



SELF PROGRAM 2022/2023

European Union: Integration and External Perspectives

Robert Sherratt

Course information

Number of credits: 6 credits

Contact hours: 30 hours

Hours taught per week: 2,5 hours

Teaching period: fall semester 2021

Course description

The course begins by studying the historical evolution of the EU, theories of European integration and the EU's institutional framework. The dynamics and difficulties of the integration process are then considered taking into account the issue of sovereignty and the balance of power/conflict of interests paradigm. Key policies, such as the CAP and the building of the Single Market, are linked to the concept of ever closer union.

The second part of the course studies the place of the EU in the wider world and globalized market place. EU environment, trade, immigration and foreign policies are studied in the general context of the effectiveness of the EU as an actor on the world stage. The efficiency of the EU's soft power stance is considered, linked as it is to the question of EU credibility in an unstable world.

Course break-down

Part 1: Historical evolution, Institutions, Theories of Integration.

Part 2: The dynamics of integration, key policies in the promotion of ever closer union. The long road to cohesive directionality. The EU budget. The question of European Identity

Part 3: External perspectives : EU Environment Policy. EU Trade Policy. EU Foreign and Security Policy, including Migration Policy.

Prerequisites:

A need for some knowledge of political science and an interest in EU member states and European history.

Course objectives:

To give students insights into the workings and politics of the European Union, both on the local and global levels, through knowledge of European institutions, policies and commercial and foreign policy strategies.

To allow students to analyze EU policies and strategies and compare them with those of other countries/trading blocs through knowledge of key policies like the Emissions Trading System. The overall objective is to give the students a global view of how the EU functions, and what it is trying to achieve in the world.

Assessment:

60% final written exam (in class)

30% group mark

10% classroom participation

Attendance:

In order to participate, students must be present. Nevertheless, a maximum of 2 (two) unexcused absences will be allowed; otherwise no mark will be given.

An unexcused absence at a test (final test or continuous assessment) means no credits for the course.

Bibliography:

Understanding the European Union: A Concise Introduction, John McCormick, 5th Edition, Palgrave, Macmillan 2011