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

PREREQUISITES: 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:
- Class participation + debate (25%)
- Summaries + questions about readings (25%)
- Mid-term exam (25%)
- Final exam (25%)

CLASS PARTICIPATION + DEBATE: 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-QUIZ AND QUESTIONS: 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.

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;
- analyze 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:
Attendance is mandatory for all IES Abroad classes, including course-related trips. Any exams, tests, presentations, or other work missed due to student absences can only be rescheduled in cases of documented medical or family emergencies. If a student misses more than three classes in any course 3 percentage points will be deducted from the final grade for every additional absence. Seven absences in any course will result in a failing grade.

CONTENT:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Required Reading</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Session 1</td>
<td>Introduction to the Course – What is the EU?</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>References</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 8</td>
<td>Organising Interests in the EU – Simulation (2)</td>
<td>No reading</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 14</td>
<td>Mid-term exam</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Readings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>The Crisis and Democracy: Brexit 2</td>
<td>PDF - Brexit agreement</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**REQUIRED READINGS:**

● PDF - Brexit agreement

USEFUL LINKS:
● The EU website:
  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://www.europeancopyright.ie/
  http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/European_constitution
  Press:
  http://www.economist.com/index.html
  http://www.ft.com/home/uk

RECOMMENDED READINGS: (Emrah, we should adopt this)
On Realist Intergovernmentalism:
● 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.

On Liberal Intergovernmentalism:

On Rationalist Supranationalism:

On Constructivist supranationalism:

On the institutional order of the EU as independent variable:

On veto player’s analysis:

On PA-analysis:

On the legitimacy of the EU’s institutional order:


On the EU’s democratic deficit:


On public support to the EU:

