

## Joint Hybrid Course

### European Integration

#### Conflicts, Institutions, Policies, and Cohesion, II

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##### Faculty

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#### Course Description

This course offers a general introduction to the European Union and European integration, its institutions and policies as well as conflicts which arise. It will pay special attention to economic, social, and foreign policies, and their impact of cohesion. The course is based on three premises. Firstly, although European integration means well to all Europeans, its costs and benefits are unevenly distributed across individuals, social groups, and regions. Secondly, support for European integration and related EU policies is to a great extent determined by utilitarian choices and at times is driven by national interests, so this uneven distribution endangers the EU, creates East-West political divide and mistrust on the grassroots level. Finally, it is crucial for us Europeans – EU as well as European citizens, professionals, scholars - to recognise the nature and causes of such divide and mistrust in order to understand the other side (the EU of institutions), engage in the dialogue, accept the responsibility and minimise potential conflicts.

This course is experimental and it brings together the students from the University of Siegen in Germany and Yuriy Fedkovych Chernivtsi National University in Ukraine. The Moodle serves as transnational educational platform bringing together the educational process across Europe.

## Topics

1. The idea of Europe and the evolution of the EU
2. What is the European Union for?
3. The single market, the euro, and other efficiency policies
4. The EU budget and redistributive policies
5. Migration policies
6. External relations: trade, security and other foreign policies
7. EU and Eastern neighbourhood
8. Gender mainstreaming in the EU
9. Cultural diplomacy and its impact on foreign policy
10. Education policies
11. Europe for citizen
12. The citizen connection: public opinion and elections in the EU  
*(which topics will be covered depends on the class pace)*

## Learning Outcomes

By the end of our course, you should be able to do the following:

- √ Have a broad understanding of how the European Union works;
- √ Identify key policies, concepts and examples for understanding European integration;
- √ Understand socio-political constraints of European integration and cohesion;
- √ Summarize and critically assess academic papers and news about the EU;
- √ Apply your understanding of the European integration to interpret events around you and in your own lives;
- √ Build a bridge with the students from the partner-university and involve in the discussion with them.

## Grading Scheme and Assignments

Academic value of the course is 6 ECTS credits:

| <b>Assignment</b>  | <b>% of total course grade</b> |
|--|--------------------------------|
| <b>3ECTS without a grade</b>   |                                |
| <b>Discussion participation</b>  | 60%                            |
| (1) Online discussions at Moodle platform  | 30%                            |
| - to start 2 threads discussion (Week 1, W-3, W-6, W-8)                                  |                                |
| - to respond to 2 discussions initiated by other student-colleagues                      |                                |
| (2) Video conference discussions   | 30%                            |
| - active participation in at least 4 discussions during the face-to-face online meetings |                                |

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| <b>Writing Assignment 1:</b> The EU, its internal and external challenges (Week 2)   | 10%             |
| <b>Writing Assignment 2:</b> Education policies (Week 4) (Week 7) <b>Deadline: 15.12.2020</b>  | 10%             |
| <b>Writing Assignment 3:</b> Week 9 Writing Group Assignment – Strengths and weaknesses of the EU foreign policies                   | 10%             |
| <b>Deadline: 12.01.2021</b>  | 10%             |
| <b>Writing Video Assignment 4:</b> What does it mean for you Europe for Citizens? (Week 12 Final Project) <b>Deadline: 2.02.2021</b> |                 |
| <b>Extra 3ECTS with a grade</b>  |                 |
| <b>Final Exam</b>  | Additional 100% |

### ***1. Discussion participation***

(30% of course grade): Each online discussion topic will be posted in the Discussion area of the classroom. You are expected to

- contribute to each discussion within the time frame posted
- respond to your classmates, both to advance the discussion and to deepen your understanding of the topic
- read the assigned materials in advance; these are to be informed discussions, and your postings should help further each one
- check your submissions for correct spelling and grammar
- cite all of your sources fully and accurately, including page numbers.

Your participation grade will cover both your original posting and your responses to at least two classmates' postings.

***Online discussions*** are hosted on the Moodle which allows you to meet your classmates from your own university as well as the partner-university. Read more instruction to every discussion on Moodle.

Assigned materials under Course Content > Learning Resources for each week will serve as your tour guide to the fascinating study of European studies from the interdisciplinary perspective. You are expected to do the course readings beforehand. All necessary texts and other handout materials are provided online at Moodle (moodle.uni-siegen.de). Moodle Enrolment Key: **Euroint2020**.

### ***2. Writing Assignment 1 Week 2 - The EU and its internal and external challenges***

(worth 10% of your grade) Cover the Week 2 Study Materials and think about the EU role in the international context, think of challenges the EU faces especially as the result of Brexit\* (Point 1). Are there any other current challenges which are not mentioned in your study materials? (Point 2) For instance, COVID 19. As many countries close their national borders (also the EU member states), can we consider this as a challenge of separated countries (nation-states) or it is as well a challenge for the EU and the international community. (Point 3)

Cover all these three points in the 500-words summary and post in online in this assignment folder. Please make sure to use academic sources to validate your argument. Format your citations in APA style.

### ***3. Writing Assignment Week 7 – Educational policies***

(10% of course grade).

Cover the Week 7 Study Materials and think about the EU role in increasing the international competitiveness of the European higher educational space. Reflect on the following questions:

What is the role of universities and higher education in advancing the EU sustainable development as well as for economic development and a source for innovative ideas to resolve present-day problems? (Part 1)

We looked at the EU's billion-dollar student and scholar exchange program called ERASMUS, which has reshaped higher education in Europe. What is your personal experience with ERASMUS? What is the power of study abroad for forging new identities? (Part 2)

Answer these questions in the 500-words (+100) summary and post in online in this assignment folder. Please make sure to use academic sources to validate your argument. Format your citations in APA style.

### ***4. Writing Assignment 3 – Week 9 Writing Group Assignment – Strengths and weaknesses of the EU foreign policies***

(worth 10% of your grade)

In your small group, think and discuss political, economic, cultural and social advantages and disadvantages of the EU foreign policies as a supranational institution. Write together an essay of 2 pages, front 12 Times New Roman (not including your cover page and reference page). Please make sure to use academic sources to validate your points. Use proper academic citations style (it is up to you which one).

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### ***5. Video Assignment 4 – Week 12: What does it Mean for you Europe for Citizens?***

(worth 10% of your grade) In the group of 5 make a video project (approx. 5 minutes) dedicated to one of the following subjects:

*Doing Europe means for us...*

*Europe for citizens has to include...*

*How does the EU impact our everyday life...*

In your submission folder insert the link of the video project and the text of the video.

### ***5. Final Examination***

(extra 3ECTS with a grade): You will complete and submit your final examination in the last week. The final examination will be comprehensive and may cover materials from readings, assignments, class and online discussions. The final examination is "take-home" examination, i.e., open-book and not proctored. The final exam may contain terms to define, short-answer questions, and essay questions. Your instructor will post the final examination questions in your online classroom during the last week of the course. You will have a 72-hour period to complete the final examination (at home) as take-home final, and submit your

completed exam to your online assignments folder. In your completed examination document, please provide a complete list of any and all reference sources (including course textbooks, course modules, and internet sites and resources) used to prepare your answers to the final examination, using appropriate citation format (APA citation style).

The examination period: Feb 12 – Feb 14. **Deadline Feb 14 23:59**

## Course Headlines, Reading Schedule and Important Dates

|           |   |  |
|-----------|---|--|
| <b>W1</b> | <b>04.11.2020</b><br>8:30 - 10:00 DE time<br>9:30 - 11:00 UA time<br><a href="#">the online class</a> | Introduction into the seminar: goals, means, methods<br>Week 1 Study Materials on Moodle<br>Online discussions on Moodle:<br><b>Week 1 Forum - Introduce Yourself</b><br><b>Week 1 Discussion - European vision</b>  |
| <b>W2</b> | <b>11.11.2020</b><br>8:30 - 10:00 DE time<br>9:30 - 11:00 UA time<br><a href="#">the online class</a> | The idea of Europe and the evolution of the EU<br>Week 2 Study Materials on Moodle<br>Online Assignment on Moodle:<br><b>Week 2 Assignment - The EU and its internal and external challenges</b> Edit title  |
| <b>W3</b> | <b>18.11.2020</b><br>8:30 - 10:00 DE time<br>9:30 - 11:00 UA time<br><a href="#">the online class</a> | What is the European Union for?<br>Week 3 Study Materials on Moodle<br>Online discussion on Moodle:<br><b>Week 3 Discussion 'What the EU does for its citizens'</b>  |
| <b>W4</b> | <b>25.11.2020</b><br>8:30 - 10:00 DE time<br>9:30 - 11:00 UA time<br><a href="#">the online class</a> | <b>Topic: The single market, the euro: efficiency policies</b><br><u>Before the online class</u><br>PREPARE&READ before the online class: Week 4<br>Study Materials on Moodle<br>DO before the online class: prepare for the ECB discussion<br><u>Online class:</u><br>1) Discussion of the ECB discussion<br>2) Discussion of the study materials<br>3) Feedback from the students: what can we improve in our class? |
| <b>W5</b> | <b>02.12.2020</b><br>8:30 - 10:00 DE time<br>9:30 - 11:00 UA time<br><a href="#">the online class</a> | <b>Week 5 - The EU budget and redistributive policies</b><br><u>Before the online class</u><br>READ: Week 5 Reading Materials on Moodle<br>DO: Week 5 Discussion – How does EU budget works?   |

|           |                                  |   |
|-----------|----------------------------------|---|
|           |                                  | <u>Online class:</u>  |
|           |                                  | 1) Discussion on The EU budget and redistributive policies  |
|           |                                  | 2) Discussion of the study materials  |
|           |                                  | 3) Feedback from the students: what can we improve in our class?  |
| <b>W6</b> | <b>9.12.2020</b>                 | <b>Week 6 - Migration policies</b>  |
|           | 8:30 - 10:00 DE time             | PREPARE&READ before the online class: Week 6  |
|           | 9:30 - 11:00 UA time             | Study Materials on Moodle   |
|           | <a href="#">the online class</a> | <u>Before the online class</u>  |
|           |                                  | PREPARE for a discussion in the online class: What are the key issues related to migration in the EU? Is there coherent migration policy in the EU? |
|           |                                  | <u>Online class:</u>  |
|           |                                  | 1) Discussion on Migration and migration policies   |
|           |                                  | 2) Discussion of the study materials  |
|           |                                  | 3) Feedback from the students: what can we improve in our class?  |
| <b>W7</b> | <b>16.12.2020</b>                | <b>Week 7 - Educational policies</b>  |
|           | 8:30 - 10:00 DE time             | <u>Before the online class</u>  |
|           | 9:30 - 11:00 UA time             | PREPARE&READ before the online class:   |
|           | <a href="#">the online class</a> | PREPARE for a discussion in the online class:   |
|           |                                  | Writing Assignment Week 7 – Educational policies  |
|           |                                  | <b>Deadline: 15.12.2020</b>   |
|           |                                  | <u>Online class:</u>  |
|           |                                  | 1) Discussion of the Educational policies of the European Union   |
|           |                                  | 2) Discussion of the study materials  |
|           |                                  | 3) Feedback from the students: what can we improve in our class considering the EU education policy?  |
| <b>W8</b> | <b>06.01.2021</b>                | <b>Week 8 - Gender policies</b>   |
|           | 8:30 - 10:00 DE time             | <u>Before the online class</u>  |
|           | 9:30 - 11:00 UA time             | PREPARE&READ: Week 8 Study Materials on Moodle  |
|           | <a href="#">the online class</a> | DO: Week 8 Discussion on Gender policies: Gender policies - what is it about? (2 sentences) + Do we need gender policies? (3 sentences)             |
|           |                                  | 1) Discussion on Migration and migration policies   |
|           |                                  | 2) Discussion of the Gender Policies  |
|           |                                  | 3) Feedback from the students: what can we improve in our class?  |
| <b>W9</b> | <b>13.01.2021</b>                | <b>Week 9 - External relations and foreign policies</b>   |
|           | 8:30 - 10:00 DE time             | <u>Before the online class</u>  |

9:30 - 11:00 UA time [the online class](#) PREPARE&READ: Week 9 Study Materials on Moodle

DO: Week 9 Writing Group Assignment – Strengths and weaknesses of the EU foreign policies

**Deadline: 12.01.2021**

Online class:

- 1) Discussion of the EU external relations and foreign policies
- 2) Discussion of the reading materials
- 3) Feedback from the students: Do we miss something?

**W10 20.01.2021**

8:30 - 10:00 DE time

9:30 - 11:00 UA time

[the online class](#)

**Week 10 - European cultural diplomacy and foreign policy**

Before the online class

PREPARE&READ before the online class: Week 10 Study Materials

PREPARE for a discussion in the online class: What are the key elements of the cultural diplomacy? How does it work through foreign policies?

Online class:

- 1) Discussion on EU Cultural diplomacy and foreign policy
- 2) Discussion of the reading materials
- 3) Feedback from the students: Do we miss something?

**W11 27.01.2021**

8:30 - 10:00 DE time

9:30 - 11:00 UA time

[the online class](#)

**Week 11 - EU and Eastern neighborhood**

Before the online class

PREPARE&READ before the online class: Week 11 Study Materials

DO: Week 11 Discussion: Think of the following questions. Why is the EU adopting a new policy framework for the Eastern Partnership beyond 2020? How will the EU help create jobs and opportunities in Eastern partner countries? You say the EU will work with the Eastern partners to tackle common challenges, what about Coronavirus? You one question to start a discussion.

Online class:

- 1) Discussion on European Neighborhood Policy
- 2) Discussion of the reading materials
- 3) Feedback from the students: what to do next?

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|--|---|
| <b>W12</b> <b>03.02.2021</b><br>8:30 - 10:00 DE time<br>9:30 - 11:00 UA time<br>the online class | <b>Week 12 - Europe for citizen</b><br><u>Before the online class</u><br>PREPARE&READ: Week 12 Study Materials on Moodle<br>DO: Video Assignment 4 – Week 12: What does it Mean for you Europe for Citizens? <b>Deadline: 2.02.2021</b><br><u>Online class:</u><br>1) Discussion your video projects<br>2) Discussion of the reading materials<br>3) Feedback from the students: what to do next? |
| <b>W13</b> <b>10.02.2021</b><br>8:30 - 10:00 DE time<br>9:30 - 11:00 UA time<br>the online class | <b>Week 13 - Final discussion</b>   |
| <b>W14</b> Feb 12 – Feb 14   | <b>Final exam</b> <b>Deadline Feb 14 23:59</b>  |

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