CIEE Prague, Czech Republic

Course title: Economics of the European Union
Course code: ECON 3004 PRAG
Programs offering course: Central European Studies, Communication, New Media, and Journalism
Language of instruction: English
U.S. semester credits: 3
Contact hours: 45
Term: Spring 2020

Course Description

The European Union (EU) as we know it has been formed by three creative processes' deepening of the integration, enlargement of the EU, and economic transformation in former socialist countries. In this course, after introducing those processes and some theoretical background, different EU economic policies will be thoroughly analyzed. Considering that the participants are American undergraduates, this course will systematically compare and contrast the EU and its role in the world with the USA. Preliminary knowledge of principles of microeconomics is strongly recommended, but all necessary theoretical concepts are briefly summarized as part of this course.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

1. To analyze the process of economic changes in the broad context of social and political development;
2. To define major economic, social, and political changes in Europe since WWII;
3. To compare economic, social and political development among different countries;
4. To contrast key differences and similarities of the EU and the US policies.

Course Prerequisites

None.
Methods of Instruction

Most of the course material is covered in the Baldwin-Wyplosz (2012) textbook. Students are provided with PowerPoint slides to the Baldwin-Wyplosz (2012) textbook chapters covered in the course. Both the core material and the analytically more difficult material is covered in the class. Students are encouraged to actively participate in the uncovering of the European integration logic.

Short videos, class debates, and guest lectures are an integral part of the learning process.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Class Presentation 10%
2. Case Study 30%
3. Written Midterm Exam 20%
4. Written Final Exam 20%
5. Class Participation 20%
   TOTAL 100%

Course Requirements

Class Presentation

The terms in which the class presentations will take place will be made public once the final number of students taking the course will be known. In addition to the presentations, students must read the materials related to the topic scheduled for that week. Failing to do so counts as failure of meeting the course requirements.

Case Study

This takes the form of an essay of about 3000 words that performs an EU - US comparison in a selected area (to be agreed on with the lecturer). The essay is to be uploaded on Canvas Learning System.

Written Midterm Exam

Written mid-term exam: students are to answer 10 brief questions within 90 minutes.
Written Final Exam

Written final exam: students are to answer 5 questions within 90 minutes.

Class Participation

Weekly Schedule

Week 1
Class Three EU-creative processes - deepening, enlargement, and transformation

Course Introduction

Week 2
Class The history of European economic integration

Required readings:
Spolaore, Enrique. (2013)

Week 3
Class EU Institutions and the Budget

Mandatory field trip

Required readings:
http://europa.eu/ About the EU

Week 4
Class Decision-making in the EU

Required trip (October 17)
Required readings:


The Economist (2012).

Week 5
Class Essential economics of preferential liberalization I

Required readings:


Week 6
Class Essential economics of preferential liberalization II

Midterm Exam Period

Midterm exam

Required readings:


Week 7
Class EU competition and state aid policy

Required readings:

http://europa.eu/ Policy areas – internal market, competition.


Week 8
Class Common agricultural policy

Required readings:


Week 9
Class Location effects, economic geography, and regional policy

Required readings:


Week 10
Class EU trade policy, external economic relations

Required readings:

http://europa.eu/ Policy areas – economic and monetary affairs


Deadline for the Case study

Week 11
Class Essential facts of EU monetary integration, optimum currency areas

Required readings:


The Economist (2014).


Week 12
Class The European monetary union, Fiscal policy and the Stability pact

Required readings:

http://europa.eu/ Policy areas – economic and monetary affairs

Gandrud & Hallerberg (2014).

Week 13
Class Final Exam Week
Final Exam

Course Materials
Readings

Required Reading


Recommended Reading


http://europa.eu/index_en.htm