



APPLIES TO ACADEMIC YEAR 2010/2011

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

### **Programme**

Master of Science in Business and Economics, Master of Science in Political Economy, Specialization Course

### **Responsible for the course**

### **Department**

### **Term**

According to study plan

### **ECTS Credits**

6

### **Language of instruction**

English

### **Introduction**

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. 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 and its institutions, and core policy areas associated with the Single Market.

### **Learning outcome**

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. 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 degree qualifying for admission to the MSc Programme

### **Compulsory reading**

#### **Books:**

El-Agraa, Ali M., ed. 2007. The European Union : economics and policies. 8th ed. Cambridge : Cambridge University Press

From, Johan and Nick Sitter, eds. 2006. Europe's nascent state? : public policy in the European Union. Oslo : Gyldendal akademisk

Hix, Simon. 2005. The political system of the European Union. 2nd ed. Basingstoke : Palgrave Macmillan

Peterson, John and Michael Shackleton, eds. 2006. The Institutions of the European Union. 2nd ed. Oxford : Oxford University Press

#### **Other:**

During the course there may be hand-outs and other material on additional topics relevant for the course and the examination.

### **Recommended reading**

**Books:**

Andersen, Svein S. and Kjell A. Eliassen, eds. 2001. Making policy in Europe. 2nd ed. London : Sage Publications

Arnall, Anthony and Daniel Wincott, eds. 2002. Accountability and legitimacy in the European Union. Oxford : Oxford University Press

Bache, Ian and Stephen George. 2006. Politics in the European Union. 2nd ed. Oxford : Oxford University Press

Hitis, Theo. 2002. European Union economics. 5th ed. New York : Prentice Hall, Financial Times

Levitt, Malcolm and Christopher Lord. 2000. The political economy of monetary union. Basingstoke: Macmillan

Nugent, Neill. 2010. The government and politics of the European Union. 7th ed. Basingstoke : Palgrave Macmillan

Wallace, Helen, William Wallace and Mark A. Pollack, eds. 2010. Policy-making in the European Union. 6th ed. 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 policies: competition policy, company rules, and social and environment policies
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. Enlargement of the EU and relationship with neighbouring states.

**Computer-based tools**

It's learning

**Learning process and workload**

A course of 6 ECTS credits corresponds to a workload of 160-180 hours.

Please note that while attendance is not compulsory in all courses, it is the student's own responsibility to obtain any information provided in class that is not included on the course homepage/It's learning or text book.

**Examination**

Your course grade will be based on the following activities and weights:

30% Class work (in the form of a mix of some/ all of the following: hand in of case write ups, projects, and homeworks; case presentations and class participation; in class midterm and quizzes).

A final written paper( individual) accounts for 70% of the grade.

Both parts of the evaluation need to be passed in order to get a grade in the course.

Specific information regarding student evaluation beyond the information given in the course description will be provided in class. This information may be relevant for requirements for term papers or other hand-ins, and/or where class participation can be one of several elements of the overall evaluation.

This is a course with continuous assessment (several exam elements) and one final exam code. Each exam element will be graded using points on a scale (e.g. 0-100). The elements will be weighted together according to the information in the course description in order to calculate the final letter grade for the course. You will find detailed information about the point system and the cut off points with reference to the letter grades on the course site in It's learning.

**Examination code(s)**

GRA 59122 accounts for 100 % of the final grade in the course GRA 5912.

**Examination support materials**

A bilingual dictionary.

Exam aids at written examinations are explained under exam information in our web-based Student handbook. Please note use of calculator and dictionary.  
<http://www.bi.edu/studenthandbook/examaids>

**Re-sit examination**

It is only possible to retake an examination when the course is next taught.

The assessment in some courses is based on more than one exam code.

Where this is the case, you may retake only the assessed components of one of these exam codes.

Where this is not the case, all of the assessed components of the course must be retaken.

All retaken examinations will incur an additional fee.

**Additional information****Honor Code**

Academic honesty and trust are important to all of us as individuals, and represent values that are encouraged and promoted by the honor code system. This is a most significant university tradition.

Students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the ideals of the honor code system, to which the faculty are also deeply committed.

Any violation of the honor code will be dealt with in accordance with BI's procedures for cheating. These issues are a serious matter to everyone associated with the programs at BI and are at the heart of the honor code and academic integrity. If you have any questions about your responsibilities under the honor code, please ask.