

European Integration: Theory and Political Process

Code: 42453
ECTS Credits: 10

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
4313335 Political Science	OT	0	2

Contact

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Use of languages

Principal working language: english (eng)

Teachers

Nuria Esther Font Borrás
Berta Barbet Porta
Marc Guinjoan Cesena
Enrique Hernandez Perez

External teachers

Javier Arregui
Nuria González Campana

Prerequisites

Basic knowledge on the European integration process

Remedial readings:

Bomberg, E., J. Peterson and A. Stubb (eds) (2008), *The European Union: How Does it Work?*, Oxford University Press.

Cini, M. (ed) (2009), *European Union Politics*, Oxford University Press.

Dinan, D. (2004), *Europe Recast. A History of European Union*, Palgrave Macmillan.

Dinan, D. (2005), *Ever closer union?: An introduction to European integration*, Boulder. Co.

Hix, S. And B. Hoyland (2012), *The Political System of the European Union*, Palgrave (Spanish version in McGraw Hill).

Nugent, N. (2010), *The Government and Politics of the European Union*, Palgrave Macmillan.

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 other 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 europeanization.
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 divided into five main sections:

I. European integration: An Introduction

Introduction to the study of European integration

The idea of Europe and the historical process of European polity building

II. Government and Governance in the EU

The EU institutional system before and after the Lisbon Treaty

The EU as a political system: presidential, semi-presidential or parliamentary?

III. Theories of European integration

(1) Federalism, (new)functionalism and intergovernmentalism

(2) New institutionalism as an intermediate theory

(3) Newinstitutionalism and Europeanization

IV. EU Policy-making

Policy-making in the EU (1): Agenda-setting, formulation, negotiation and decision

Policy-making in the EU (2): Implementation of EU policies

Legitimacy and democracy in the EU

V. Institutional Processes. Themes and Perspectives

Themes and Perspectives (1) Political parties and political party system in the EU; European Elections; Populism and Euroscepticism

Themes and Perspectives (2) Contemporary challenges and debates: Economic Governance in the EU, Brexit, Internal Secession

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 and in-class presentations (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. An 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	0,70	2	0.08	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
Participation	0,30	0.5	0.02	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8

Bibliography

General references:

Aspinwall, M. y G. Schneider (2000), 'Same menu, separate tables: The institutionalist turn in political science and the study of European integration', *European Journal of Political Research*, Vol. 38, pp. 1-36

Bomberg, E., J. Peterson and A. Stubb (eds) (2008), *The European Union: How Does it Work?*, Oxford University Press.

Cini, M. (ed) (2009), *European Union Politics*, Oxford University Press.

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.

Dinan, D. (2011) 'Governance and Institutions: Implementing the Lisbon Treaty in the Shadow of the Euro Crisis', *Journal of Common Market Studies*, Vol.49, Annual Review, pp.103-121.

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