College of Europe
Collège d'Europe

Brugge | Natolin

ECTS CARD

STUDY PROGRAMME	ACADEMIC YEAR	SEMESTER
1. POL 2. MATA	2021-2021	Fall

COURSE TITLE

The Political Economy of European Integration

COURSE PROFESSOR	COURSE ASSISTANT
Michele CHANG	Pablo VILLATORO HARILLO & Raquel UGARTE DIEZ

NATURE OF COURSE (COMPULSORY, OPTIONAL)	LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION
Compulsory course	English

ECTS CREDITS

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1. COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course provides an overview of some of the EU's major economic policies relating to economic and monetary union (EMU) and trade. The first part of the course covers monetary integration, fiscal policy cooperation and economic policy cooperation, and banking union. The second part of the course deals with the single market, including capital markets union. The final part of the course focuses on trade and the common commercial policy. No economics background is assumed, and the course will provide explanations of the major economic concepts relevant to each policy area. The course considers the objectives and institutional framework for the respective policies and some of the major ideas from the political economy literature to explain their development.

At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Identify the main elements of European economic integration, particularly relating to Economic and Monetary Union and trade policy;
- Analyse and interpret current and historical developments in EU economic and monetary policy in a critical manner;
- Apply major economic and political theories to European economic integration.

2. LEARNING OUTCOMES

The above course objectives link up with the following programme-specific learning outcomes:

POL:

- Students possess a pluri-disciplinary understanding of European integration, allowing them to understand fully the nature, dynamics and functioning of the EU system.
- Students have a general knowledge of the main components of the EU political system: institutions, actors, decision-making procedures, competences and policies.
- Students comprehend the disciplinary knowledge and theories specific to EU studies.
- Students possess an in-depth knowledge of fundamental aspects of the EU political system (institutions, actors, policies etc.).
- Students develop a concrete understanding of the logics of policy-making and negotiations within the EU political system, thanks to simulation exercises and the drafting of policy papers.
- Students can recognize, contextualize, explain, and interpret political, societal and economic phenomena in European integration. They can assess events, governance problems and political crises.
- Students can analyse the process and actors of EU policy-making at different levels of governance and can reflect on potential developments.
- Students are capable of working as part of a complex project, individually or collectively, and they develop skills of planning, organisation, prioritisation and time management.
- Students can communicate clearly and effectively, through oral presentations or written documents, to different kinds of audiences.
- Students are capable of evolving in a multi-cultural context and of taking into account the variety of political systems, institutional logics and cultural backgrounds.

MATA:

- The graduate has good knowledge of, depending on his or her disciplinary focus, the political and/or legal systems, the decision-making processes, the economic structures and the main internal and external policies of the European Union and the United States.
- The graduate has insights into historical, political, legal and economic aspects of transatlantic affairs as well as into those policy areas that are of essential importance to transatlantic affairs. He or she can use these insights to contextualize and interpret new developments.
- The graduate is capable of processing a large amount of information and appropriately analyse relevant sources depending on his or her disciplinary focus within a short period of time and of suggesting possible actions that contribute to problem-solving in a creative way.

3. COURSE CONTENTS

Introduction: Political economy and macroeconomic basics

Part 1: EMU

- EMU basics
- Creating the euro
- The euro's first decade
- Global financial crisis

- The euro crisis and Covid
- Euro area governance
- European semester
- Banking union

Part 2: Single Market

- Trade basics
- History and governance of the single market
- Single market and capital markets union

Part 3: Trade

- History and governance of the common commercial policy
- European trade relations
- External trade relations: WTO and development
- External trade relations: US and China

Conclusion

4. TEACHING METHOD

Lectures outlining the main empirical and theoretical content of the course; Discussions on current topics, drawing on material from the Twitter exercise.

Further details on the teaching method

Assignments include:
1) reading the articles and book chapters outlined below;
2) submitting regular Twitter posts that provide a link to a press article that links to the ideas discussed in the class that week as well as a reaction to the post. The posts should indicate that the student has read the article. Students are to provide the AA with their Twitter name and to follow and direct tweets to "@co_epe". A total of 10 tweets per student must be made, with a minimum of 1 week separating each tweet.

Midterm exercise: A midterm exercise will be held in order to provide students with feedback on their progress in the course. This exam is not graded and will not be counted towards the final grade.

5. COURSE MATERIAL

Please refer to the detailed course outline for the full reading list.

6. EVALUATION

a) 100% A final exam that will consist of a written exam of short answers and an essay. No outside materials are permitted.
b) Up to 2 points will be deducted from the final grade if students do not complete the Twitter exercise.

*The evaluation modalities of the final exam may be subject to adaptations in function of the evolution of the sanitary situation

Assessment at second attempt

During the second examination session the course is assessed 100% on the basis of a written resit exam.