

THE EUROPEAN UNION TODAY
University Year 2014/2015 – Fall Semester

Horaires : Tuesday 14:00 to 18:00

1/ COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The objective of this course is to give students grounding in the historical, political and economic aspects of the European integration process since World War II and to acquaint students with the EU institutional structure and decision-making processes as well as to study the various political, economic and social aspects of the EU. Through this course, students will gain a critical insight into the internal contradictions and the additional challenges that the EU has to deal with in order to enhance cooperation among its members and to function as a credible actor in a multipolar world. A recurring element will be the crisis in the Eurozone, and its consequences on the credibility of the European project, particularly given the recent European Parliament elections.

2/ COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students are expected to read the relevant course materials for each class and to follow events in Europe as active participation in class discussions is an essential requirement of the course.

Students have to complete the given assignments:

- comment and personal assessment of the week's topic based on the reading of the core texts.
- a 10-minute presentation in class based on personal research of a topic related to the European Union. Students are free to choose the topic but should demand prior approval for their choice of topic.
- a term paper (5 - 7 typewritten pages with double spacing). The topics for this paper will be distributed in class. Students are expected to research the topic and present a critical assessment and analysis with concrete references. A detailed bibliography of at least three additional sources to those used in class should be included.

3/ COURSE MATERIAL

The majority of texts will be handed out in class and will consist of fact sheets and articles taken from newspapers, magazines, specialized reviews and appropriate websites. EU documents may also be used and when possible, audiovisual documents.

Recommended reading:

Understanding the European Union: A Concise Introduction, McCormick, John, 2011, Palgrave Macmillan

The European Union: A Very Short Introduction, Pinder, John & Usherwood, Simon, 2007, Oxford University Press

4/ Other references

The British media, particularly the BBC, *The Economist* and *The Guardian*, have good coverage of the EU. *The International Herald Tribune* (the Global Edition of the *NY Times*) covers European issues. A number of European newspapers and radio/television channels have English-versions of news on their web sites.

The EU has its own website (europa.eu) as do each of its individual institutions. The different political groups in the European Parliament also have websites.

5/ EVALUATION:

The final grade for the course will be based on student performance on the following tasks:

Test on EU history, institutions and main policy areas (25%) ; A written term paper (25%) ;

A presentation (25%) ; Attendance/Participation (25%)

Students are required to be present for tests and to hand in their papers on time. Late papers will be penalized.

6/ Attendance Policy

Attendance is essential and checked on a daily basis. Only three unjustified absences will be accepted and all 'justified' absences must be documented. The final evaluation will take both absences and repeated unpunctuality (three 'lates' count as one absence) into account.

7/ Practical information

Classes that fall on a public holiday will not be made up

Fall break: October 25 to November 2

COURSE PROGRAM

Date	Theme
1. 09/23/2014	The historical context in Europe after World War II Major historical landmarks from 1950 onwards The major treaties and the waves of enlargement
2. 09/30/2014	Approaches to the European Union The main EU institutions: the European Commission, the Council of Ministers, the European Council and the European Parliament
3. 10/07/2014	Decision-making and legislation in the EU EU institutions: The Courts of the European Union The concept of Europeanization
4. 10/14/2014	The Single Market – the four freedoms The Common Agricultural Policy Enlargement Policy
5. 10/21/2014	In-class test. The United Kingdom – in or out? The countries outside the EU (Switzerland and Norway)
6. 11/04/2014	Economic and Monetary Union - the Euro A brief presentation of the crisis in the Eurozone The political and social consequences of the crisis Student presentations
7. 11/11/2014	PUBLIC HOLIDAY
8. 11/18/2014	European citizenship and democracy Europeanism: values and identity Student presentations
9. 11/25/2014	Schengen Agreement and Immigration The situation of minorities in the EU Student presentations
10. 12/02/2014	The EU and its neighbors to the East (Russia) EU-Mediterranean relations Student presentations
11. 12/09/2014	Relations between the EU and the United States and China European Security and Defense Policy The EU as a single actor in a multipolar world