



ECON/POL 321Ea European Union

Semester: Fall 2021

Class timetable: Monday/Wednesday 12:00-13:20

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Office: Building 10, 4th Floor, Office 21

Office Hours: Monday 11:00-12:00

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 27 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. 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 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 popularist Right (which in turn has seen its support increase), constituting a key rallying point, amongst others, for the Brexit referendum.

Britain's departure from the EU evidently constitutes one of the biggest challenges the organization has ever faced. This course will study how this came about, the dynamic of the 'divorce' negotiations, and the possible future for UK-EU relations.

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 eastward expansions from 2004 onwards, analysing the socio-economic, politico-juridical 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, whose credentials for joining the EU are evaluated.

Class Schedule (*This is only a general guide and may be subject to change*)

WEEK 1: September 8th

Presentation of course; EU Geography

WEEK 2: September 13th/15th/17th

TOPIC 1: EVOLUTION OF THE EU

Explaining the beginning of European integration

'Progress' in the 1950s

Single European Act

WEEK 3: September 20th/22nd

Treaty of Maastricht

Developments Post-Maastricht I

WEEK 4: September 27th/29th

Developments Post-Maastricht II

QUIZ

TOPIC 2: INSTITUTIONAL FRAMEWORK/LAW-MAKING

Functioning of EU Institutions I

WEEK 5: October 4th/6th

Functioning of EU Institutions II

Law-making in the EU

WEEK 6: October 11th/13th

TOPIC 3: EU POLICY-MAKING PROCESS

Principles, policy environment & policy cycle

Features of the policy process

WEEK 7: October 18th/20th

MIDTERM EXAM

TOPIC 4: ECONOMIC & MONETARY UNION (EMU)

Interest in Economic & Monetary Union (EMU)

WEEK 8: October 25th/27th

Maastricht, stages, criteria & launch of EMU

Functioning & management of eurozone

WEEK 9: November 1st/ 3rd

NO CLASS (November 1st)

Eurozone crisis and beyond

WEEK 10: November 8th/10th

TOPIC 5. INTERNAL POLICIES

Competition Policy & the Single Market

Common Agricultural Policy

WEEK 11: November 15th/17th

Brexit
EU Post-Brexit

WEEK 12: November 22nd/24th

TOPIC 6. EXTERNAL POLICIES
External Trade Policy
Transatlantic Trade

WEEK 13: November 29th/December 1st

Foreign & Security Policy
Enlargement I: Process; pros/cons of enlargements

WEEK 14: December 10th

Enlargement II: Turkey

- Final Exams: December 13th-16th

Readings

Required text book: McCormick, John, *Understanding the European Union: a Concise Introduction*, 8th Edition (Basingstoke, Hampshire, Palgrave Macmillan, 2020).

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 exams and presentation cannot 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)

General Course Policies

Each student is expected to be familiar with the course syllabus. Students are expected to focus their full attention on the class, arrive on time, and stay until class ends.

Leaving the classroom on repeated occasions is disturbing to both your professor and your classmates and may adversely affect your participation grade. Please make use of the 10-minute breaks in between classes to fill up your water bottle, use the restroom, etc.

Students are expected to listen and respect other points of view. Phone calls, social media, email, or Internet browsing at any time during class are not acceptable during class except for specific class-related activity expressly approved by your instructor. You are responsible for any and all course material covered in class, announcements, and/or handouts if you are not present for any reason. Students will be held responsible to be up to date by attending to class regularly and checking both email

and the Blackboard site of the course frequently (monitor your email and Blackboard announcements at least once every 24 hours).

Communicating with instructor: Please allow at least 48 hours for your instructor to respond to your emails. The weekend is not included in this timeframe. If you have an urgent request or question for your professor, be sure to send it during the week.

Attendance and Punctuality

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 Spanish grade
- 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). Exams missed due to an excused absence must be made up within a week of returning to classes. Talk to your professor immediately after your return.

COVID-19

If an absence is related to COVID-19 the procedure to follow will be in accordance to the current legislation in the region of Andalucía, Spain.

Academic Honesty

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. The International Center may also report this to your home university. Avoid plagiarism by citing sources properly, using footnotes and a bibliography, and not cutting and pasting information from various websites when writing assignments.

Learning Accommodations

If you require special accommodations, or have any other medical condition you deem may affect your class performance, you must stop by the International Center to speak to Rubén Díaz (rdialop@acu.upo.es) to either turn in your documentation or to confirm that our office has received it. The deadline is September 24. 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: September 27th
- Midterm Exam: October 18th
- Presentation: TBA
- Final Exam: December 13th- 16th

Holidays

- November 1st: All Saints' Day
- December 6th: Constitution Day
- December 8th: Immaculate Conception Day