

European Integration: Theory and Political Process

2014/2015

Code: 42453
ECTS Credits: 10

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
4313335 Ciència Política / Political Science	OT	0	1

Contact

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Use of languages

Principal working language: anglès (eng)
Some groups entirely in English: No
Some groups entirely in Catalan: Yes
Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

Teachers

Ana Mar Fernández Pasarín

Prerequisites

1. European integration and EU institutional system

Introduction to the study of European integration

The historical process of European integration

The EU institutional system before and after the Lisbon Treaty

The decision-making process: agenda-setting, initiative, formulation and implementation of European policies

2. Theories of European integration

Federalism, neofunctionalism, intergovernmentalism, liberal intergovernmentalism, multilevel governance, the EU as a political system

New institutionalism

3. Data sources in the study of the EU

4. EU institutional processes

Negotiation in legislative processes

Legislative - executive relationships

Delegation of executive power: comitology and specialized agencies

Europeization of interest groups

5. EU policies

EU cohesion policy

EU energy policy

EU climate change policy

Objectives and Contextualisation

The purpose of this module is to introduce students with the history and institutional processes of the European Union, as well as to provide them with theoretical and methodological tools that are required for studying the process of European Integration. The module is intended to help students successfully write a research paper and develop research skills for PhD applications.

The module overviews the different phases of European Integration, the modes of EU governance and the different conceptualizations applied to EU policy, politics and policies. The module is divided in a set of thematic lectures by professors from the UAB and visiting scholars from different European Universities.

Skills

- Applied theoretical knowledge acquired from the analysis of real situation and using political analysis generate useful orientations for decision-making.
- Demonstration reading comprehension for specialist texts in English.
- Recognise the complexity of politics today, its diversity and the tensions to which it is exposed, with special emphasis on the Spanish and European contexts.
- Understand the design, operation and consequences of the political institutions and their relation to processes of governance.
- Work in international and interdisciplinary teams whose members have different origins and backgrounds.

Learning outcomes

1. Analyse the most relevant European policies from the point of view of economic and social cohesion and sustainability
2. Apply the different theories on integration and European governance to specific cases.
3. Define theories of governance in the European Union and on Europisation
4. Demonstration reading comprehension for specialist texts in English.
5. Differentiate between the different agents operating in the European Union: their actions, interest and resources
6. Identify the role of political agents at different levels of government in the drawing up and implementation of European policies
7. Recognise the different regulatory, economic and social elements that are necessary for understanding European Union policy
8. Work in international and interdisciplinary teams whose members have different origins and backgrounds.

Content

The course is structured in the following blocks:

1. European integration and EU institutional system

Introduction to the study of European integration

The historical process of European integration

The EU institutional system before and after the Lisbon Treaty

2.Theories of European integration

Federalism, neofunctionalism, intergovernmentalism, liberal intergovernmentalism, multilevel governance, the EU as a political system

New institutionalism

3. Data sources in the study of the EU

Exploring the main data sources in the study of EU institutional processes

4. EU institutional processes

Legislative - executive relationships

Delegation of executive power: comitology and specialized agencies

Europeization of interest groups

Subnational governments in the EU

5.EU policy-making and policies

EU policy-making

EU employment and energy policies

Methodology

The methodology is based on the following learning activities:

- Activities in the classroom directed by the faculty, during the scheduled time during the semester. These activities can be theoretical or practical. Theoretical activities consist of presentations by professors followed by discussions. For proper development of the activity, prior reading of the literature and related materials is required. Practical activities will consist of oral presentations and data collection exercises.

- Activities performed by students under the supervision of the professor. These activities mostly include the elaboration of papers.

- Autonomous activities performed by students, both individually and collectively. Students will organize their time and work. These activities include readings and study of bibliography, data search, preparation of oral presentations and preparation of evaluation activities.

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Type: Directed			
Lectures and seminars	63	2.52	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Type: Supervised			
Tutorials	50	2	1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 7

Type: Autonomous

Preparation of assigned readings	100	4	4
Preparation of course assignments	34.5	1.38	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Evaluation

The evaluation is based on active participation during the course (20%), presentation and discussion of papers (30%), and a final assignment of 3,000 words (50%).

Students must choose a topic and submit a 3-page paper proposal by December. The paper proposal should include:

1. A clearly stated research question
2. A hypothesis or expected answer to the research question
3. A brief review of the theoretical debates on the topic
4. A short description of how to answer the research question

IMPORTANT: Attendance is compulsory (at least 80% of the sessions)

Evaluation activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Assignments	0,50	1.25	0.05	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Participation	0,20	0.5	0.02	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Tutorials	0,30	0.75	0.03	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Bibliography

General references:

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Dinan, D. (2010), 'Institutions and Governance: A New Treaty, a Newly Elected Parliament and a New Commission', *Journal of Common Market Studies*, Vol 48 Annual Review pp. 956-118.

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Hix, S. And B. Hoyland (2012), *The Political System of the European Union*, New York: Palgrave.

Kassim, H. et al. (2013) 'The European Commission of the 21st Century', OUP.

Moravcsik, A. (1998) *The Choice for Europe: Social Purpose and State Power*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.

Van Middelaar, L. (2013) 'The Passage to Europe. How a Continent Became a Union', Yale Univ. Press.

Wallace, H., W. Wallace and M. Pollack (2005), *Policy Making in the European Union*, New York: Oxford University Press,