

PO/IR361g – GERMANY AND THE EUROPEAN UNION
IES Abroad Berlin

DESCRIPTION:

In this course, we will examine the political structure, formation, and development of the European Union, as well as Germany's role in the development of the EU. We will analyze why Germany as the EU's largest economy has been so deeply interested in European integration from its beginnings after World War II. Special emphasis will be placed on the turning points of European history and the analysis of current challenges such as the dealings of the EU with the coronavirus pandemic and its implications for a closer cooperation of the EU member states. We will analyze and discuss the unique structure of the European Union as well the relations between its 27 member states. Another focus will be on the integration of Eastern European countries and the consequences for the development of the EU. We will also discuss the EU as a global actor in respect to the world financial system on the one hand and in respect to global security on the other. Special emphasis will be placed on the Russian invasion in Ukraine and the new role of NATO.

CREDITS: 3 credits

CONTACT HOURS: 45 contact hours

LANGUAGE OF PRESENTATION: German

ADDITIONAL COST: none

PREREQUISITES: none

METHOD OF PRESENTATION:

- The course will be taught as seminar through a combination of lectures, discussions, excursions, films, and a simulation of an European Council.
- Field trips to authentic and important sites of German and European policy
- Assigned readings are to be prepared before class for discussion
- Simulation of an European Council meeting on the topic of important political challenges for the EU in the present
- Moodle will be used to enhance students' learning experiences.

REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:

The desired outcomes of the course, means used, and methods of assessment are closely linked. For example, the short paper on a specific member state of the EU is the basis for your participation in the simulation of an European Council.

Final grades will be based on:

- Participation - 10%
- Short Essay – 10%
- Midterm Exam - 20%
- Discussion Group Report – 10%
- European Council Simulation - 15%
- Research Paper – 15%
- Final Exam – 20%

Participation

This includes attendance, active participation in class discussions, bringing up pertinent questions, and familiarity with the reader texts. In order to prepare in advance for the seminars, students should make notes of the assigned readings, summarize the main ideas and formulate questions on the topic. The grading rubric for participation is available in the IES Berlin Academics Manual on Moodle.

Short Essay



A short essay (2 pages, double-spaced, 12 pt) on the motives of European integration after WWI and WWII is due at the end of week 2.

Discussion Group Report

In week 4, we will form four discussion groups: Each group prepares and presents a report in class on one of the four main political institutions of the EU. A written report (2-3 pages, double-spaced, 12 pt) on a specific political institution of the EU based on the results of discussion groups is due at the end of week 4.

Midterm Exam

The midterm exam is a written in-class exams (90 minutes), consisting of two parts: 1) questions on politics, policy, and dates and 2) one or two short essays on topics covered in class. It covers the contents of the first part of the course (week 1-5).

European Council Simulation

The simulation will be organized in week 10. Each student represents one member state of the EU as Head of Government (Prime Minister, Chancellor, or President) at the European Council. Topics covered in the simulation will be related to the main political problems of the EU at that time. For the simulation, each student prepares and presents a political statement for the initial “round table session” of the European Council (due the day before the simulation at 8:00 pm); students must also prepare to take part actively in the following discussion and the decision making of the European Council.

Research Paper

A research paper (5-6 pages, double-spaced, 12 pt) analysing the role of a specific country as member of the EU is due at the end of week 11.

Final Exam

The final exam is a written in-class exams (90 minutes), consisting of two parts: 1) questions on politics, policy, and dates and 2) one or two short essays on topics covered in class. It covers the contents of the second part of the course (week 7-12).

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

By the end of the course students will be able to:

- understand the political structure and the institutions of the EU, its responsibilities and tasks
- analyze the European Union’s historical background, its political development, and explain the significance of the past 70 years
- define the political challenges that lie ahead
- understand, analyze, and discuss Germany’s role in the EU
- discuss the chances and risks of the integration of new member states; understand the chances and problems of the enlargement of the EU
- compare the EU with other organisations of states
- analyse the relations between EU and NATO

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

For our up-to-date attendance and exam policy, see: <https://moodle.iesabroad.org/mod/page/view.php?id=1004317>.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

Students are expected to abide by the IES Abroad Academic Integrity Code. Assigned papers need to be properly and amply footnoted where appropriate, with all sources attributed. Poorly written and grammatically sloppy papers will be judged more severely. Work with a language tutor.

CONTENT:

Week	Content	Assignments
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Session 1:	Session 1: Where is Europe? What is Europe? (Geography, Economy, Political Structure, Population) Where and what is Germany? The 20th Century and the Consequences for Europe. European Election 2019: Outcomes and Consequences. Better more than less Europe. Current situation of the EU. Challenges for Europe. The Russian war in Ukraine.	Introduction in the course and overview of EU
Session 2	Session 2: Europe and the Great War Field Trip: Excursion to important places of European history and politics: WWI and Consequences for Europe	Field Trip: Excursion to places where the German Reich started participation and beginning of WWI.
Session 3	Session 3: Hitler's plans for Europe. Europe during and after WWII – Germany between surrender and a new beginning	Field Trip: Excursion to important places for European history and politics in the governmental area of Berlin. WWII and Present. Museum Topography of Terror. Piepenschneder, Melanie. „Die Europäische Union im 21. Jahrhundert,“ in <u>Europäische Union. Informationen zur Politischen Bildung</u>, Vol. 279 (2012), Bonn: Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung, Pp. 4-6. Write an Essay (2 pages) on Hitler's plans for Europe and Motives of European Integration after WWs. Use the Fieldtrips as Source of Information.
Session 4	Session 4: Better more than less Europe! The current situation of the EU. Challenges for Europe and the EU. Specific challenge of the corona virus pandemic for EU.	Text 2: Schmuck, Otto. „Motive und Leitbilder der Europäischen Einigung,“ in <u>Europäische Union</u> . Bonn: Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung, 2015. Pp. 7-17.
Session 5	Session 5: First attempts of uniting Western Europe: the Schumann Plan and the creation of the European Coal and Steel Community	Text 3: Robert Schuman 1950, "The Schuman Declaration of May 9, 1950". Pp. 1-20. In class: Film „Jean Monnet – Father of Europe“ Assignment: Essays on motives are due.

Session 6	Session 6: The Treaties of Rome (EEC and EURATOM)	Text 4: Bericht des Europäischen Parlaments über den Vertrag von Lissabon (29. Januar 2008), „Worin unterscheidet sich der neue Vertrag von den geltenden Verträgen?“ Pp.18 ff.
Session 7	Session 7: Institutions of ECSC, EEC, EURATOM. Merger Treaty.	Discussion groups: We form four discussion groups: Every group prepares and presents in class a report on one of the four main political institutions of the EU. Oral reports in class and written summaries are due: Upload the summaries to the discussion forum of the course in moodle. Field Trip: EU information center at Pariser Platz, Berlin. Text 4: Working paper on EU institutions by Bernhard Maleck, in moodle course PO/IR 361 (only for use at IES Abroad Berlin, not for citation).
Session 8	Session 8: Institutions of the EU: European Council and Council of Ministers; European Commission and European Parliament; European Law Court	Text 5: „Vertrag über die Europäische Union“ (EUV) 2008, in <u>Vertrag von Lissabon</u>, Pp. 39-45. Text 6: Piepenschneider, Melanie. „Die EU – Arena politischer Macht,“ in <u>Europäische Union. 2015</u>. Pp.21-29. Assignment: Oral reports of the discussion groups
Session 9	Session 9: Germany's role in present EU. Discussion on a German leadership role in EU. Pro and contra. German Europe or European Germany?	Assignment: Written reports on EU institutions are due. Reading: Europe is our future, Speech by Federal Chancellor Olaf Scholz at the Charles University in Prague on Monday, 29 August 2022. www. Bundesregierung.de
Mid-Term Exam	Mid-term Exam	Written exam in class.
Session 10	Session 10: Germany's position and role within the EU: Germany as the biggest and with respect to economic strength strongest member state of the EU	Text 7: Bauer, Michael and Janis A. Emmanoulidis. „Deutschland in der EU,“ in <u>Europa von A bis Z</u>. Ed. Werner Weidenfeld and Wolfgang Wessels. Bonn: Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung, 2011. Pp. 106-113.

Session 11	Session 11: German Unification 1990 and its consequences for European Union. Acceleration of European integration. The importance of the implosion of Soviet Union December 1991 for EU.	Text 8a: Schöllgen, Gregor. <u>Die Außenpolitik der Bundesrepublik Deutschland</u> . München: C.H. Beck'sche Verlagsbuchhandlung, 1999. Pp. 182–222.
Session 12	Session 12: The Brexit: The consequences of the British decision to leave the EU. Chances and risks for the future relations of UK and EU. Risks for the future of the peace process based on Good Friday Agreement for Northern Ireland.	Text 8b: 2017. Notification letter of the British Primeminister; Text 8c: Agreements EU and Great Britain
Session 13	Session 13: The political importance of the European Monetary Union. The introduction of the Euro and its consequences. EU finances and the consequences of the crisis of finance capitalism 2008/2009. The Common European Market.	Text 9: Piepenschneider, Melanie. 2015. „Die Verteilung der Haushaltsmittel,“ in <u>Europäische Union. Informationen zur Politischen Bildung</u> , Vol. 279 (2015), Bonn: Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung, Pp. 29-31 Text 10 and 11: 2015. Heinemann, Friedrich. „Binnenmarkt“ und „Währungsunion“ in <u>Europäische Union. Informationen zur Politischen Bildung</u> , (2015), Bonn: Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung, Pp. 36-45. Text 12: Ibid. „Europäische Währungsunion,“ pp. 36–37.
Session 14	Session 14: The stability and growth pact and new attempts to stabilize the European Monetary Union in the present. The EU at the crossroads. The corona virus pandemic help package of the EU. The fight of European Central Bank against high inflation rates in the EU.	Text13: Guidelines of EU corona pandemic package, official EU website, documents of the European Council, 2021. Documents of ECB 2022, website ECB
Session 15	Session 15: Enlargement of the EU I: Overcoming the division of Europe and the integration of Eastern European countries. The Copenhagen Criteria.	Text 14: Böttger, Karin. “ 2011. Erweiterung,“ in <u>Europa von A bis Z</u> . Ed. Werner Weidenfeld, Wolfgang Wessels. Bonn: Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung, Pp. 135-144.
Session 16	Session 16: Enlargement of the EU II: The Case of Turkey and the enlargement of the EU in present and future times. The candidate status of Ukraine. The raise of right wing extremism in the EU.	Text 15: Report of European Commission on Ukraine, 2022. Documents of the European Commission: www.europa.eu
Session 17	Session 17: The EU, Germany and its position in the world: transatlantic relationships, relations with Russia (Ukraine Crisis) and China. Wars and	Text 16: Schöllgen, Gregor. 2003: Der Auftritt. Pp. 150-162. Text 17:

	conflicts in Europe after the end of Soviet communism. Chances for a common foreign and security policy of the EU. Possible conflicts between US, EU and China and their consequences for EU. The case of the Russian war against Ukraine as turning point in the international	Documents of European Council. 2022/2023. www.europa.eu ; Fundamental foreign policy papers of the US, China and EU, tba.
Session 18	Session 18: The EU-Responsibilities. Relations between the EU and its member states. Decision making in the EU. The decisive role of France for the EU.	Text 18: Macron, Emanuel. 2017. Speech given at Sorbonne university.
Session 19	Session 19: (3 hrs) Simulation of an European Council: Current political main problems and challenges of EU.	Every Participant prepares a Political Statement of his or her country represented by the students and uploads this into moodle discussion forum "Model EU" until the day before the simulation, 08:00 pm.
Session 20	Session 20: Migration policy of EU. Current refugee developments and relations between Turkey and EU. Responsibilities of Member States. Is a common migration policy of the EU possible?	Text 19: Dublin III Agreement of EU and documents of European Council 2022/23. www.europa.eu
Session 21	Session 21: Democracy as basis of membership and development of EU: The challenge of authoritarian regimes within the EU: The cases of Poland and Hungary	Text 19a: Documents of European Commission. 2022. www.europa.eu Research papers are due at session 21.
	Session 21b Perspectives: Could the historical experiment of uniting the European continent fail? United States of Europe – only utopia again or realizable future? Final discussion part I	Text 20: Schmuck, Otto. „Der Weg der EU – Rückblick und Ausblick,“ in <u>Europäische Union. Informationen zur Politischen Bildung</u> , (2015), Bonn: Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung 2015. Pp. 69-76.
Session 22	Session 22: Consequences for the development of EU and a changed role of Germany in the European Union. Germany back on the world stage? Final discussion part II.	Text 21: Ludwig Greven 2015, Europa erlahmt, in: Die Zeit, Wochenzeitschrift, 16. 07.2015 Text 22: Schöllgen, Gregor. 2003. Der Auftritt. Deutschlands Rückkehr auf die Weltbühne. Propyläen Verlag, München. S. 35-52. Text 23: Henry Kissinger, How to avoid another world war, The Spectator, magazine issue, 17 december 2022.
	Final Examination	Written exam

FIELD STUDIES:

- Walking tour to places of importance for the Beginning of WWI

- Walking tour to the governmental area in Berlin, places of decisions of WWII and the Topography of Terror Museum

Websites:

- www.europa.eu
- www.bpb.de
- <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-39842084>
- <https://www.bbc.com/news/world/europe>
- ecb.europa.eu
- www.bundesregierung.de

Filmography:

- Jean Monnet – Father of Europe. A documentary.
- Several film clips on the EU.

REQUIRED READINGS:

See the assigned readings for every session.

All assigned readings for the course are available in moodle.

RECOMMENDED READINGS:

- Weidenfeld, Werner and Wolfgang Wessels. Europa von A bis Z. Lizenzausgabe für die Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung, Bonn: Nomos Verlagsgesellschaft Baden-Baden, 2011.
- Weidenfeld, Werner (ed.). Die Staatenwelt Europas. Bonn: Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung, 2004.
- Leggewie, Claus. Der Kampf um die Europäische Erinnerung. Ein Schlachtfeld wird besichtigt. München: C.H. Beck, 2011.
- Muschg, Adolf. Was ist europäisch? München: C.H. Beck, 2005.
- Woyke, Wichard (ed.). Handwörterbuch Internationale Politik, Lizenzausgabe für die Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung. Bonn: Barbara Budrich, Opladen & Farmington Hills, MI, 2011.
- Gasteyger, Curt. Europa zwischen Spaltung und Einigung 1945 bis 1993. Bonn: Bundeszentrale für Politische Bildung, 1994.
- Kissinger, Henry A. Die Vernunft der Nationen. Über das Wesen der Außenpolitik. Berlin: Siedler, 1994.
- Leiß, Olaf (ed.). Die Europäische Union nach dem Vertrag von Lissabon, Wiesbaden: VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften, 2010.
- Mittag, Jürgen. Kleine Geschichte der Europäischen Union. Von der Europaidee bis zur Gegenwart, Münster: Aschendorff, 2008.
- Sandschneider, Eberhard. Der erfolgreiche Abstieg Europas. Heute Macht abgeben, um morgen zu gewinnen, München: Hanser, 2011.
- Documents on actual political developments, tba.
- Ukraine Is the Latest Neocon Disaster by Jeffrey D. Sachs, <https://www.commondreams.org/views/2022/06/28/ukraine-latest-neoco...>, Abruf am 12.07.2022.
- Cut the Baloney Realism. Russia's war on Ukraine need not end in negotiation. By Eliot A. Cohen, The Atlantic, November 21, 2022.

(02/23)