

# COURSE SYLLABUS



## European Union: Policies and Current Issues

**IRS 301**  
**Fall 2017**

**Lecturer: Zuzana Fellegi**

**Time: Thursdays 11.30 – 14.15**

**Room:**

Lecturer contact: zuzana.fellegi@aauni.edu

Office hours: Thursdays 14.15-15.15

<b>Semester Credits</b>	3	<b>Language of Instruction</b>	English
<b>ECTS</b>	6	<b>Level</b>	BA advanced
<b>Length</b>	15 weeks	<b>Pre-requisites</b>	EU related courses (EU integration, EU law, EU in global politics, etc.) & int. organisations recommended
<b>Contact hours</b>	42 hours	<b>Course type</b>	IR required

### 1. Course Description

The aim of the course is to provide a solid understanding of the EU institutions, decision-making and key policies in the light of main theories used in the EU studies. The course builds upon the EU integration course and it is divided into two parts. First - introductory part reviews milestones and logic of the EU integration; examines main integration theories and explores the EU institutions and formal as well as informal decision-making process and its shortcomings. Second part is devoted to the key EU policies including trade, agriculture, monetary policy, foreign policy and defense. All individual topics will be supplemented with concrete case studies analyzing major current problems and trends such as Eurocrisis, Brexit, migration crisis, Euroscepticism and extremism, energy security, etc.

### 2. Student Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- assess the process of the EU integration in the light of main theories used in EU studies
- understand the EU institutional processes and their impact on European, as well as non-European states and citizens
- critically analyze the EU's key policies and their internal and external impact
- understand main political processes and major trends in the EU
- provide possible solutions of present problems concerning the EU
- contribute effectively to the larger public conversation about the role and future development of the EU
- demonstrate effective writing and presentation skills

### **3. Reading Material (*Available in the Library or to Download via NEO*)**

Bache, Ian, Bulmer, Simon (2015). *Politics in the European Union*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Bomberg, Elizabeth, Peterson, John (2012). *The European Union: How Does it Work?* 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Bickerton, Christopher, Hodson, Dermot, Puetter, Uwe (2015). *The New Intergovernmentalism: States and Supranational Actors in the Post-Maastricht Era*. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Cini, Michelle, Perez, Nieves (2013). *European Union Politics*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. Oxford University Press

Craig, Paul (2013). *The Lisbon Treaty: law, politics, and treaty reform*. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Dinan, Desmond (2014). *Origins and evolution of the EU*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Foster Nigel (2015). *EU law*. 10<sup>th</sup> ed. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Habermas, Jurgen (2012). *The crisis of the European Union: a response*. Polity Press

Hix, Simon, Hoyland, Bjorn (2011). *The political system of the European Union*. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan

Keukeleire, Stephan (2014). *The foreign policy of the European Union*. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan

Knud Erik, Aarstad, Aasne (2015). *The SAGE handbook of European foreign policy*. Vol.1. Los Angeles. SAGE

Lagadec, Erwan (2013). *Transatlantic relations in the 21st century: Europe, America and the rise of the rest*. London; New York: Routledge

Wallace, Hellen, Pollack, Mark, Young, Alasdair (2010). *Policy-Making in the European Union*. 6<sup>th</sup> ed. Oxford University Press

### **4. Teaching methodology**

Each class will begin with a short revision of previous one. Presentation of new material will be interactive and students will be asked to give their opinions based on revised course material. Each class will present at least one case study. Last section of the class will be devoted to discussion of assigned material and students' presentations. Students are required to read assigned material prior to each class in order to participate actively. They also need to follow websites of discussed institutions and latest international news concerning the EU.

## 5. Course Schedule

Week 1 31.8	<b><u>History and logic of the EU integration</u></b> ; Assignment of presentation topics Reading: Bomberg 4-21
Week 2 7.9	<b><u>EU institutional architecture; democratic deficit</u></b> Reading: Bomberg 48 -73, 122-140
Week 3 14.9	<b><u>EU decision-making: Supranationalism vs Intergovernmentalism</u></b> Reading: Cini 341-366; TEU, TFEU, Constitution, Lisbon Treaty
Week 4 21.9	<b><u>Main theoretical approaches to the EU</u></b> Reading: Bache 1-82
<b>28.9</b>	<b><u>National holiday</u></b>
Week 5 5.10	<b><u>EU single market; European citizenship and identity</u></b> Reading: Wallace 382-399
Week 7 12.10	<b><u>Trade as a core policy</u></b> Reading: Cini 255-267
<b>Week 6 19.10</b>	<b><u>Midterm exam</u></b>
<b>26.10</b>	<b><u>AAU Holidays</u></b>
Week 8 2.11	<b><u>Agricultural policy reform and regional development</u></b> Reading: Bache 351-366
Week 9 9.11	<b><u>European monetary union</u></b> Reading: Bache 385-403
Week 10 16.11	<b><u>EU energy policy</u></b> Reading: Wallace 358-379
Week 11 23.11	<b><u>Development of foreign policy and defense</u></b> Reading: Bomberg 185-201, 203-223
Week 12 30.11	<b><u>EU migration crisis and rise of extremism</u></b> Reading: Cini 281-295
Week 13 7.12	<b><u>Further EU enlargement and exits? (Turkey, Ukraine, Brexit)</u></b> Reading: Bomberg 161-183
<b>Week 14 14.12</b>	<b><u>Final exam</u></b>

## 6. Course Requirements and Assessment (with estimated workloads)

Assignment	Workload (average)	Weight in Final Grade	Evaluated Course Specific Learning Outcomes	Evaluated Institutional Learning Outcomes
<b>A. Final exam</b>	40	20%	Subject knowledge acquired during the whole semester; ability to provide precise and correct answers; ability to concentrate and to react under time constraint	Critical thinking
<b>B. Midterm exam</b>	30	20%	Subject knowledge acquired during the first half of semester; ability to provide precise and correct answers; ability to concentrate and to react under time constraint	Critical thinking
<b>C. Presentation</b>	40	40%	Presentation skills; ability to explain the studied topic to peers and to identify key issues; subject knowledge; ability to discuss the case from different theoretical perspectives	Communication Critical thinking
<b>D. Preparation, participation, attendance</b>	40	20%	Regular and active attendance and participation; demonstration of regular preparation and subject knowledge acquired from the readings and media; ability to communicate an informed opinion	Communication Critical thinking
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>		

### **A.- B. Midterm and Final Exam**

Midterm exam will assess progress of students in the first half of the course - Weeks 1 to 7. Final exam will be comprehensive and students will be responsible for all topics covered in classes including student presentations as well as assigned readings (with emphasis on the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of semester). Both exams will be in-class multiply choice tests (closed book). There will be 40 questions per maximum 40 minutes which is a standard format used in the EU competition tests. Students should demonstrate that they have a good understanding of the most relevant issues and concepts and that they are able to provide swift and correct answers.

#### **Assessment breakdown**

Assessed area	Percentage
Ability to identify and define most relevant issues and concepts	50%
Ability to provide correct and precise answers	50%

### **C. Presentation**

Students will prepare a 20-minute presentation in front of the classroom accompanied with the power point presentation and 1-page outline. Topics and deadlines will be discussed at the beginning of the semester. Assignments must be submitted electronically [vai NEO/assignemnts](#) 4 days before the date of presentation. **Missing deadlines results in a lower mark (10% penalty for each day of delay).**

#### **Assessment breakdown**

<b>Assessed area</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Content</b> – recent, relevant and correct information; ability to explain main problems and suggest creative solutions; ability to apply and to demonstrate acquired knowledge from the course; ability to link the topic of the presentation to the overall topic of the class; ability to analyze and discuss the case from different theoretical perspectives	40%
<b>Form of oral presentation</b> - clear and free speech; good intonation; eye contact; positive body language; ability to stress the most important issues and to explain difficult concepts; quick and appropriate reactions to possible interventions; ability to attract and keep audience attention; ability to improvise; ability to provide interesting and relevant ad hoc examples if needed	35%
<b>Form of written presentation</b> – ability to design a balanced and well-structured power-point presentation and outline including short videos, maps, charts	25%

### **D. Class Preparation, Participation and Attendance**

This part includes evaluation of students’ verbal participation throughout the whole semester and attendance of classes. Students are asked to read assigned material regularly prior to each class and to apply knowledge from the reading to specific questions. Attendance is compulsory and missing classes or coming late will result in a lower mark.

#### **Assessment breakdown**

<b>Assessed area</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Participation</b> – ability to raise relevant questions and to provide correct and insightful answers concerning discussed topics	80%
<b>Attendance</b> – regular attendance and attentive participation without disruptive elements such as late arrivals and the use of electronic devices for other than class purposes	20%

## **7. General Requirements and School Policies**

### ***General requirements***

All coursework is governed by AAU’s academic rules. Students are expected to be familiar with the academic rules available in the Codex and Student Handbook and to maintain the highest standards of honesty and academic integrity in their work.

### ***Electronic communication and submission***

The university and instructors shall only use students’ university email address for communication. It is strongly recommended that any email communication between students and instructors takes place in NEO LMS.

All electronic submissions are carried out through NEO LMS. No substantial pieces of writing (especially take home exams and essays) can be submitted outside of NEO LMS.

## **Attendance**

Attendance is required. The university recommends, as a minimal policy, that students who are absent 35 percent of the course should be failed (or administratively withdrawn from the course even if the absences are excused; for more see the Student Handbook).

### **Absence excuse and make-up options**

Should the student be absent from a class for relevant reasons (illness, serious family matters), s/he needs to submit an Absence Excuse Form supplemented with documents proving the reasons for absence to the Assistant Dean. Should a student be absent during the add/drop period due to a change in registration this will be an excused absence if they submit an Absence Excuse Form along with the finalized add/drop form. The form and documents must be submitted within one week of absence. If possible, it is recommended to inform the instructor about the absence in advance.

Students whose absence has been excused by the Dean are entitled to make up exams they missed provided that the nature of the exam allows for a make-up. The students are responsible for contacting their instructor within one week from the date the absence was excused, and for making arrangements with the instructor about make-up options as necessary.

### **Unexcused absences**

Students are allowed two unexcused absences. Absences above this number may result in failure of the course.

### **Late work**

Missing deadlines results in a lower mark (10% penalty for each day of delay).

### **Electronic devices**

**Electronic devices (phones, tablets, laptops...) may NOT be used in classes.** All presentations are available at the NEO and students are invited to write the notes out by hand. Use of electronic devices will result in being marked absent and/or being expelled from the class. No electronic devices may be used during the tests.

**Eating** is not allowed during classes.

### **Cheating and disruptive behavior**

If a student engages in disruptive or other conduct unsuitable for a classroom environment of an institution of learning, the instructor may require the student to withdraw from the room for the duration of the activity or for the day and shall report the behavior to the Dean.

Students engaging in behavior which is suggestive of cheating (e.g. whispering or passing notes) will, at a minimum, be warned. In the case of continued misbehavior the student will be expelled from the exam and the exam will be marked as failed.

### **Plagiarism and Academic Tutoring Center**

Plagiarism is "the unauthorized use or close imitation of the language and thoughts of another author and the representation of them as one's own original work." (Random House Unabridged Dictionary, 2nd Edition, Random House, New York, 1993)

Turnitin's White Paper 'The Plagiarism Spectrum' (available at <http://go.turnitin.com/paper/plagiarism-spectrum>) identifies 10 types of plagiarism ordered from most to least severe:

1. CLONE: An act of submitting another's work, word-for-word, as one's own.
2. CTRL-C: A written piece that contains significant portions of text from a single source without alterations.
3. FIND-REPLACE: The act of changing key words and phrases but retaining the essential content of the source in a paper.
4. REMIX: An act of paraphrasing from other sources and making the content fit together seamlessly.

5. RECYCLE: The act of borrowing generously from one's own previous work without citation; To self plagiarize.
6. HYBRID: The act of combining perfectly cited sources with copied passages—without citation—in one paper.
7. MASHUP: A paper that represents a mix of copied material from several different sources without proper citation.
8. 404 ERROR: A written piece that includes citations to non-existent or inaccurate information about sources
9. AGGREGATOR: The "Aggregator" includes proper citation, but the paper contains almost no original work.
10. RE-TWEET: This paper includes proper citation, but relies too closely on the text's original wording and/or structure.

As the minimum policy the types of plagiarism from 1 through 8 results in the failing grade from the assignment and must be reported to the Dean. The Dean may initiate a disciplinary procedure pursuant to the Academic Codex. Allegations of bought papers and intentional or consistent plagiarism always entail disciplinary hearing and may result in expulsion from AAU.

If unsure about technical aspects of writing, students are encouraged to consult their papers with the tutors of the AAU Academic Tutoring Center. For more information and/or to book a tutor, please contact the ATC at: <http://atc.simplybook.me/sheduler/manage/event/1/>.

### **Students with disabilities**

Students with disabilities are asked to contact their instructor as soon as possible to discuss reasonable accommodation.

## **8. Grading Scale**

<b>Letter Grade</b>	<b>Percentage*</b>	<b>Description</b>
A	95 – 100	<b>Excellent performance.</b> The student has shown originality and displayed an exceptional grasp of the material and a deep analytical understanding of the subject.
A-	90 – 94	
B+	87 – 89	<b>Good performance.</b> The student has mastered the material, understands the subject well and has shown some originality of thought and/or considerable effort.
B	83 – 86	
B-	80 – 82	
C+	77 – 79	<b>Fair performance.</b> The student has acquired an acceptable understanding of the material and essential subject matter of the course, but has not succeeded in translating this understanding into consistently creative or original work.
C	73 – 76	
C-	70 – 72	
D+	65 – 69	<b>Poor.</b> The student has shown some understanding of the material and subject matter covered during the course. The student's work, however, has not shown enough effort or understanding to allow for a passing grade in School Required Courses. It does qualify as a passing mark for the General College Courses and Electives.
D	60 – 64	
F	0 - 59	<b>Fail.</b> The student has not succeeded in mastering the subject matter covered in the course.

\* Decimals should be rounded to the nearest whole number

**Approved by:**