



INSTITUTE FOR AMERICAN
UNIVERSITIES
FRANCE • SPAIN • MOROCCO



The AMERICAN COLLEGE
of the MEDITERRANEAN

SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

SEM 2 2021/2022

POL 307

3 CREDITS

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Office hours: by appointment

THE EUROPEAN UNION: INTEGRATION, ENLARGEMENT, UNITY

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

The construction of the European Union represents one of the most important efforts toward peaceful international cooperation in world history. This course offers a comprehensive study of the origins, evolution, and impact of the European Union. It will equally look at the current institutions and policies that make the European Union a global actor today. The course will also examine underlying challenges facing the European Union such as nationalism, state-sovereignty, supranational governance, the fallout from Brexit, and the future of enlargement.

II. COURSE OBJECTIVES

- This course will explain the historical and political backdrop to the formation of the European Union and diplomatic process leading to its enlargement.
- Lectures will cover the institutional framework and the complex process of producing and implementing EU policies.
- The class will research and explore the prospects and problems facing the EU and monitor current developments through newspaper articles and case studies.

III. LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- identify key issues and moments in the history of European integration
- distinguish the various EU institutions and their roles
- recognize the primary policy challenges within the various realms of EU competence
- question the dominant narratives surround headline EU controversies

IV. INSTRUCTIONAL METHODS AND ACTIVITIES

The course will consist of both lecture and group discussions based on weekly readings from the textbooks, current newspaper articles, and academic journal articles. Student-generated discussions and oral presentations will constitute a significant portion of the instruction.

V. PRIMARY TEXTBOOKS AND MATERIAL

- Daniel Kenealy et al., *The European Union: How Does It Work?*
- John McCormick, *Understanding the European Union: A Concise Introduction*
- Selected articles

Students will also be expected to read the news on a daily basis and keep up to date on issues affecting the European Union and its member states.

VI. EVALUATION AND GRADING

Class participation: 20% - Students will be expected to come prepared and to participate in class discussions, to take an active role in various in-class simulations, and to prepare at least one short presentation during the semester. Each student will be expected to become an expert on a single EU member state and to explain policy issues from that country's perspective.

Reading quizzes: 20% - Students will be given periodic short reading quizzes focused on basic knowledge and understanding of the previous week's reading assignment.

Mid-term exam: 25% - The mid-term exam will require students to write two short essay responses in an in-class, closed-book exam.

Final research project: 35% - The final assignment for the course will be a five-page policy brief presenting research on an aspect of EU policy from the perspective of the EU country of your choice.

VII. ATTENDANCE

One of the primary requirements this semester is that you come to class on time, prepared for the lesson, and ready to participate in discussion and activities. Attendance will be part of your final grade. Two unexcused absences will be tolerated, after which further unexcused absence will affect the final grade. Excused absences include those linked to IAU excursions, illness (a medical certificate is required), and emergencies. Absence from a field study counts double.

VIII. CALENDAR

1. History: integration and enlargement

- The pre-war context
- Post-war integration and expansion
- The Post-Communist period

2. Institutions

- The Commission, the European Council and the Council of the European Union
- The Parliament
- European Court of Justice
- NGOs and Lobbying
- The policy process

Mid-Term Exam

3. Policies

- Monetary Union
- Agriculture and fishing
- Energy and climate
- Justice
- Foreign policy and the European Army debate

4. Current Issues, Debates and Perspectives

- Brexit and its aftermath
- Immigration and asylum
- Populist discontent and democratic backsliding
- Debt, austerity, and the Greek crisis
- The democratic deficit
- The uncertain future of union

IX. FIELD-STUDY

Visit to the EU Commission in Brussels.