



**Nebrija**

*Centro de Estudios Hispánicos*

**Course: The European Union**

**Course number: HU1172**

**ECTS credits: 6**

**Prerequisites: None**

**Instructor name: Oscar Martínez-Tapia, PhD**

**Office hours: Mondays & Wednesdays 13.00-14.00**

### **Description**

This course will cover relevant political, economic, and social aspects of European Union by unfolding the process of gradual economic and political integration in the Union. Special attention will be paid to current affairs of the organization, problems and future. Students acquire basic intellectual skills through critical thinking, considering questions of why and how events occurred. Topics will include European early economic integration, treaties, institutions, actors and names, enlargement, the Euro, the economic and political crisis and the future, if, of the European Union.

### **Learning objectives**

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- ✓ Understand the historical development of European politics, economics, society and culture
- ✓ Improve their knowledge of Europe and its diversity
- ✓ Critically follow and interpret the main social, economical and political aspects of European integration since 1945 to the present
- ✓ Analyze various issues and trends in modern and contemporary Europe
- ✓ Debate ideas and concepts of Europe and European integration
- ✓ View Europe within a wider international and global perspective
- ✓ Recognize and analyze the contributions of national diversity to the EU past and present
- ✓ Synthesize information from a variety of sources, including written sources, documentaries and film.

**Educational activities** will be developed by means of different didactic strategies:

- ✓ Theory and Practice
- ✓ Collective and individual tutoring
- ✓ In-class presentations
- ✓ Daily assignments
- ✓ Team work assignments
- ✓ Workshops and additional training
- ✓ Extra-curricular activities

Contact Hours: 45

### **Methodology**

The course syllabus follows the Communicative Approach methods, based on the core principles of procedure conception and constructive acquisition of knowledge. The methodology is based on the teaching-learning procedures, focused on the learner, which encourages active participation and results in the development of general and specific competencies that provide knowledge, capacities and attitudes for their future professional careers.

### **Form of Assessment**

The form of assessment is based on the core principles of the educational assessment, i.e., an active and participative teaching-learning process focused on the learner. The instructor uses numerous and differentiated forms of assessment to calculate the final grade received for this course. For the record, these are listed below. The content, criteria and specific requirements for each assessment category will be explained in greater detail in class.

The final grade consists of three parts: class participation, daily work and exams

- **33% Active in-class participation**
- **33% daily work**
- **34% exams**

**Grading Scale goes from 0 to 10.**

<b>Numerical Grade Range</b>	<b>Letter grade</b>	<b>Percentage Range</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>A+</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>9.5 – 9.9</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>95 -99%</b>
<b>9 – 9.4</b>	<b>A-</b>	<b>90-94%</b>
<b>8.5 – 8.9</b>	<b>B+</b>	<b>85-89%</b>
<b>7.5- 8.4</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>75-84%</b>
<b>7 – 7.4</b>	<b>B-</b>	<b>70-74%</b>
<b>6.5 – 6.9</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>65-69%</b>
<b>6 – 6.4</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>60-64%</b>
<b>5 – 5.9</b>	<b>C-</b>	<b>5-59%</b>
<b>0-4.9</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>0-49%</b>

The final grade will be the average of active in-class participation, daily work and exams.

### **Attendance Policy**

Attendance is compulsory. In order to excuse any absence, students have to deliver a doctor's note or other valid justification.

An absence is equivalent to a session. Two late arrivals of more than 15 minutes will be considered an absence.

Any unjustified absence will negatively affect the students' final grade by lowering his/her participation grade.

The participation grade will be lowered as follows:

NÚMBER OF ABSENCES	PARTICIPATION
3 unjustified absences	- 30%
4 unjustified absences	- 40%
5 unjustified absences	- 50%

If a student has more than 5 unjustified absences, the PARTICIPATION GRADE will be zero (0).

Any student with 7 or more absences will NOT pass the course. Those students whose absences have been properly justified will get *No presentado* (N.P). Absences do NOT excuse the fulfillment of tasks, papers or essays.

### **Active Participation**

The methodology used in class demands from the student a daily participation regarding the following:

- ✓ Debates about different topics;
- ✓ Questions posed in class;
- ✓ Opinions and comments;
- ✓ Documents and texts.

<b>Criteria to evaluate participation</b>	<b>Grade</b>
The student very often contributes with important and original comments that encourage debate, using critical and analytical arguments clearly based on reading, investigation, daily work, and class work.	8.5 -10
The student frequently participates voluntarily and makes valuable contributions that are generally based on reflection and daily work.	7- 8.4
The student makes eventual comments, practically only when asked, and shows no clear interest in the course. The student does not start a debate nor shows a clear understanding of the importance of class/homework and readings.	5- 6.9
The student makes no comments at all, or makes irrelevant or distracting ones during class. This is usually a result from frequent absences or lack of preparation for the class.	0- 4.9

### **Readings:**

D. Leonard *Guide to the European Union*. The Economist, 2010.

Further readings will be provided by the teacher.

### **General Reference:**

Press and publications on current European events, especially TIME magazine, The Economist, and Le Monde Diplomatique (all available in the library).

Publications and press releases of the European Commission:

<http://europe.eu.int> + [www.europe.eu.int/eur-lex/en/index.html](http://www.europe.eu.int/eur-lex/en/index.html)

### **Online Reference & Research Tools:**

History Net <http://www.historynet.com>; The History Guide <http://www.historyguide.org>; Bridging World History <http://www.learner.org/channel/courses/worldhistory>, BBC History <http://www.bbc.co.uk/history>; History Today <http://www.historytoday.com/>  
The New York Times <http://www.nytimes.com/>; National Geographic <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/history>; The History Channel <http://www.history.com/topics/worldhistory> Annenberg Media: the Western Tradition.

### **Virtual Campus**

The university offers a virtual platform (Blackboard Collaborate) where students can revise contents, do their tasks and interact with the other members of the group.  
<https://campusvirtual.nebrija.es>

SESSIONS	TOPIC	READINGS
Introduction <b>The Idea of united Europe</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Introduction to the course.</li> <li>▪ Rules of the game.</li> <li>▪ Placing things in context: chronological overview of EU events</li> </ul>	Please, look at a map of the the Europe.
Week 1 <b>Early Construction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The origins and the construction</li> <li>▪ The European Identity: Meaning and development</li> <li>▪ An European culture?</li> </ul>	Leonard, Chs. 1 y 2
Week 2 <b>This is how we do it</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The European Project</li> <li>▪ Chronological sequence</li> <li>▪ Enlargements</li> <li>▪ Treaties</li> </ul>	Leonard Chs. 3
Week 3 <b>How is it Governed I</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Executive Branches.</li> <li>▪ The EU Comission</li> <li>▪ The European Council</li> <li>▪ The Council of Ministers</li> </ul>	Leonard, Chs. 4, 5, 6
Week 4 <b>How is it Governed II</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Legislative Branch.</li> <li>▪ The EU Parliament</li> <li>▪ EU Elections</li> <li>▪ EU Party System?</li> </ul>	Leonard, Chs. 7

<p>Week 5 <b>How is it Governed III</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The European Central Bank</li> <li>▪ The European Court of Justice</li> <li>▪ The Economic and Social Committee (ESC)</li> <li>▪ The Committee of the Regions (CoR)</li> </ul>	<p>Leonard, Chs. 8, 9, 13</p>
<p>Week 6 <b>The Money</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Why single currency?</li> <li>▪ The Euro: benefits and problems</li> <li>▪ What is happening today?</li> </ul>	<p>Leonard, Chs. 14, 16, 18</p>
<p>Week 7 <b>Enlargement I. Is Europe the EU?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ From 6 to 27</li> <li>▪ Center, West, South, East</li> <li>▪ Next station: The Balkans</li> </ul>	<p>Leonard, 37, 39</p>
<p>Week 8 <b>Enlargement II Where does Europe end?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Turkey: the neverending rejected</li> <li>▪ Ukraine, Belarus and... Russia?</li> <li>▪ Then what ?</li> </ul>	<p>Handout by Professor</p>
<p>Week 9 <b>Before and After Lisbon</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What was before?</li> <li>▪ What changes?</li> <li>▪ Do we need more?</li> </ul>	<p>Reading: Treaty of Lisbon</p>
<p>Week 10 <b>The Social Europe:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Unemployment in the EU</li> <li>▪ Gender policies</li> <li>▪ Social cohesion at risk</li> <li>▪ European Youth</li> </ul>	<p>Leonard, 23, 24, 32, 34</p>

<p>Week 11 <b>The EU and Spain</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ When, how, why</li> <li>▪ Democratic consolidation and the EU</li> <li>▪ Spaniards and the EU: Statistics from the Eurobarometer</li> <li>▪ Spain: everything under the sun?</li> </ul>	<p>Handout by Professor</p>
<p>Week 12 <b>The EU Crisis I</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Is economics the base of the EU?</li> <li>▪ When did everything start to go wrong?</li> <li>▪ Why did it go so wrong?</li> <li>▪ First casualties: Ireland and Greece</li> </ul>	<p>Handout by Professor</p>
<p>Week 13 <b>The EU Crisis II</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Germany and France: from Merkozy to Montihollande</li> <li>▪ Iberian Disaster: Portugal and Spain</li> <li>▪ Conclusion: The EU. Great future if it survives the present</li> <li>▪ Review for the final</li> </ul>	<p>Handout by Professor</p>