

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
Prerequisites:	Students should be able to speak and read English at the upper intermediate level (B2) or higher.
Contact hours:	48 (6 per day)
ECTS-Credits:	5

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. We study the causes and effects of the war in Europe, its geopolitical dimension and how it affects policies and relations with neighbors and other parts of the world. 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

Course requirements

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

Required language skills

The language of instruction is English. Language proficiency on an advanced intermediate level (B2) 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>)

Grading

Participation:	40%
Oral presentations:	30%
Final paper or exam:	30%

Readings

A digital course reader will be provided.

Course schedule

Date	Program*
Tuesday, July 26, 2022	European Integration as a peace project / War in Europe Excursion or guest speaker in the afternoon (e.g. former German Ambassador to the EU)
Friday, July 29, 2022	Institutions and Governance Excursion or guest speaker in the afternoon (e.g. EU desk officer at the German Federal Foreign Office)
Tuesday, August 02, 2022	EU Foreign and Security Policy in a multipolar world Excursion or guest speaker in the afternoon (e.g. political analyst from a think tank)
Friday, August 05, 2022	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 09, 2022	EU Enlargement and Brexit Excursion or guest speaker in the afternoon (e.g. an EU desk officer from Ireland or the UK)
Friday, August 12, 2022	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 16, 2022	Priorities of the European Commission: Economic recovery and solidarity, Climate change and sustainability Excursion or guest speaker in the afternoon (visit to the European House)
Friday, August 19, 2022	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.