



APPLIES TO ACADEMIC YEAR 2005/2006

GRA 5912 European Union Politics: EU Institutions and the Single Market

Program

Master of Business and Economics Program, Master of Science in Management, Specialization Course

Responsible for the course

Nick Sitter

Department

Public Governance

Term

According to study plan

ECTS Credits

6

This is the School's introductory European Union MSc course. It requires no previous knowledge. It has been designed for the MSc in Political Economy, but may be taken as one of four courses in the Minor on the European Union (MSc Business). The focus is on the EU's political and economic institutions, and the Single European Market in particular.

The central themes include development of the EU, its institutions and decision making, and core policy areas associated with the Single Market

Objective

This course provides an introduction to the political and economic system of the European Union. It is designed to provide students with tools and frameworks for analysing the impact of the current process of closer economic integration and the constitutional development of the European Union. Central questions cover the forces that drive European integration, and its limits; key actors, preferences and institutions in the EU policy making processes; central features of the Single Market; and EU policy regimes. It is sometimes suggested that the EU is a somewhat unique political system – a regulatory state – and in the light of this debate the EU is analysed from a comparative politics and political economy perspective. The course covers the evolution of European integration up to and including the current constitutional convention. It provides an introduction to the institutions of the EU the decision making processes, including a 'firms-eye' perspective on European integration. The core theme is the development of the internal market. Students will gain thorough knowledge of the EU institutions and decision making processes and policy outcomes, as well as practical experience in obtaining information about and analysing EU policy developments. Given the interdependence between the national and supranational levels, the course provides an essential basis for the further specialisation courses in the MSc in Political Economy degree.

Prerequisites

Bachelor's degree in Business, Marketing or eq.

Compulsory literature

Books:

Hix, S.. 2004. The Political System of the European Union. New York: Palgrave Macmillan
Peterson, John and Michael Shakleton, eds.. 2002. The Institutions of the European Union.. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Collection(s) of articles:

Compendium of Journal Articles, including articles/chapters by P. Taylor, A. Moravcsik, P. Pierson, W. Wessels, S. Hix, S. J. Bulmer, G. Tsebelis/G. Garrett, G. Majone, A. M. Burley/W. Mattli, F. W. Schaprf, H. Wallace etc.

Recommended literature

Books:

Arnall, Anthony and Daniel Wincott, eds.. 2002. *Accountability and Legitimacy in the European Union*.. Oxford: Oxford University Press
Andersen, Svein S. and Kjell A. Eliassen, eds.. 2001. *Making Policy in Europe: The Europeification of National Policy-Making*. London: Sage
El-Agraa, Ali M., ed.. 2004. *The European Union: Economics and Policies*.. 7th ed. Harlow: FT Prentice Hall.
George, Stephen and Ian Bache.. 2001. *Politics in the European Union*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
Hitiris, Theo.. 2003. *European Union Economics*. New York: FT Prentice Hall.
Levitt, Malcolm and Christopher Lord.. 2000. *The Political Economy of Monetary Union*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
Nugent, Neil. 2003. *The Government and Politics of the European Union*.. 5th ed. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
Wallace, Helen and William Wallace.. 2000. *Policy-Making in the European Union*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Other:

Individual journal articles and book chapters available in the library and/or electronically will be recommended as further reading.

Course outline

1. The EU political and economic system. The history of the EU. Theories of European integration. The course also introduces the relationship between the EU and EFTA countries and the operation of the European Economic Area.
2. The European institutions: the Council of Ministers, the Commission, the Court of Justice, the European Parliament; and decision making procedures.
3. The Single European Market and related market regulation: competition policy, company rules, and social and environment policies; Economic and Monetary Union
4. Developments in justice and home affairs, including police cooperation, counter-terrorism; and security, defence and foreign policy, including the EU-NATO and EU-US relationships.
5. Current developments in constitutional, institutional and treaty reform: the Convention and Intergovernmental Conferences; enlargement of the EU and relationship with neighbouring states.

Computer-based tools

None

Course structure

Evaluation

40% in class assessment, 60% final written exam

Evaluation code(s)

GRA59122

Aids at the examination

Bilingual dictionary

Makeup exam

Re-takes are only possible at the next time a course will be held. When course evaluation consists of class participation or process elements, the whole course must be re-evaluated when a student wants to retake an exam. Retake examinations entail an extra examination fee.

