



## **PO358 GERMANY AND THE EUROPEAN UNION**

IES Abroad Berlin

### **DESCRIPTION:**

In this course we will examine the political structure, the formation and development of the European Union, as well as Germany's role in the European multi-level system. Special emphasis will be put on the analysis of the major political challenges the EU and Germany are facing. Another focus will be the completed integration of Eastern European countries and its consequences for the EU and its member states.

**CREDITS:** 3 credits

**CONTACT HOURS:** 45 hours

**LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION:** English

**PREREQUISITES:** None

### **METHOD OF PRESENTATION:**

- The course is based on a mixture of lectures, discussions, excursions and viewing of film clips;
- Authentic and important sites of EU Policy in German will be visited;
- Assigned readings to be prepared before class for discussion;
- Simulation of an European Council meeting on actual political EU development.
- Moodle will be used to enhance student's learning experiences.

### **REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:**

Final grades will be based on:

- Course Participation – 10%
- Midterm Exam – 20%
- Final Exam – 20%
- Essay – 5%
- Research Paper – 25%
- Simulation of the European Council – 20%

#### **Course 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.

#### **Midterm and Final**

The midterm is a written exam and consists of two parts 1) questions on politics, policy and dates and 2) one short essay on one of the main topics covered in class. The final consists of a presentation in class on a specific member state of the EU.

#### **Essay**

Students write one essay on Motives of European integration after two course-related trips to important places of European history and politics, 2 pages length

#### **Research Paper**

During the course students will write one research paper on one of the member states of the EU (four–five pages in length plus cover page and bibliography). Use at least three scholarly resources.

The paper must be submitted in hard copy and uploaded in Moodle in the week before the Simulation of the European Council.

#### **Simulation of the European Council**



Each student represents one member state of the EU as Prime Minister, prepares a political statement of his country and takes actively part in the discussion of the simulated European Council. The topics of the Simulation of the European Council will be identified during the course and are related to the current main political problems of the EU in the time of the course.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

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

- Understand the political structure and the institutions of the EU, its competencies and tasks;
- Analyze the historical background of the EU, its political development and explain the importance of the past 50 years of EU’s development;
- 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 of the enlargement of the EU;
- Discuss the necessity of EU reforms.

The desired outcomes of the course, means used and methods of assessment are closely linked. For example, the short papers on a member state of the EU are the basis for your participation at the Simulation of a European Council.

**ATTENDANCE POLICY:**

Attendance and punctuality in all courses and field studies is mandatory. Absences can only be excused for valid reasons. Unexcused absences can affect students’ grades. Students who miss 25% or more of all class sessions will fail the course. Missed exams cannot be taken at another time except in case of documented illness. Late submission of term papers and other work will result in grade reduction unless an extension due to illness or an emergency is approved. Please consult the IES Abroad Berlin academics manual on Moodle for additional details.

**ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

Students are expected to abide by the IES Abroad Academic Integrity Code. Assignments need to be properly and amply footnoted where appropriate, with all sources attributed, including images. This not only applies to written assignments but also presentations.

**CONTENT:**

Session	Content	Assignments
Session 1	<b>Introduction</b> Where is Europe? What is Europe (Geography, Economy, Political Structure, Population)? Where is Germany? Challenges for Europe, like the corona pandemic, the climate change , migration and the Russian invasion in Ukraine and their consequences for the EU and for Germany	

<b>Session 2</b>	<b>Europe and the Great War</b> Course-Related Trip: Excursion to important places of European history and politics: WWI and consequences for Europe	Write an Essay on motives of European Integration. Use the Fieldtrips as a source of information.
<b>Session 3</b>	<b>Europe after WWII – Germany between surrender and a new beginning</b>  Course-Related Trip: Important places of European history and politics in the governmental area of Berlin: WWII and Present	Reading: Robert Schuman, Declaration of May 1950, Reader p. 3-5;  Robert A. Jones, The Politics and Economics of the European Union, Cheltenham UK, 2001, Reader p. 6-10
<b>Session 4</b>	<b>First attempts of uniting Western Europe: the Schuman Plan and the creation of the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC). Film: Jean Monnet – Father of Europe</b>	
<b>Session 5</b>	<b>The Treaties of Rome (EEC)</b>	Robert A. Jones, The Politics and Economics of the European Union, Cheltenham UK, 2001, The Treaty on European Union, Reader 32-39 Robert A. Jones, Reader p. 56-82
<b>Session 6</b>	<b>Institutions of the EU:</b> the European Council and the Council of Ministers; the EU Commission; the European Parliament and the role of the European Law Court	Your guide to the Lisbon Treaty, p. 1-14
<b>Session 7</b>	<b>Germany's position within the EU:</b> History and political and economic position of Germany in Europe and the EU.  <b>German Unification 1990 and its consequences for European integration.</b> The Treaty on European Union (Treaty of Maastricht)	Preparation for midterm exam

<b>Midterm</b>	Written midterm, 90 min	
<b>Session 8</b>	<b>The current political, economic and financial problems and the challenges for Europe.</b> The political importance of the European Monetary Union. The introduction of the EURO and its consequences. The case of Greece.	Robert A. Jones, Reader p. 21-24 Michael Kröger and Bahador Saberi, European Austerity the first step to recovery, in: Der Spiegel, Reader p. 2-4
<b>Session 9</b>	<b>The Brexit</b> The consequences of the British decision to leave the EU. Chances and risks for the UK, Ireland and the EU.	Notification letter of the British Prime Minister; Guidelines for Negotiations of the EU with UK adopted by the European Council
<b>Session 10</b>	<b>The decisive role of France for the EU.</b>	Documents on the outcome of the French presidential elections in April 2022 and there consequences for the EU, tba
<b>Session 11</b>	<b>Overcoming the Division of Europe and the Integration of Eastern European countries: successes and problems. Copenhagen criteria. The case of the attempt of Ukraine to become a member state.</b>	Decision of the European parliament at 28 February, 2022, in: documents of the EU Parliament, tba
<b>Session 12</b>	<b>The EU and its position in the world:</b> transatlantic relationships, relations to the U.S., Russia and P.R. of China	Documents of the High Representative of the EU for Foreign and Security Policy, tba
<b>Session 13</b>	<b>Migration policy of EU.</b> The current refugee crisis and relations between Russia and Turkey to EU. Responsibilities of Member States. Is a common migration policy of the EU possible?	The Ukrainian and other refugee crises and the EU. Documents of the EU, tba
<b>Session 14</b>	<b>Simulation of an European Council</b> (Meeting of Heads of Governments of all Member States)	Each Course Participant represents one Country as Prime Minister or head of State and prepares a political statement of his country

<b>Session 15</b>	<b>Perspectives: Could the historical experiment of uniting the European continent fail?</b> United States of Europe – utopia or realizable future? Final discussion.	Common discussion. Every course participant can prepare his position of the character and future of EU.
<b>Finals</b>	Final presentations	Each student presents a member state of EU as final exam

#### **COURSE-RELATED TRIPS:**

- Excursion I: to important places of European history and politics. Beginning and End of WWI
- Excursion II: to important Places of European history and politics in the governmental area of Berlin. WWII and present

#### **REQUIRED READINGS:**

- Reader: European Union – Past, Present, Future (Selection of Texts)
- Jopp, Mathias: Germany's European Policy. Perceptions in key Partner Countries, Bonn 2002.
- Laquer, Walter: Europe in our time: a history 1945-1992, New York 1992.

#### **FILMOGRAPHY:**

- 📺 Jean Monnet – Father of Europe.
- 📺 Various film clips on history of EU and current European politics