European Integration: Structures and Governance

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| **Credit level:**5 |
| **Length:** Semester 1 |
| **ECTS credit value:** 8 |
| **College and School:** Lazarski University in Warsaw, Faculty of Economics and Management  |
| **Module Leader:** prof.Paweł Borkowski |
| **Host Course:** BA International Relations  |
| **Pre-requisites:** N/A |
| **Co-requisites:**N/A |
| **Special features:**N/A |
| **Access restrictions:**N/A |
| **Summary of module content:** The module offers a wide perspective on European integration as a historical cumulative process that includes institutional setting (European Union and other structures), normative dimension plus political culture and innovative forms of governance. The overreaching question is whether EU is effective in being current and evolving institutional expression of European civilisation. It is studied through the analysis of European Union, its history, institutions and specific policies, European subregional structures and enlargement process. The challenges to the emergence of multilevel European political system are also discussed. Last part of module addresses the current problems including legitimisation, possible differentiation and challenges to normative order. |

**Assessment Methods***.*

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| Rank | Assessment type | Assessment name | Weighting | Qualifying set (where the minimum mark required applies across multiple assessments) |
| 1 | Coursework | Policy Brief | 25 |  |
| 2 | In-Class Test | In-class test | 25 |
| 3 | Coursework  | Research paper | 50 |

**Synoptic assessment**

N/A

**Learning outcomes**

By the end of the module the successful student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the intellectual and political visions of the integration process in Europe, both historical and current, and critically analyze their implications for the future of Europe.
2. Understand how civil society is engaging in the process of European integration and how citizens can take part in the process of emergence of multi-level European political system.
3. Be familiar with institutions and policies of the European Union and critically assess their roles in shaping the political landscape of Europe.
4. Analyse the political implications of the integration process for national political systems, including different visions and its political manifestations.
5. Examine and discuss the role of subregional cooperation structures in modern Europe, examining their contributions to both regional stability and European integration.
6. Analyse the origins of the current crisis of the European Union and critically address the visions for future prospects of European integration.

**Course outcomes the module contributes to:**

* L5.4 An appreciation for the regional dynamics of International Relations, with specific focus on the politics of Europe, the Middle East, Asia and Africa.
* L5.5 An understanding of the varieties of approaches to understanding, constructing and interpreting the international system, especially through concepts and theories derived from the social sciences.
* L5.7 An understanding of the responsibilities of global citizenship, especially as it relates to conceptions of civic responsibility and global engagement through cross-cultural and cross- national perspectives

L5.8 An ability to successfully complete tasks that are transferrable to an appropriate professional employment setting.

* L5.9 Develop the skills to work collaboratively as well as individually in a learning and research environment.

**Indicative syllabus content**

* Integration as an academic term and political process
* European culture: Diffusionism and Universalism
* European Others: Eastern Europe, Central Europe, Balkans
* Concepts of European Integration and ‘Founding Fathers’
* The EU Political Institutions and Policies
* The EU Governance and Territoriality
* The EU and differentiated integration
* Europe’s Promises: European Way of Life: Welfare and Sustainable Development
* Europe in crises: migration flows, democratic deficit and delegitimization, rule of law
* Enlargement, europeisation and de-europeisation
* EU as an actor in international relations
* Future visions and projects of European Integration

**Teaching and learning methods**

The module consists of three different forms of teaching: pre-recorded lecture, available online throughout the semester (asynchronized learning); weekly seminars in group around 30 students and workshops in groups around 15 students. Additionally, two classes will be led by external experts, providing an in-depth discussion of the year's most pressing topics. Students will be required to read materials for weekly seminars and prepare policy briefs on a chosen topic, pass an in-class test and prepare a research paper.

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| Activity type | Category | Student learning and teaching hours\* |
| Lecture | Scheduled | 30 |
| Seminar | Scheduled | 45 |
| Tutorial | Scheduled |  |
| Project supervisor | Scheduled |  |
| Demonstration | Scheduled |  |
| Practical classes and workshops | Scheduled | 15 |
| Supervised time in studio/workshop | Scheduled |  |
| Fieldwork | Scheduled |  |
| External visits | Scheduled |  |
| Work based learning | Scheduled |  |
| Scheduled online learning | Scheduled |  |
| Other learning | Scheduled |  |
| Total scheduled |  | 90 |
| Placement | Placement |  |
| Independent study | Independent | 110 |
| Total student learning and teaching hours |  | 200 |

\*hours per activity type are indicative and subject to change.

**Assessment rationale: why has this assessment been used for this module?**

**Policy briefs (1000 words).** Students will work in pairs, each preparing a policy brief but arguing for opposing views on a given issue. Briefs’ topics will be connected to the seminar content and their list will be presented at the beginning of the semester. Briefs can have a form of policy recommendations and reports on public consultation process and institutional activities. Their purpose is to link academic knowledge with communication skills and enable students to engage in public debate as citizens. Working in pairs will also teach students to cooperate with each other and provide an opportunity to analyze different points of view (LOs 2, 4 and 5)

**In-class test (open-ended questions, 45 minutes**) presents an occasion to check the academic knowledge delivered in the class and through readings required during the module. It checks facts, terminology and students’ familiarity with the basic EU documents, necessary to understand the dynamics of European integration (LOs 1 and 3).

**Final: a research paper (2500 words**). It enables students to engage in a longer, more demanding project. They will be encouraged to consult about the work during the semester before the final delivery. It will help them to understand the complexity of multi-level political systems and how the actors engage in political process. It will also contribute to the development of their analytical skills. Here too, students will be informed about the ethical considerations of AI usage in academic work. (LOs 1 and 6).

**Assessment criteria: what criteria will be used to assess my work on this module?**

**Policy briefs** will be assessed based on the following criteria carrying equal weight: (1) clarity and structure, (2) analytical depth and evidence, (3) relevance and practicality of recommendations, (4) writing quality

**In-class test** will be assessed on the correctness of the answer – it checks knowledge of facts and terminology necessary to engage in the deeper discussion about Europe and European integration.

**The paper** will be evaluated on the basis of five equally weighted criteria, each worth 20% of the paper mark: the quality of writing (relevance, coherence), the use of evidence, the quality of argument and analysis, the understanding of context and factual accuracy, and the use of references and citations.

The assessments will examine to what extent the student has demonstrated ability to:

* Evaluate the key intellectual and political visions of European integration and assess their impact on the future direction of Europe.
* Examine how civil society influences the European integration process and the role of citizens in shaping the emerging multi-level political system.
* Critically assess the role and influence of EU institutions and policies in shaping Europe’s political framework.
* Analyze the political impact of European integration on national political systems, highlighting differing national perspectives and their political consequences.
* Assess the impact of subregional cooperation structures on regional stability and their contribution to European integration.
* Investigate the roots of the EU crisis and evaluate potential future paths for European integration.

**Sources**

**Primary Sources**

Treaty of the European Union, Treaty on the functioning of the European Union

Official webpages and documents of European Union’s institutions

Official webpages of Benelux Union, Norden and Vysehrad Group

Official webpages of European Parliament political fractions

**Essential Readings**

Delanty, G., 1995. *Inventing Europe. Idea, Identity, Reality*, Palgrave Macmillan.

Dinan, D., 2014. *Europe Recast: A History of European Union*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Nugent, N. 2017, *The Government and Politics of the European Union*, Palgrave Macmillan, 8th edition = or Cini M. 2022, *European Union Politics*, Oxford Univ. Press 2022, 7th edition

Brent F. Nelsen and Alexander Stubb (eds.) 2004/2014 *The European Union: Readings on the Theory and Practice of European Integration*, 3rd or 4th edition, Palgrave Macmillan

**Recommended readings**

Beck, U., 2014. *German Europe*, Cambridge: Polity.

Christiansen T., Reh Ch., *Constitutionalizing European Union*, Palgrave Macmillan 2009

Corner, M., 2014. *The European Union: An Introduction,* London: I.B. Tauris.

Giddens, A., 2015. *Turbulent and Mighty Continent. What Future for Europe?* Cambridge: Polity.

Habermas J., 2013. *The Crisis of the European Union. A Response*. Cambridge: Polity.

Hill, S., 2010. *Europe’s Promise. Why the European Union is the Best Hope in an Insecure Age*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Todorova, M., 2009. *Imagining the Balkans*, Oxford, Oxford Univ. Press.

Wallerstein, I., 2006. *European Universalism. The Rhetoric of Power*, London: New Press.

Zielonka, J., 2014. *Is the EU doomed?* Cambridge: Polity.

Kenealy, D., Peterson, J. Corbett, R., 2015. *The European Union: How Does it Work?* Oxford: Oxford University Press.