

EUROPEAN UNION

IE University

Academic year: 20-21

Degree course: SECOND

Semester: 2º

Category: COMPULSORY

Number of credits: 3.0

Language: English

PREREQUISITES

This course requires that, at the very least, for its 15 session duration you keep abreast of European news, read with a view to the things we are learning in class, and come (virtually or in person) prepared to actively listen, discuss and participate. This is not a passive class.

Required reading is the Economist weekly and a daily newspaper of record, preferably The Financial Times, plus one at least from the country you come from. News from digital platforms is great but needs to be supplemented by reading.

Learning in a liquid environment, can be a little isolating. As well as regular 'office hours' I will keep in close contact via the various IE platforms to ensure that you are keeping up with the course as it develops. At the end of each face-to-face, videoconference, or practice session we will discuss what it expected of the session that follows it.

SUBJECT DESCRIPTION

The European Union, with its 27 Member States, 24 official languages and 448 million citizens, is a key part of the multilateral world order. It is founded on the principles of democracy and sound public administration, respect for human rights, including independent media, an independent judiciary and the rule of law. It constitutes the largest single market in the world. The Euro is the world's second largest reserve currency after the dollar. All this is governed by a singular hybrid political system that is unique to the EU. The EU helps to create the business environment in which cross-European innovation and entrepreneurship can thrive. To live and work in the EU requires an understanding of the scope - and limitations - of its power; of how decisions are influenced, made and implemented; and of the challenges and opportunities influencing its global role.

OBJECTIVES AND SKILLS

In this course you will learn how the European Union came into being; how it grew into its present role and what exactly that is; how it makes and implements policy; its global role and prospects for future development.

You will come to understand the link between history and politics and the extent to which policy formulation is shaped by political considerations. You will consider theoretical models of international relations, and see how far these can be applied to the EU method. You will improve your critical skills by writing and critiquing policy documents; in addition we will try and simulate some of the government mechanisms in class, as practise in negotiation, persuasion and communication skills. Through written assignments and presentations you will sharpen your public speaking skills and improve your writing, learning both orally and in writing, to make a motivated argument, present it cogently and convincingly, and to defend it against constructive criticism.

METHODOLOGY

Teaching methodology	Weighting	Estimated time a student should dedicate to prepare for and participate in
Lectures	20.0 %	15 hours
Discussions	13.33 %	10 hours
Exercises	13.33 %	10 hours
Group work	20.0 %	15 hours
Other individual studying	33.33 %	25 hours
TOTAL	100.0 %	75 hours

PROGRAM

SESSION 1 (FACE TO FACE)

Introduction to the EU: What do we mean by European Union and what exactly does it do? Is the EU the institutions in Brussels, or Member State governments? Do national parliaments have any role?

This module examines the historic origins and development of the European union, considers why and how it has evolved and what challenges and opportunities it faces in a multipolar, globalised world where rules-based organisations and, arguably, democracy itself, is under threat.

Specific readings for this module will be sent nearer in advance of the course starting.

SESSION 2 (FACE TO FACE)

The EU: nuts and bolts: Before considering its effectiveness it is important to understand how the EU works, both theoretically, and practically. It is a unique system of government and as such it is not immediately obvious how it operates. Based on practical examples and supplemented by your reading, this module looks at the roles of different EU institutions and how they interact with other players in the political process.

Specific readings for this module will be sent nearer in advance of the course starting.

SESSION 3 (NON-CLASS LEARNING)

New beginnings: Like any system of governance the EU has to anticipate and respond to current challenges. Guided by a series of readings and questions that will be posted nearer the time, you will take an in-depth look at some of the developing policy areas such as Europe's new green deal and the digital agenda.

SESSION 4 (VIDEOCONFERENCE)

Money: "He who pays the piper, plays the tune": Is this true in terms of the EU? Who pays for the EU, who determines where the money goes and how it is spent? Is there a single European market for capital? Has the Euro made the EU more or less powerful? Is being bound to a single currency area a limit on national economic sovereignty. Does this matter?

This module will explore some of these questions.

SESSION 5 (FACE TO FACE)

Internal policies: Is there an EU health policy, or education policy? If not, why not? This module will explore the internal policy areas of the EU.

Readings to be posted near the time.

SESSION 6 (NON-CLASS LEARNING)

Policy making : Following on from the previous session you will be assigned a series of readings in a particular policy area from which you will write a policy brief. Full instructions on what is expected will be provided.

SESSION 7 (PRACTICE)

EU mock Council I - the next two sessions will be a simulation of an EU Council. Students will be assigned either to national delegations, to lobby groups, or to press work. The exercise should help make practical sense of the theoretical work to date.

All materials will be supplied in advance of the simulation.

SESSION 8 (PRACTICE)

EU Mock Council II - this is a double session

SESSION 9 (NON-CLASS LEARNING)

Project: At the beginning of the course you will be put into groups and assigned a topic to prepare as a 10 minute video presentation later in the course. This module is an opportunity for you to work with colleagues and lay the ground work for the eventual presentation.

SESSION 10 (FACE TO FACE)

The EU as a global player: This module will look at the process of EU enlargement and relations with its nearest neighbours using Turkey as a case study.

Reading will be posted nearer the time

SESSION 11 (NON-CLASS LEARNING)

Migration This issue has seriously undermined EU solidarity and it has proved very difficult to find a policy solution that is fair, sustainable and supported by all EU members. You will be assigned a series of readings for a literature review that forms part of the overall assessment. In this module you will meet in small group fora to discuss the readings and help shape the assignment.

SESSION 12 (VIDEOCONFERENCE)

Europe as a trading power This module will examine the EU's development as a trade bloc, its role in the multilateral trading system and the role trade plays in its external relations.

SESSION 13 (NON-CLASS LEARNING)

Europe's role in the world: The EU has been described as "a soft power with hard edges". What does this mean and is it still true? How coherent is EU foreign policy. This module is a guided literature review of some of these issues.

SESSION 14 (FORUM)

Fake news and propaganda: This module will look at the role of political communication in building public engagement and consider the role of social media and online platforms in the dissemination of news, fake news and propaganda.

SESSION 15 (VIDEOCONFERENCE)

The future of Europe: 2021 sees the launch of a Conference on the Future of Europe - an EU-wide consideration of future directions. In this module we will anticipate themes the conference might like to consider, based on the work completed during the rest of the course.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Compulsory

- Ivan Krastev. *After Europe*. university of Pennsylvania Press. ISBN 9780812294262 (Electronic)

Recommended

- John McCormick. *Understanding the European Union. A concise introduction*. 5th. Macmillan Palgrave. ISBN 9781137006141 (Printed)

- Zimmerman and Dur. *Key controversies in European integration*. Macmillan. ISBN 9781137006141 (Printed)

- Hix and Hoyland. *The Political system of the European Union*. Macmillan. ISBN 9780230249820 (Printed)

- Hodson and Peterson. *The institutions of the European Union*. Oxford. ISBN 9780198737414 (Printed)

- Luuk van Middelaar. *The Passage to Europe*. Yale University Press. ISBN 9780300255126 (Electronic)

If you read one book, it should be this. His further work, *Alarums and Excursions: Improvising Politics on the European Stage*, is also recommended.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Criteria	Percentage	Comments
Group Presentation	20 %	

Final Exam	20 %	
Individual Presentation	15 %	
Individual Work	35 %	This comprises the literature review that you will have considered as part of session 13 and the policy paper that session 3 will help you prepare part of session 3
Intermediate Tests	10 %	

The weightings for individual work does not detract from the fact that this is a highly interactive class and most of the ideas, methodology and much of the content for the tasks assigned will come from group discussion. The assignments are part of the non-class learning element of the course.