



**EC/PO 210 INTRODUCTION TO THE EUROPEAN UNION**  
IES Abroad Barcelona

**DESCRIPTION:**

The course provides an introductory understanding of how the European Union (EU) works as a political system and aims at accomplishing this by using the toolkit of comparative politics. The main aim of the course is to provide American students different perspectives on the European integration process. The course links historical, theoretical, and policy-oriented analyses of the EU institutions and policy processes.

**CREDITS:** 3 credits

**CONTACT HOURS:** 45 hours

**LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION:** English

**INSTRUCTOR:** Dr. Adam Holesch

**PREREQUISITES:** None

**ADDITIONAL COST:** None

**METHOD OF PRESENTATION:**

- Lectures: where basics on the EU institutions will be presented
- Class Discussions: where we will compare and contrast different views on the EU.
- Reader: where we have a first contact with the subjects of study.
- Debates: where we will deploy our analytical and discussion abilities.
- Simulation: where we will apply our expertise on the EU
- Case Studies: where the outcomes of different EU policies will be critically analyzed.

**REQUIRED WORK AND FORM OF ASSESSMENT:**

- Creative thinking – 50%
  - In - Class Presentation – 15%
  - Participation – 10%
  - Final Paper – 25%
- Written exams – 50%
  - Pop Quizzes – 20%
  - Mid-term exam (session 14) – 30%

**Participation**

Students are encouraged to participate in broad class discussions as well as team exercises they will be attending to. During the term, students will be informed two times about their possible participation grades.

**Pop Quizzes**

At the beginning of each session students can be asked to write a pop-quiz about the reading

**Class presentation**

You should select one of the policy fields of the EU (after class 9) and present it in front of the class.

**Mid-term Exam**

The midterm exam will consist of analytical questions on the topics covered in the course. The midterm exam will cover topics of the first half of the course, building on the understanding of EU institutions, which will be the basis for the second part of the class.

**Final Paper**

In the final paper you should apply your analytical skills to examine one of the selected topics of EU integration. LENGTH: 2500 words.

### LEARNING OUTCOMES:

With regard to Knowledge, by the end of the course students will be able to:

- outline the historical process of the European integration;
- distinguish the main institutions of the EU;
- indicate the main political debates surrounding the EU;
- analyse critically the main arguments in favour and against European integration.

With regard to Skills, by the end of the course students will be able to:

- demonstrate presentational abilities;
- reconstruct and justify diverse arguments in class discussions;
- assess the methodological virtues/deficiencies of the academic works he reads;
- develop research techniques.

With regards to Values, by the end of the course students are able to:

- recognize the cultural differences and similarities between Europe and the US: are the Americans from Mars and the Europeans from Venus? Or are we more similar than what we thought at first sight?

### ATTENDANCE POLICY:

As a member of our class community, you are expected to be present and on time every day. Attending class has an impact on your learning and academic success. For this reason, attendance is required for all IES Barcelona classes, including course-related excursions. If a student misses more than three classes in any course without justification, 3 percentage points will be deducted from the final grade for every additional absence. Seven unjustified absences in any course will result in a failing grade. Absences will only be justified, and assessed work, including exams, tests and presentations rescheduled, in cases of documented medical or family emergencies.

### CONTENT:

Session	Content	Required Reading
<b>Session 1</b>	Introduction to the Course – What is the EU?	
<b>Session 2</b>	History of the European Union	McCormick, J. (2020). Understanding the European Union, <i>The Evolution of the EU</i> . London: Palgrave, pp. 49-72.
<b>Session 3</b>	The Institutional Architecture of the EU: The Member States, EU institutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nugent, N. (2017) The Government and Politics of the European Union. <i>Conceptualising the EU</i>. Palgrave, pp. 435-445.</li> <li>• McCormick, J. (2020), Understanding the European Union, <i>The European Institutions</i>, London: Palgrave, pp. 73-95.</li> </ul>
<b>Session 4</b>	The Institutional Architecture of the EU II Commission and Parliament	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• McCormick, J. (2020). European Union Politics. <i>The European Commission</i>, MacMillan International, pp. 158-176.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• McCormick, J. (2020). European Union Politics. <i>The European Parliament</i>, MacMillan International, pp. 194-212.</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
<b>Session 5</b>	The Institutional Architecture of the EU III – The Councils	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• McCormick, J. (2020). European Union Politics. <i>The European Council</i>. MacMillan International, pp.211-226.</li> <li>• McCormick, J. (2020). European Union Politics. <i>The Council of Ministers</i>, MacMillan International, pp. 178-193.</li> </ul>
<b>Session 6</b>	Different Policy Fields – What does the EU do?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Young, A. et al. (2020). The EU Policy Process in Comparative Perspective, in: Wallace et al. Policy Making in the EU, p.43-66.</li> </ul>
<b>Session 7</b>	Economic and Monetary Union 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• McCormick, J. (2020). European Union Politics. <i>Inside the Euro Zone</i>. MacMillan International, pp. 346-361.</li> </ul>
<b>Session 8</b>	Economic and Monetary Union 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zimmermann, H., &amp; Dür, A. (Eds.). (2020). <i>Key controversies in European integration</i>. The future of Euro: Union or Disintegration, Macmillan, pp. 93-107.</li> </ul>
<b>Session 9</b>	Single Market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bache at el. (2015), Politics in the European Union. <i>The Single Market</i>, Oxford University Press pp. 367-384.</li> </ul>
<b>Session 10</b>	Regional and Cohesion Policy/Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wallace et al. (2020). Policy Making in the EU. <i>Cohesion Policy. Doing More with Less</i>, pp. 232-253.</li> <li>• McCormick, J. (2020). European Union Politics. <i>Cohesion Policy</i>, MacMillan International, pp. 362-367.</li> <li>• Wallace et al. (2020). Policy Making in the EU. <i>Cohesion Policy. The Budget</i>, pp. 208-231</li> </ul>
<b>Session 11</b>	Common Agricultural Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zimmermann, H., &amp; Dür, A. (Eds.). (2020). <i>Key controversies in European integration</i>. The big waste - The Common Agricultural Policy, Macmillan, pp. 123-137.</li> <li>• Bache at el. (2015), Politics in the European Union. <i>Agriculture</i>, Oxford University Press pp. 351-366.</li> </ul>
<b>Session 12</b>	Foreign Relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zimmermann, H., &amp; Dür, A. (Eds.). (2020). <i>Key controversies in European</i></li> </ul>

		<i>integration. Does the EU act as a Normative Power? Macmillan, pp. 138-150.</i>
<b>Session 13</b>	Security and Foreign Policy - Russia as external threat?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zimmermann, H., &amp; Dür, A. (Eds.). (2020). <i>Key controversies in European integration. Towards a Common European Army? Macmillan, pp. 165-179.</i></li> <li>Holesch, A., &amp; Zagórski, P. (2023). Toxic friend? The impact of the Russian invasion on democratic backsliding and PRR cooperation in Europe. <i>West European Politics</i>, 46(6), 1178-1204.</li> </ul>
<b>Session 14</b>	<b>Mid-term exam</b>	
<b>Session 15</b>	Environmental Policy 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Benson, D., &amp; Jordan, A. (2020). Environmental policy. <i>European Union Politics</i>, 5, 323-36.</li> </ul>
<b>Session 16</b>	Environmental Policy 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sikora, A. (2021). European Green Deal – legal and financial challenges of the climate change. <i>ERA Forum</i> 21, 681–697.</li> </ul>
<b>Session 17</b>	European Identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zimmermann, H., &amp; Dür, A. (Eds.). (2020). <i>Key controversies in European integration. Can there be a common European Identity? Macmillan, pp. 67-81.</i></li> <li>Holesch, A. (2013). Collective identity in the European Union, <i>World Tensions</i>, pp. 65-83.</li> </ul>
<b>Session 18</b>	Democratic Deficit//Rule of Law Conflict in the EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kelemen, R. D. (2020). The European Union's authoritarian equilibrium. <i>Journal of European Public Policy</i>, 27(3), 481–499.</li> <li>Holesch, A., &amp; Kyriazi, A. (2020). Democratic backsliding in the European Union: the role of the Hungarian-Polish coalition. <i>East European Politics</i>, 1-20.</li> </ul>
<b>Session 19</b>	Populist parties in the EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mudde, C. (2021). Populism in Europe: an illiberal democratic response to undemocratic liberalism. <i>Government and Opposition</i>, 56(4), 577-597.</li> </ul>
<b>Session 20</b>	Rule of Law Conflict in the EU – Simulation “Should Hungary be kicked out of the EU?”	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kelemen, R. D. (2020). The European Union's authoritarian equilibrium. <i>Journal of European Public Policy</i>, 27(3), 481–499.</li> </ul>
<b>Session 21</b>	Migration Policy – Guest Speaker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Geddes, A., Hadj-Abdou, L., &amp; Brumat, L. (2020). <i>Migration and mobility in the European Union</i>. Bloomsbury Publishing, pp.3-22.</li> </ul>

<b>Session 22</b>	Enlargement Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Zimmermann, H., &amp; Dür, A. (Eds.). (2020). <i>Key controversies in European integration</i>. Has EU Enlargement gone too far? Macmillan, pp. 151-160.</li> </ul>
<b>Session 23</b>	EU – US relations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Riddervold, M., &amp; Newsome, A. (2018). Transatlantic relations in times of uncertainty: crises and EU-US relations. <i>Journal of European Integration</i>, 40(5), 505-521.</li> </ul>
<b>Session 24</b>	The Future of the EU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rhinard, M et al. (2023) – Crisis and Challenges for the EU, pp. 1-19.</li> </ul>

#### REQUIRED READINGS:

- Alesina, A., Angeloni, I., & Schuknecht, L. (2005). What does the European Union do? *Public Choice*, 123(3-4), 275-319.
- Alesina, Alberto (2006) *The Future of Europe*, Ch. 1-3, pp. 1 - 55.
- Bache at el. (2015), Politics in the European Union. Agriculture, Oxford University Press pp. 351-366.
- Bache at el. (2015), Politics in the European Union. The Single Market, Oxford University Press pp. 367-384.
- Bache et al. (2015), Politics in the European Union. Enlargement. Oxford University Press, pp. 514-536.
- Benson, D., & Jordan, A. (2020). Environmental policy. *European Union Politics*, 5, 323-36.
- Dinan, D, et al. (2017). The Multidimensional Crisis, in: Dinan, D, et al. (eds.) *The European Union in Crisis*, Palgrave. pp. 1-15.
- Hix, S. (2016) *The Political System of the European Union, Economic and Monetary Union*. Palgrave: London, pp. 245-272.
- Hix, S. (2016) *The Political System of the European Union. Introduction: Explaining the EU Political System*. London: Palgrave, pp. 1-22.
- Holesch, A. (2013), Collective identity in the European Union, *World Tensions*, pp. 65-83.
- Holesch, A., & Kyriazi, A. (2020). Democratic backsliding in the European Union: the role of the Hungarian-Polish coalition. *East European Politics*, 1-20.
- Holesch, A., & Zagórski, P. (2023). Toxic friend? The impact of the Russian invasion on democratic backsliding and PRR cooperation in Europe. *West European Politics*, 46(6), 1178-1204.
- McCormick, J., (2017). *Understanding the European Union, The European Institutions*, London: Palgrave, pp. 73-95.
- McCormick, J. (2017). *Understanding the European Union, The Evolution of the EU*. London: Palgrave, pp. 49-72.
- McCormick, J. (2020). *European Union Politics. The European Commission*, MacMillan International, pp. 158-176.
- McCormick, J. (2020). *European Union Politics. The European Parliament*, MacMillan International, pp. 194-212.
- McCormick, J. (2020). *European Union Politics. The Council of Ministers*, MacMillan International, pp. 178-193.
- McCormick, J. (2020). *European Union Politics. The European Council*. MacMillan International, pp.211-226.
- McCormick, J. (2020). *European Union Politics. Inside the Euro Zone*. MacMillan International, pp. 346-361.
- Nugent, N. (2017). *The Government and Politics of the European Union. The Member States*. Palgrave, pp. 275-297.
- Nugent, N. (2017). *The Government and Politics of the European Union. Conceptualising the EU*. Palgrave, pp. 435-445.
- Nugent, N. (2017). *The Government and Politics of the European Union. The Budget*. Palgrave, pp. 419-432.
- Sikora, A. (2021). European Green Deal – legal and financial challenges of the climate change. *ERA Forum* 21, 681–697.
- Smith, M. (2019). Trade and Development Policy.
- Wallace et al. (2020). Policy Making in the EU. *Cohesion Policy. The Budget*, pp.208-231
- Wallace et al. (2020). Policy Making in the EU. *Cohesion Policy. Doing More with Less*, pp.232-253.
- Zimmermann, H., & Dür, A. (Eds.). (2020). *Key controversies in European integration*. How democratic is the EU? Macmillan, pp. 36-49.
- Zimmermann, H., & Dür, A. (Eds.). (2020). *Key controversies in European integration*. Can there be a common European Identity? Macmillan, pp. 67-81.

- Zimmermann, H., & Dür, A. (Eds.). (2020). *Key controversies in European integration*. The future of Euro: Union Or Disintegration, Macmillan, pp. 93-107.
- Zimmermann, H., & Dür, A. (Eds.). (2020). *Key controversies in European integration*. The big waste - The Common Agricultural Policy, Macmillan, pp. 123-137.
- Zimmermann, H., & Dür, A. (Eds.). (2020). *Key controversies in European integration*. Does the EU act as a Normative Power? Macmillan, pp. 138-150.
- Zimmermann, H., & Dür, A. (Eds.). (2020). *Key controversies in European integration*. Has EU Enlargement gone too far? Macmillan, pp. 151-164.
- Zimmermann, H., & Dür, A. (Eds.). (2020). *Key controversies in European integration*. Towards a Common European Army? Macmillan, pp. 165-179.
- Zimmermann, H., & Dür, A. (Eds.). (2020). *Key controversies in European integration*. Britain's Decision to Leave the EU. Good or bad? Macmillan, pp. 180-192.
- Zimmermann, H., & Dür, A. (Eds.). (2020). *Key controversies in European integration*. What future for the transatlantic partnership. Macmillan, pp. 210-227.

#### USEFUL LINKS:

- The EU website:  
[http://europa.eu/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/index_en.htm)
- A Glossary of EU-related terms:  
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/3595155.stm>
- On the EU Constitution:  
[http://europa.eu.int/constitution/index\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu.int/constitution/index_en.htm)  
<http://www.europeanconstitution.ie/>  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European\\_constitution](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_constitution)
- Press:  
<http://www.economist.com/index.html>  
<http://www.ft.com/home/uk>

#### RECOMMENDED READINGS:

##### On Intergovernmentalism:

- Bickerton, C. J., Hodson, D., & Puetter, U. (2015). The New Intergovernmentalism: European Integration in the Post-Maastricht Era. *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies*, 53(4), 703-722.
- Hoffmann, S. "Obstinate or Obsolete? The Fate of the Nation-State and the Case of Western Europe," in *Daedalus* No: 95 (1966), pp. 862-915.
- Moravcsik, A. (1998). The Choice for Europe: State Choice and Social Purpose from Messina to Maastricht.
- Rittberger, B. (2001). Which institutions for post-war Europe? Explaining the institutional design of Europe's first community. *Journal of European Public Policy*, 8(5), 673-708.

##### On Supranationalism:

- Haroche, P. (2020). Supranationalism strikes back: a neofunctionalist account of the European Defence Fund. *Journal of European public policy*, 27(6), 853-872.
- Leuffen, D., Rittberger, B., & Schimmelfennig, F. (2022). Supranationalism. In *Integration and Differentiation in the European Union* (pp. 89-116). Palgrave Macmillan, Cham.

##### On differentiated integration:

- Schimmelfennig, F., & Winzen, T. (2019). Grand theories, differentiated integration. *Journal of European Public Policy*, 26(8), 1172-1192.
- Leuffen, D., Rittberger, B., & Schimmelfennig, F. (2013). *Differentiated integration: Explaining variation in the European Union* (No. s 40). Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Leruth, B., Gänzle, S., & Trondal, J. (2019). Differentiated integration and disintegration in the EU after Brexit: Risks versus opportunities. *JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies*, 57(6), 1383-1394.

**On European Green Deal:**

- Allan, J. I. (2019). Dangerous incrementalism of the Paris Agreement. *Global Environmental Politics*, 19(1), 4-11.
- Leonard, M., Pisani-Ferry, J., Shapiro, J., Tagliapietra, S., & Wolff, G. B. (2021). *The geopolitics of the European green deal* (No. 2021/04). Bruegel Policy Contribution.
- Oberthür, S., & Groen, L. (2018). Explaining goal achievement in international negotiations: the EU and the Paris Agreement on climate change. *Journal of European Public Policy*, 25(5), 708-727.

**On public support to the EU:**

- Bauhr, M., & Charron, N. (2020). The EU as a savior and a saint? Corruption and public support for redistribution. *Journal of European Public Policy*, 27(4), 509-527.
- Easton, David. "A Reassessment of the Concept of Political Support," in *British Journal of Political Science* Vol. 5, No. 4 (1975), pp. 435-457.
- Gabel, Matthew. "Public Support for European Integration: An Empirical Test of Five Theories," in *Journal of Politics*. Vol. 60, No.2 (1998), pp. 333-354.
- van der Brug, W., Popa, S. A., Hobolt, S. B., & Schmitt, H. (2021). Illiberal democratic attitudes and support for the EU. *Politics*, 41(4), 537-561.