

Online course title:	The European Union in the 21. Century: Internal and External Challenges
Instructor:	Dr. Ulrich Brückner
Email address:	ulib@zedat.fu-berlin.de
Track:	B-Track
Language of instruction:	English
Contact hours:	The coursework corresponds to an on-site course amounting to 48 contact hours.
ECTS credits:	5
Prerequisites:	Students should be able to speak and read English at the upper intermediate level (B2) or higher.
General requirements:	Please make sure to be online approximately from 8 am CEST to 12:30 pm CEST on the respective course days! Therefore, please check the possible time difference between Germany and your country of residence. We also recommend that you make sure to have a quiet and appropriate working space. To ensure a comfortable learning environment for all, please adhere to general netiquette rules.
Technical requirements:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- stable internet connection- fully functional device, such as computer, laptop or tablet (use of smart phones not recommended), headset recommended- recommended operating systems: Windows 7 or higher or Mac OS X 10,13 or higher, avoid using a VPN

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.

Internal politics and policies, for example the decision-making process, the balance of power, identity and democratic questions in this new system of governance will be discussed. Likewise in the realm of external affairs, the Common Foreign and Security Policy, relations with neighbors and with developing countries will be our concern. Particularly important aspects include the discussion on relations with the UK after Brexit, the future of transatlantic relations and how the EU is dealing with China's and Russia's alternative models of governance. We will discuss migration as well as the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. If students express specific interests in other topics or case studies sessions can be adjusted.

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 or invite distinguished guests to class. 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 specific prerequisites for this course.

Required language skills

The language of instruction is English. Language proficiency on an advanced Intermediate level (Mittelstufe II) is a prerequisite for participation. For orientation purposes, you can assess your language skills here (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR):

<https://rm.coe.int/CoERMPublicCommonSearchServices/DisplayDCTMContent?documentId=090000168045bb52>

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 or exam:	30%

Reading

A course reader will be provided.

Course schedule

Date	Program*
Tuesday, July 20, 2021	History of European Integration Excursion or guest speaker in the afternoon (e.g. former German Ambassador to the EU)
Friday, July 23, 2021	Institutions and Governance Excursion or guest speaker in the afternoon (e.g. EU desk officer at the German Federal Foreign Office and / or role play with Schwarzkopf Foundation)
Tuesday, July 27, 2021	EU Foreign and Security Policy in a multipolar world Excursion or guest speaker in the afternoon (e.g. political analyst from a think tank, German Marshall Fund or European Council on Foreign Relations)
Friday, July 30, 2021	Legitimacy, Democracy and Rule of Law in the EU Excursion or guest speaker in the afternoon (e.g. an Ambassador of a Central European country)
Tuesday, August 3, 2021	EU Enlargement and Brexit Excursion or guest speaker in the afternoon (e.g. an EU desk officer from Ireland or the UK)
Friday, August 6, 2021	Economic Integration and the Euro Excursion or guest speaker in the afternoon (e.g. an expert from the German Federal Reserve or Ministry of Finance)
Tuesday, August 10, 2021	Priorities of the European Commission: Economic recovery and solidarity Excursion or guest speaker in the afternoon (visit to the European House)
Friday, August 13, 2021	The Future of Europe Final Discussion.

*Field trips are subject to change depending on the availability of appointments and speakers. On field trip days, class hours may be adjusted.