

Name:	Dr. Ulrich Brückner
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Course title:	European Studies
Language of instruction:	English
Contact hours:	48 (6 per day)
ECTS-Credits:	4

Course description

The course will introduce the basics of the European Union and describe and explain the processes of widening and deepening of this unique political entity. This will cover an overview of European Union history, its evolution in economic and political terms as well as of its institutional structure up to today.

The focus of the course will be internally on the state of EU integration and the need for reform, as well as externally on the international role of the EU in general in the relations between the EU and the USA, Russia and the Ukraine in particular. Turkey as a candidate for EU membership will be discussed regarding the question where Europe ends, but also to analyze issues of identity, energy security and in general costs and benefits of EU membership.

The morning sessions consist of lectures, literature-based discussions and oral presentations from working groups. After lunch the course will visit various institutions in Germany's political center. Students will have the chance to discuss the topics from the morning sessions with international experts from political institutions, embassies and think tanks.

Student profile

Students from different countries, academic levels and backgrounds who are generally interested in European integration will benefit from each other in an intercultural and interdisciplinary learning process.

Former classes consisted of regular students and practitioners such as civil servants, communication experts, young politicians and even members of parliaments.

The course does not require special knowledge about European politics, law, history or culture, but participants should be interested in more than just their field of specialization.

In-class participation, especially in the discussions with experts, is essential for the course success and plays an important role in grading.

Prerequisites

The course is designed for students with different academic backgrounds and a general interest in Europe. There are no special prerequisites for the course.

Course requirements

Attendance; active participation in the seminar's discussions and discussions with experts; oral and written presentation of a certain subject.

Grading

Participation: 40%,
 Oral presentations: 30%,
 Final paper: 30%

Reading

See course schedule. A course reader will be provided.

Course schedule

Date	Program
Friday, January 5, 2018	History of European Integration Excursion to the German Museum of History
Tuesday, January 9, 2018	Institutions and Decision-Making Excursion to a German Federal Ministry
Thursday, January 11, 2018	The Euro and the financial crisis Excursion to a financial institution
Friday, January 12, 2018	The EU as an international actor Excursion to a think tank
Tuesday, January 16, 2018	The EU, the USA, Russia and the Ukraine Excursion to the German Federal Foreign Office
Thursday, January 18, 2018	Enlargement: To join or not to join? - The impact of the EU on the new EU member countries and candidate countries Excursion to a Lobbying Agency
Friday, January 19, 2018	Immigration and Asylum Policy / Demographic Trends Excursion to an Embassy
Tuesday, January 23, 2018	Energy Policy and climate change - An EU perspective and outlook Europe 2020 and 2030 - Two programs for the future of Europe