

STUDY PROGRAMME(S) / STUDY TRACK(S)				YEAR
Master of Arts in European Interdisciplinary Studies Master of Arts in European Interdisciplinary Studies (Study Track: European Security and Strategy) Master of Arts in Transatlantic Affairs (Study Track: European Interdisciplinary Studies) Master of Arts in Transatlantic Affairs (Study Track: European Interdisciplinary Studies - European Security and Strategy)				2026-2027
COURSE TITLE				SEMESTER
EU Economic Governance				1
PROFESSOR(S)			ACADEMIC ASSISTANT(S)	
WESSELS Wolfgang			STEINGASS Sebastian	
COURSE TYPE		MAJOR(S)		ECTS CREDITS
Core Course		Not applicable		4
TEACHING HOURS	INDIVIDUAL & GROUP STUDY TIME	TUTORIAL(S)	COEFFICIENT	LANGUAGE(S)
20	80		1	EN

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Students will be confronted with key issues for five pillars of the EU's economic governance: It covers modes of governance from procedures of the internal/single market via the regular making of the EU budget and the different modes of Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) to the managing of the common commercial policy/trade policy. The course thus addresses the institutional and legal foundations and practices of these pillars. The respective roles of the European Council will serve as a point of departure.

The course offers a theory - based analysis of the dynamics and constraints of the EU's real world multi-level governance: it will focus on the variations of how EU institutions prepare, decide, implement and control economic actions allocated to different categories of the Union competences. Current developments like the negotiations dealing with the next Multiannual financial framework (MFF) will be taken as case studies.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

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

- 1) Understand the EU's economic governance architecture for key pillars. They will learn to detect and analyze different forms and modes of governance. They will be confronted with the high complexity of the modes of governance (A3, A5);

- 2) Understand differences between the 'legal words' of the Lisbon Treaty and the 'real world' of the living constitution (A3);
- 3) Apply a deeper theory-based understanding of the tensions between national sovereignty and supranational competences within EU economic governance (A5);
- 4) Understand the EU competence and procedures governing the Internal/single market (A3);
- 5) Apply the analytical skills to distinguish between different forms of governance in the Monetary Union on the one hand, and the Economic Union on the other (A5);
- 6) Analyze the procedures of decision-making for the multiannual financial framework and the Union's annual budget (A3);
- 7) Analyze the competences and procedures for the Trade Policy as essential components of EU's external action and its geo-economic implications (A5, A6, MATA1.6);
- 8) Critically assess the transformation of EU economic governance facing challenges and crises of the coming decades (A5).

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

Wessels, Wolfgang, Schramm, Lucas. Economic Governance: Towards a 'gouvernement économique'? in *The European Council*, Bloomsbury Academic, 2nd ed., forthcoming.

Wessels, Wolfgang, Lucas Schramm, & Tobias Kunstein. *The European Council as a Crisis Manager. The EU's response to the COVID-19 pandemic*, Nomos, 2022.

TEACHING METHOD(S)

Interactive course based on preparatory readings and Power Point presentations (PPTs).

ASSESSMENT METHOD(S)

Assessment is based on the following elements:

- Final exam (100% of the final mark): 2-hour, written, digital, closed-book, on-site exam. The exam is divided into two parts. The first part deals with the knowledge of facts from the five pillars; the second part asks for a reflection on a major issue based on conceptual and theoretical approaches. For the second part, the student can select between alternative questions/theses.

COURSE CONTENTS

Block 1. Relevance and theoretical approaches (4 hours)

Block 2. The governance of the Single/internal market (4 hours)

Block 3. The governance of the EU's budget (4 hours)

Block 4. The modes of governing the Economic and Monetary Union (4 hours)

Block 5. The modes of governance for the Common Commercial Policy/Trade (CCP) (2 hours)

Block 6. Concluding session: Looking back for looking forward (2 hours)

COURSE MATERIALS (readings and other learning resources/tools)

Readings and PowerPoint Presentations.

