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Course title:	European Union – Between Integration and Crisis
Track:	B-Track
Language of instruction:	English
Contact hours:	72 (6 per day)
ECTS-Credits:	6

Course description

The course will introduce the basic principles of the European Union and describe the processes of widening and deepening of this unique political entity. At the beginning, we will review the genesis of the world's only supranational organization that led to cooperation between member states and a peaceful development on the continent unseen in previous centuries. As the European Union is defined and perceived largely through the prism of its institutions, we will examine their role in pushing the process of the integration forward.

Since EU policies are the frame of its institutions, we will look into the European foreign, economic, environmental, and immigration policy frame in the light of its history since the 1950s. The analysis will entail a discussion of foreign policy cases like Libya and Syria, but also the Ukraine, and in particular of the policy scheme regarding the ongoing mass migration. Furthermore, Europe's response strategy to the bank and state crisis in face of its threat to the social standards in Europe (e.g. Greece) will be focused. In this context, we will also discuss possible learning effects in the aftermath of the economic crisis and whether it is only a matter of time before such a crisis happens again. Moreover, the European climate and energy policy will be critically reviewed. We will study the consequences of the climate agreement from Paris for the EU member states and look into the repercussions for the energy sector.

Having determined the factors contributing to the deepening of the EU through its institutions, we will discuss the factors which determine the willingness of different countries to join the EU and thus to contribute to its widening. In this regard, Europe's role as an international actor will be discussed with a special focus on the European role towards Russia and Turkey on the one hand, as well as the Ukraine and Georgia on the other hand. Finally, we will discuss the prospects for the future development of the European Union and the challenges it is facing in a rapidly changing and complex world.

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. 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.

Prerequisites

The course is designed for students with different academic backgrounds and a general interest in Europe. A good command of English is prerequisite for this class.

Course requirements

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

Grading

Participation: 40%
 Presentation: 30%
 Final Test: 30%

Reading

A course reader will be provided.

Course schedule

Date	Program*
Tuesday, June 7, 2016	History of the European integration – What factors determined the institutional structure of the European Communities and its development into the European Union? 1. Introduction to the course and organization 2. From the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community (TEEC) to the Treaty on EU (TEU) – a history survey of the economic and political unification process after WWII
Friday, June 10, 2016	European institutions and decision-making – Who is deciding: Why, how and when? What are the changes introduced by the Lisbon Treaty? 1. Three pillars of the EU 2. Europe of fatherlands or fatherland of Europe
Tuesday, June 14, 2016	European economic policy – From chequebook diplomacy to "Suddenly Europe is speaking German"? 1. What was the impact of the Economic crisis on the European economy? 2. The Greece case in the light of European traditions Field trip to a European embassy*
Friday, June 17, 2016	European environmental policy – From the "European Coal and Steel Community" to a "Renewable Energy and Climate Change Mitigation Union"? 1. How "green" is the European energy policy? 2. Is the EU (still) the leader in the fight against

	<p>climate change? What is the impact of the Paris Agreement on the European climate policy?</p> <p>Field trip to the German ministry of the environment*</p>
Tuesday, June 21, 2016	<p>European foreign policy – the long-durée issue in EU's internal politics. What is Europe's answer to global warfare?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An army for the United States of Europe? 2. Conflict management: looking at the case of the Ukraine, Libya, and Syria
Friday, June 24, 2016	<p>The EU extension – to join or not to join?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enlargements until 1991 and after 2. EU and the “others” - Is the European enlargement at a deadlock? The cases of Turkey and Russia
Tuesday, June 28, 2016	<p>Countermovement in Europe</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Referendum in the United Kingdom 2. Catalan independency movement in Spain
Friday, July 1, 2016	<p>Enqueuing countries</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The example of Georgia 2. The example of the Ukraine
Tuesday, July 5, 2016	<p>European immigration policy – FRONTEX and Human Rights in face of the Dublin treaty. Migration as risk and chance.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are causes and impacts of the current mass migration to the European societies and economies of the European Union? 2. What is the EU's response strategy? <p>Field trip to the Berlin branch of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees*</p>
Friday, July 8, 2016	<p>Europe 2020 and 2030 - Europe of the two speeds? The return of a debate</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Juncker demands a core Europe 2. Solidarity as core value of EU culture <p>Field trip to the European Academy Berlin (meeting with Prof. Dr. Eckart Stratenschulte)*</p>
Tuesday, July 12, 2016	<p>The future of the EU</p> <p>Guest lecture from the EU representation in Berlin*</p>

	Remaining student presentations
Friday, July 15, 2016	Final Test (90 minutes) Concluding analysis: Joint summary of the course

*Field trips may be subject to change depending on the availability of speakers. On field trip days adaptation of class times is possible.