



Study abroad.

SYLLABUS

ECONOMIC INTEGRATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Instructor: Dr. Andreas Staab

Contact Hrs: 39

Language of Instruction: English

LONDON, ENGLAND (ILACA)

Course Description

The course will provide a comprehensive examination of the processes of European economic integration, and offers a critical analysis of EU policies in their broader political-economic context. In addition, the course also addresses the peculiar and often problematic relationship between Great Britain and the EU, while also focusing on the external dimension of Europe in the global economy.

The course is therefore divided into three parts: Part I gives an insight into the main historical currents and analyses the key institutional mechanisms for economic decision making. Part II analyses the main economic policies, which continue to shape the integration processes of the EU including the Single Market, Economic and Monetary Union, cohesion or the Common Agricultural Policy, as well as the environment. In Part III the course focuses on the EU's external policies which have an effect on non-EU and accession countries ranging from External Trade and the WTO to enlargement.

Course Objectives

The course does not require any previous knowledge in European affairs, or indeed a background in economics or other social sciences. Through taking this course students will gain a thorough understanding not only of the EU and its key actors and activities, but also of the extent to which economic policies shape societies.

Instructional Methodology

The course places a high emphasis on pro-active teaching methods (such as court-room and summit simulations, or SWOT analyses, group discussions) with the pedagogic aim of processing recently acquired information (such as lectures, the studying of books and articles) in a conducive, pro-active manner. As such, student presentations (see Method of Evaluation below) often form the basis of intense group discussions and analyses. In addition to standard lectures, the course also integrates a number of TV documentaries.

Study Visits

- Outside of the class room the course also aims to integrate a number of study visits. We will rely to some extent on the nearby London School of Economics; one of the world's top universities, which regularly invites public speakers of extremely high caliber, while also organizing topical debates and panel discussions on matters that are closely related to this course. For instance, during the spring of 2009, the LSE organized public events on such topics as global responses to the credit crunch, the future of the Euro, as well as the current global trade regime.
- Subject to confirmation, students will participate in a study visit to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).
- The course also includes a guest speaker: Dr Charles Dannreuther from the University of Leeds who will lecture on the EU's Environmental Policy.

Method of Evaluation (Grading)

1. Presentations, Class Participation, Workshop: 25 %
2. First Essay: 25 %
3. Second Essay: 25 %
4. Final Exam: 25 %

1. Presentations, Class Participation

Over the course of the semester, students are required to give one presentation per term. Presentations should be **no longer than 15 minutes** and should provide the seminar group with a discussion base. Hence, presentations ought to cover key factual points, but should also give some 'food for thought'. In addition the presentation should also highlight one internet source of your choice and should offer fellow students advice on the suitability of this source (informative, accurate, good/bad points, etc.)

2. Take Home Essays

Over the course of the term, students will be given two take home essays. The first essay will be handed out after the completion of Part I. Likewise the second essay will concentrate on topics relating to Part II. The essays are 'take-home exams' and proper referencing, footnotes and a bibliography (at least five sources per essay should be consulted) are expected. There is a strict space limit of **1000 words**.

3. Final Exam

On our final day of class, we will be writing our final exam which covers topics addressed in Part III. Students are allowed to use their course notes. However, books, articles, print-outs and laptops/computers are not permitted.

4. Grading System

Students can achieve a combined maximum of 25 points for your presentation and class participation, as well as 25 points each for the mid-term exam, the extended essay and the final exam. The total number of your points will translate into the following grade:

A:	94 - 100 points
A minus:	88 - 93 points
B plus:	81 - 87 points
B:	76 - 80 points
B minus:	70 - 75 points
C plus:	65 - 69 points
C:	60 - 64 points
C minus:	55--59 points
D:	50-54 points
F:	0 – 49 points

Course Readings

- Andreas Staab. *The European Union Explained*. Indiana University Press 2008

This book does not represent an in-depth analysis of the EU, but is instead designed as an accessible introduction for those readers who do not possess any knowledge of European affairs. As such, students are strongly advised to regard the book as elaborate lecture notes, which necessitate the use of additional, academic sources, including the ones listed below. The contents of this book correspond to the outline of this course with the exception of our session on the environment, which the book does not cover.

Other Reference Texts:

1. Ali M. El-Agraa, *The European Union: History, Institutions, Economics and Politics*, Prentice Hall, 2004.
2. H. Wallace and W. Wallace. *Policy Making in the EU*. Oxford University Press. 2005
3. Desmond Dinan. *Ever Closer Union: An Introduction to European Integration*. Palgrave, 2005
4. Garcia, Clayton and Hopley. *The Students' Guide to European Integration*. Polity Press, 2004
5. N. Nugent. *The Government and Politics of the European Union*. London: Macmillan, 2006.

Essential Reference Sources:

1. **Official Web Site of the EU:** <http://europa.eu.int>
2. **The Financial Times:** www.ft.com
3. **The Economist:** www.economist.co.uk
4. **European Voice** - a weekly newspaper published by *The Economist*, covering EU news.
5. **Euractiv.com**. an internet portal sponsored by the Commission on a large range of topics.

Course Outline

Based on 13 weeks, with two sessions of 75 minutes per week; a total of 26 sessions

- **Part I: Understanding the European Union**

Sessions 1 to 3 Historical Analysis of European Integration: From Paris to Nice

Sessions 4 and 5 Institutional Mechanisms in the European Union

Session 6 **First visit** to the LSE public lecture

- **Part II. Common Policies**

Session 7 and 8 The Single Market and Competition

Sessions 9 to 12 Economic and Monetary Union:

Sessions 13 Common Agricultural Policy

Session 14 **Study Visit** to the EBRD

Session 15 and 16 Cohesion

Session 17 **Guests Lecture** on the Environment

- **Part III. External Policies**

Session 18 and 19 Enlargement

Session 20 and 21 Common Foreign and Security Policy

Session 22 **Second Visit** to the London School of Economics

Session 23 and 24 External Trade

Session 25 Revision

Session 26 Final Exam

Course Program

- **Historical Analysis of European Integration: From Paris to Nice**

Sessions 1 to 3

Questions:

1. What is Europe
2. Is there anything that divides Europeans?
3. Is there anything that Europeans have in common?
4. What are the key issues facing the EU in the next ten years?
5. How similar/different is the EU from other political systems?

Essential Reading: Dinan, Ch. 1-6

Additional Reading: Garcia et.al, Ch.1

- **EU Institutional Mechanisms:**

Sessions 4 and 5

Questions:

1. How similar/different is the EU from other political systems?
2. What are the powers of the Commission, the Council (of Ministers) and the European Council?
3. Why has the Council delegated certain powers to the Commission?
4. Can the EJC influence the direction of European integration?
5. Is the Commission a 'government', a 'bureaucracy' or a 'regulatory agency'?

Essential Reading: Dinan, Ch. 7-8

Further Reading:

Nugent ch. 6-8

Commission Web Site: http://europa.eu.int/comm/index_en.htm

Council Web Site: <http://ue.eu.int/en/summ.htm>

El Agra, ch.3

- **Session 6: First Public Lecture at the London School of Economics**

- **The Single Market and Competition**

Session 7 and 8

Questions:

1. How is market regulation different to redistribution?
2. Has the Single Market resulted in the erosion of national differences and idiosyncrasies? Has Europe lost its cultural variety?
3. Is EU competition policy free market or interventionist?

Essential Reading: Dinan, ch.13

Further Reading: El Agra, Ch. 8, 9

Garcia et.al, Chs.12, 17.. Wallace, ch.4-5

- **The Euro:**

Sessions 9 to 12

Questions:

1. What are the economic and political costs and benefits of EMU?
2. What explains the adoption of the EMU project?
3. How can 'asymmetric shocks' be dealt with in EMU?

Essential Reading: El Agra. Chs. 5, 17, Dinan, ch.15

Further Reading: Garcia et.al. Ch.13. L.Cram, ch.16. Wallace, ch.6. Dinan, ch.16

- **The Common Agricultural Policy**

Session 13

Questions:

1. What explains the establishment of the CAP and why it is so difficult to reform?
2. Why are farmers more influential than consumers in the EU policy process?
3. What implications did the 2004 enlargement have for the CAP?

Essential Reading: Dinan, ch.12

Further Reading: El Agra, Ch.11, Garcia et.al, ch.14.. Wallace, ch.7

- **Session 14: Study Visit to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development**

- **Cohesion and Redistribution**

Sessions 15 and 16

Questions

1. Is EU cohesion policy simply a 'side-payment' to buy support for European integration?
2. Has EU cohesion reduced economic disparities in the EU?
3. How important are regions and sub-national interests in shaping EU cohesion policies?

Essential Reading: El Agra ch. 18, 19.

Further Reading: Garcia et.al, Ch.15. Wallace, ch.9. L.Cram, ch.9

- **Environment: Guest Speaker Dr Charles Dannreuther, University of Leeds**

Session 17

Essential Reading: Wallace and Wallace, Ch. 11

- **Enlargement**

Session 18 and 19

Questions:

1. What impact has the fourth enlargement had on the working and agenda of the EU?
2. What explains the agenda and speed of EU enlargement?
3. What are the costs and benefits of eastern enlargement for the EU?
4. Should Turkey join the European Union

Essential Reading: Dinan, ch.5

Further Reading: Garcia et.al, Ch.21. El Agra, Ch. 24, Wallace, ch.16. L.Cram, ch.14

- **Common Foreign Policy**

Session 20 and 21

Questions:

1. Who represents the EU abroad?
2. In global politics, does the EU pursue more than an economic agenda?
3. What are the instruments, which the EU employs to pursue its common foreign policy?

Essential Reading: Dinan, ch.17

Further Reading: Garcia et.al, Ch.17. Wallace, ch.17. P.Heywood, ch.3

- **Session 22: Second Lecture at the London School of Economics**

- **The WTO and External Economic Relations**

Session 23 and 24

Questions:

1. Is the EU's common commercial policy protectionist or free trade?
2. What explains the making of EU trade policy?
3. What impact does the EU have in the international trading system?
4. Is the EU better off competing or collaborating with the US in economic matters?

Essential Reading: Dinan, chs.16 and 18

Further Reading: El Agra, ch. 22, L.Cram, ch.11

- **Session 25: Revision**

- **Session 26: Final Exam**