

ECON/POL 321Ea European Union

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Office Hours: Wednesday 09:30-10:30

Course Information

Spring 2019

Monday & Wednesday

12:00 till 13:20

Course objectives

The aim of this course is that on its completion students will have a much better understanding of the interests, 'identity' and functioning of, not to mention challenges faced by, the EU, both as a geographical regional polity, and as a highly complex on-going – though not uncontested – process of economic, political and social integration.

Methodology

Given the course objectives stated above, and the highly complex nature of the subject matter, the course adopts *multidisciplinary* approach: historical, geographical and cultural aspects considered necessary accompaniments to the main politico-economic framework adopted

Course description

After initially situating the students within the context of the present EU of 28 members, the course begins by offering the students an historical overview of the motives and often conflictual forces lying behind the creation and subsequent development of the EU, best reflected in the main treaties signed: Paris, Rome, SEA, Maastricht, etc.

Policy-making is notoriously complex in the EU. Getting to grips with it demands a clear understanding of the role and responsibilities of its principal institutions – the European Council, Council, European Commission, European Parliament, and Court of Justice – and how they interact with each other (and national governments), to produce hybrid 'supranational' laws/policy initiatives; a complex policy process, which of course, is not without its many detractors.

At the heart of the EU is the Single Market and its connected Competition Policy. As regional/global social forces pushed the *four freedoms* and deepened the process of economic integration pressure for Economic and Monetary Union (EMU) increased. How and why the member states chose to abandon their currencies in favor of an untested common currency needs to be examined, as do the structural challenges facing the on-going management of the *eurozone* (especially pertinent during the present debt crisis), and the *euro's* effects both on the region and the international monetary system at large.

Yet the EU is more than just an 'economic club'; the process of economic integration "spilling-over" into a wide range of connected nominally "political" policy areas, which, the EU claims, have improved the quality of life of EU citizens. But not all citizens are convinced of the virtues of this deepening integration. The "freedom of movement of people", especially, has been vilified by the Far Right (which in turn has seen its popularity increase), and has constituted a key rallying point for the Brexit referendum. The course seeks to shed some light on these issues as well as evaluating the evolving nature of the UK-EU relationship following London formally activating Article. 50 of the Treaty of Lisbon.

The EU's place in globalized post-Cold War world is then addressed, comprising of a review of the region's external trade relations (special attention being paid to transatlantic commerce) and evolving foreign and security policy, involving an assessment of the obstacles preventing the adoption of a coherent common global position and the role of NATO.

Finally, the course seeks to shed light on the dynamics of EU enlargement: the costs and benefits, as well as the institutional process established. To illustrate the above, the course focuses on recent eastward expansions (from 2004 onwards), analysing the numerous socio-economic, politico-judicial and logistical challenges posed for 'old' and 'young' members alike, and the accompanying debates with regards efficiency, democracy, equality and identity. These debates are intensified still further with regards the possible future incorporation of Turkey. The course concludes by evaluating the latter's credentials for joining the EU?

Class schedule (*The syllabus may be subject to change*)

1. HISTORICAL CONTEXT

30th January – Presentation of course; Geography

Class hand-outs

4th February – Beginnings of European integration

Class hand-outs

McCormick pp.48-54

6th February – 'Progress' in the 1950s; Britain's position

Class hand-outs

McCormick pp.51-56

2. EVOLUTION OF THE EU: KEY TREATIES

11th February – Single European Act

Class hand-outs

McCormick pp.56-59

13th February – Treaty of Maastricht

Class hand-outs

McCormick pp.59-61

18th February – Developments Post-Maastricht

Class hand-outs

McCormick pp.61-72

20th February – QUIZ + Debate

3. INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK

25th February – Functioning of key EU institutions I

Class hand-outs

McCormick pp.73-95

27th February – Functioning of key EU institutions II

Class hand-outs

McCormick pp.73-95

4th March – Law-making in the EU

Class hand-outs

McCormick pp.73-95

4. EU POLICY-MAKING PROCESS

6th March – Principles, policy environment & policy cycle

McCormick pp.120-139

11th March – Features of the policy process

McCormick pp.120-139

13th March – MIDTERM EXAM

5. ECONOMIC & MONETARY UNION (EMU)

18th March – Interest in Economic & Monetary Union (EMU)

Class hand-outs

McCormick pp.158-168

20th March – Maastricht, stages, criteria & launch of EMU

Class hand-outs

McCormick pp.158-168

25th March – Functioning & management of eurozone

Class hand-outs

McCormick pp.158-168

27th March – The Euro: past, present & future challenges

Class hand-outs

McCormick pp.158-168

6. INTERNAL POLICIES

1st April – Competition Policy & the Single Market

McCormick pp.145-158

3rd April – Immigration Policy

McCormick pp.183-187

8th April – Brexit

Class hand-outs

10th April – Common Agricultural Policy

Class hand-outs

McCormick pp.177-183

15th/17th April – NO CLASS (Semana Santa)

7. EXTERNAL POLICIES

22nd April – External Trade Policy

McCormick pp.194-195; 204-209

24th April – Transatlantic Trade

Class hand-outs

McCormick pp. 210-217

29th April – Foreign & Security Policy

Class hand-outs

McCormick pp. 194-204

1st May – NO CLASS (Labor Day)

6th/8th May – NO CLASS (Feria)

8. ENLARGEMENT

13th May – Enlargement I: Process; pros/cons of enlargements

Class hand-outs

McCormick pp. 31-39; 211-213

15th May – Enlargement II: Turkey

Class hand-outs

McCormick pp. 31-39; 211-213

20th - 23rd May – FINALS

Readings

Required text book (available from *Papelería MAB 29*, Edificio Celestino Mutis, UPO) McCormick, John, *Understanding the European Union: a Concise Introduction*, 7th Edition (Basingstoke, Hampshire, Palgrave Macmillan, 2017).

Class hand outs

Throughout the course various worksheets and articles will be handed out to students taken from official EU sources, academic journals or the press.

Some useful webs

www.europa.eu - EU web-page - history, policies, legislation, statistics, decisions,

www.eurunion.org/infores/euguide/euguide.htm - The EU: a Guide for Americans

www.consilium.europa.eu/ - Council web-page

www.economist.com - Analytical articles on world economic/political affairs

www.ft.com - EU & World news, economy, country profiles, corporate activities, shares

www.guardian.co.uk – UK daily, broad range of national/international news articles

www.jeanmonnetprogram.org - Selection of EU law & politics articles

www.nytimes.com - World news, critical editorials

www.realinstitutoelcano.org/default_eng.asp - Real Instituto Elcano - Spain, IR, politics

Course Requirements and Grading

Assessment for the course consists of one short quiz and two exams (all written) and an oral presentation (in pairs/small groups) on an assigned relevant topic. With regards the oral presentation, *on the day of their presentation* each student has to hand in the following *printed* documents for their section: an outline, a bibliography and a half page summary (TMR 12, single space). Students will be graded individually.

Finally, students will be required to complete assigned readings/summarize articles etc. outside class and to actively participate in class discussions, which will be reflected in their 'participation' grade. (N.B.: 'being there' does not = 'participation').

The distribution of the final grade is the following:

Quiz	15%	Midterm Exam	25%
Presentation	15%	Final Exam (TBA)	25%
Participation	20%		

The dates for the quiz, exams and presentation will not be changed under any circumstances.

Spanish grades run: 10-9.0 (A), 8.9-7.0 (B), 6.9-5.0 (C), 4.9-0 (F)

Attendance, Punctuality and General Course Policies

Attendance is mandatory at all classes. As we understand that you might fall ill or be unable to come to class (e.g. due to a religious holiday, a flight delay, a family wedding/reunion, a graduation, a job interview, etc.) at some point during the semester, you are allowed up to 4 absences. You will be responsible for the material covered and any

work missed. You will not need to justify your absences (up to 4) in any way **unless** you miss an exam, a presentation, a quiz, etc. In this case, you **must** present a doctor's note (signed, stamped and dated) to be able to reschedule the exam, etc. **It will still count as an absence** but you will be allowed to retake the exam, etc. We don't encourage you to use all 4 days unless you really need them as your participation grade may suffer if you are not in class. If used unwisely and you get sick late in the semester, the following penalties will apply:

On your 5th absence, 1 point will be taken off of your final grade (Spanish grade of 1-10)

On your 6th absence, 3 points will be taken off of your final Spanish grade

On your 7th absence, 5 points will be taken off of your final Spanish grade

For classes that meet once a week, each absence counts as two. For classes that meet daily, the penalties outlined above apply if you go over 6 absences (7th absence=5th absence above).

* **Punctuality** is required. If a student arrives more 15 minutes late it will constitute a 0.5 absence. However, no student will be permitted entrance more than 25 minutes after the beginning of the class and hence will be marked absent.

* Please keep your **cell phones** turned off during class.

* Strictly **no food** to be consumed in class.

Academic Dishonesty

Academic integrity is a guiding principle for all academic activity at Pablo de Olavide University. Cheating on exams and plagiarism (which includes copying from the internet) are clear violations of academic honesty. A student is guilty of plagiarism when he or she presents another person's intellectual property as his or her own. The penalty for plagiarism and cheating is a failing grade for the assignment/exam and a failing grade for the course. Avoid plagiarism by citing sources properly (using footnotes or endnotes and a bibliography).

Students with Disabilities

If you require special accommodations, you must stop by the International Center to speak to Rubén (the Faculty coordinator) to either turn in your documentation or to confirm that our office has received it. The deadline is September 28th. Rubén will explain the options available to you

Behavior Policy

Students are expected to show integrity and act in a professional and respectful manner at all times. A student's attitude in class may influence his/her participation grade. The professor has a right to ask a student to leave the classroom if the student is unruly or appears intoxicated. If a student is asked to leave the classroom, that day will count as an absence regardless of how long the student has been in class.

Calendar

Quiz: February 20th

Midterm Exam: March 13th

Presentation: TBA

Final Exam: between 20th- 23rd May

Holidays

April 15th/17th (Semana Santa)

May 1st (Labor Day)

May 6th/8th (Feria)

