framework

1.2.1 – *The Committee of Ministers*

1.2.2 – *The Parliamentary Assembly*

1.2.3 – *The Secretary General*

1.2.4 – *The Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of Europe*

1.3 – Decision Making Process

1.3.1 – *The Legislative Process*

1.3.2 – *The Advisory and Consultative Processes*

2 THE EUROPEAN COURT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

2.1 – General Presentation

2.1.1 – *The European Convention on the Human Rights of 1950*

2.1.2 – *Additional Protocols*

2.2 – The European Court of Human Rights

2.2.1 – *Organisation of the Court*

2.2.2 – *Procedure before the Court*

- *General presentation*
- *Admissibility procedure*
- *Procedure on the merits*
- *Judgments*
- *Advisory opinions*

3.3 The Other Protections of Human Rights

3.1 – *The European Social Charter*

3.2 – *The Convention for the Protection of National Minorities*

3.3 – *The Convention for the Prevention of Torture*

3.4 – *Other Actions: the European Commission against Racism and Intolerance, the Commissioner for Human Rights...*

2 – WHAT IS THE EUROPEAN UNION?

1. General Presentation

1.1 *The Member States*

1.2 *Population*

1.3 *Trade and economy*

1.4 *Gross Domestic Product*

1.5 *Employment*

1.6 *Education and Research*

1.7 *EU Budget*

1.8 *European Public Opinion*

2. Origins and Development of the European Union

2.1 *The treaty of Paris, the Treaties of Rome and the 3 Communities*

1950: French Foreign Minister Robert Schuman's Declaration

1951: Signing of the Treaty of Paris

1957: Signing of the Treaties of Rome

1968: Abolition of the remaining duties in intra-Community trade

1973, 1981, 1986: First Enlargements of the UE

2.2 *The Single European Act*

- 1987: The Single European Market
- 1993: The Implementation of the Single market
- 2.3 *The European Union*
- 1993: Enforcement of the Treaty on the European Union, the Treaty of Maastricht
- 1999: Enforcement of the Amsterdam Treaty
- December 11, 2000: Adoption of the Nice Treaty – February 1st, 2003: Enforcement of the treaty of Nice
- January 1st, 2002: Euro coins and notes come into circulation
- October 29, 2004: Signing at Rome of the treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe
- December 18, 2007: Signing at Lisbon of the treaty amending the Treaty on European Union and the Treaty establishing the European Community, entering into force December 1st, 2009
- 2004, 2007 et 2013: New Enlargement of the European Union.

II - HOW IS THE EUROPEAN UNION WORKING?

3 - WHAT IS THE INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK OF THE EUROPEAN UNION?

1. The Launch Pad Role of the European Council

- *Art 15 of the EU Treaty: "1. The European Council shall provide the Union with the necessary impetus for its development and shall define the general political directions and priorities thereof. It shall not exercise legislative functions."*
- *Art 288 of the TFEU: "To exercise the Union's competences, the institutions shall adopt regulations, directives, decisions, recommendations and opinions."*
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2. The Triangle of Decision-making

- 2.1 *The European Commission*
- 2.2 *The Council of the European Union*
- 2.3 *The European Parliament*

3. The Watchdog Role of Communitarian Acts by the Court of Justice and the Court of Auditors

- 3.1 *The jurisdictional control of the Court of Justice and of the General Court*
- 3.2 *The Financial control of the Court of Auditor*

4. The other Institutions

- 4.1 *The Advisory Bodies: The Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions*
- 4.2 *The Communitarian Financial Organs: The European Invest bank and the European Central Bank*

5. THE CLARIFICATION OF THE EU'S COMPETENCES

- 5.1 *The Exclusive competences*
- 5.2 *The Shared Competences*
- 5.3 *Supporting, Coordinating and Complementary Actions*
- 5.4 *Specific competences: Economic and Employment Policies, CFSP*

6. THE EU'S LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

- 6.1 *The Legislative Instruments*
- The 15 Current Instruments
- The New Legislative Instruments

- 6.2 *The Qualified Majority Voting*
 - The Current System
 - The Reform
- 6.3 *Involvement of National Parliament*
 - The Principle of Subsidiarity
 - Reasoned Opinion
 - Procedure before the Court of Justice

4 – WHAT IS THE CITIZENSHIP OF THE EU?

1. Fundamental Principles

- 1.1 *The Principal of Non Discrimination*
- 1.2 *The Democratic Principal*
- 1.3 *The Charter of the Fundamental Rights*

2. Obtaining the EU Citizenship

- 2.1 *The Nationality of the EU Member*
- 2.3 *Obtaining the EU Citizenship*
- 2.4 *Consequences for the Foreigners*

3. Civil Status of the EU Citizenship

- 3.1 *The Right to Move & to Reside*
- 3.2 *Free Movement of Workers*
- 3.3 *Diplomatic Protection*

3. Political Status of the EU Citizenship

- 3.1 *Municipal Elections*
- 3.2 *European Elections*
- 3.3 *Petition & Ombudsman*
- 3.4 *Right of Initiative*

Required Textbooks and Materials

Buonanno, Laurie & Nugent, Neill, *Policies and Policy Processes of the European Union*, Palgrave Macmillan, 2013.

Mc Cormick, John, *Understanding The European Union: a concise Introduction*, 7th edition, Palgrave Macmillan, 2017.

Nugent, Neill, *The Government and Politics of the European Union*, 8th edition, Palgrave Macmillan, 2017.

<http://europa.eu>

<http://www.coe.int>



Further Readings:

- SCHUMAN Robert, Ministerial Declaration, Paris, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 9 May 1950 (http://europa.eu/about-eu/basic-information/symbols/europe-day/schuman-declaration/index_en.htm)
- EUROPEAN UNION, How the European Union works, Luxembourg Publication Office of the EU, 2014, pp. 3-25. (<http://bookshop.europa.eu/en/bundles/the-eu-explained-cbsciep2OwkgkAAAE.xjhtLxJz/>)
- TREATY ON THE EUROPEAN UNION, Declaration [of 16 Member States] on the symbols of the European Union, Declaration 52 annexed to the Treaties, 2007.
- COUNCIL OF EUROPE, [European] Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms [ECHR], 4 November 1950.
- GIUMELLI Francesco, "How EU Sanctions Work – A New Narrative", EU Institute for Security Studies' Chaillot Papers, vol. 129, 2013, pp. 7-41.
- BESHAROV Douglas, LOPEZ Mark & SIEGEL Melissa, "Trends in Migration and Migration Policy", Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, Vol. 32, Summer 2013, pp. 655-660.

Grading

- A Achievement that is outstanding relative to the level necessary to meet course requirements.
- B Achievement that is significantly above the level necessary to meet course requirements.
- C Achievement that meets the course requirements in every respect.
- D Achievement that is worthy of credit even though it fails to meet fully the course requirements.

- P Achievement that is satisfactory, which is equivalent to a C- or better (achievement required for a P is at the discretion of the instructor but may be no lower than equivalent to a C-.)

- NP Represents failure (or no credit) and signifies that the work was either (1) completed but at a level of achievement that is not worthy of credit or (2) was not completed and there was no agreement between the instructor and the student that the student would be awarded an I (see also I).

- I (Incomplete) - Assigned at the discretion of the instructor when, due to extraordinary circumstances, e.g., hospitalization, a student is prevented from completing the work of the course on time. Requires a written agreement between instructor and student.

Grading Scale (Based on points)

95 – 100 A	77 – 79 C+	59 – Lower	E
90 – 94 A-	74 – 76 C		
87 – 89 B+	70 – 73 C-		
84 – 86 B	67 – 69 D+		
80 – 83 B-	60 – 66 D		

Exams

Written exams	40%
Oral presentation	40%
Class attendance and participation	20%

Other Regulations and Policies

Attendance and Participation

Attendance and active classroom participation are required of each student. Tests will cover for all course material provided through lectures and presentations, readings, discussions, cases, and videos during class. **Absences and/or a lack of participation in discussions will impact negatively on the final grade.** Each student is responsible for all material covered and/or assigned and any announcements made in any class session, whether student is present or not. Group activities require all students to participate and contribute to group discussions and projects.

Students are expected to come to class on time and to have read assigned material before class. There may be an occasional pop quiz to verify whether students have read the assignments before class.

All work must be turned in on time. Late work may be accepted but points will be taken off if work is not turned in to instructor when it is due. At all times, in class and group discussions, students are expected to respect contributions, questions, and opinions of other people. Demeaning others in any way is not acceptable.

Scholastic Dishonesty

You are expected to do your own academic work and cite sources as necessary. Failing to do so is scholastic dishonesty. Scholastic dishonesty means plagiarizing; cheating on assignments or examinations; engaging in unauthorized collaboration on academic work; taking, acquiring, or using test materials without faculty permission; submitting false or incomplete records of academic achievement; acting alone or in cooperation with another to falsify records or to obtain dishonestly grades, honors, awards, or professional endorsement; altering, forging, or misusing a university academic record; or fabricating or falsifying data, research procedures, or data analysis.

If it is determined that a student has cheated, he or she may be given an "NP" for the course and may face additional sanctions from the European Study Center.