CIEE Prague, Czech Republic

Course title: Comparative European Economic Systems
Course code: ECON 3003 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: Fall 2020

Course Description

The course focuses on the differences in the functioning of national economies around the world and especially on differences between the national economies of individual EU member states and CEE countries. This course will discuss the influence of culture, geography, abundance or lack of natural and human resources, and mainly economic institutions and policies on the economic development of those countries. We will use Hofstede dimensions to describe the cultural differences among European countries and discuss the US. Practical issues such as the differences in the style of management and differences in consumer preferences. Contemporary population theories, natural resource abundance, and production theories will be used in the first part of the course. Statistical data will serve as supplementary information for the comparison. Common generalizations and classifications of economic and social models (e.g. Atlantic capitalism vs. Rhine capitalism; Sapir’s view: Anglo-Saxon model vs. Nordic vs. Continental vs. Mediterranean model) will be explained and the implications of differences between economic and social models used by individual member countries for competitiveness will be analyzed. The course should not only help students understand various countries’ economies and ability to do business, it should also help them gain an insight into European economic institutions and policies. Although the lectures and readings will contain lots of empirical evidence and data, the emphasis will be put on understanding the logic and economics of the analyzed processes.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:
• contrast the key differences between economic systems of European countries and the USA;
• compare the specific features of management and marketing in European countries and the US;
• point out the differences in culture, natural-resource endowment, and various historical and socio-economic factors behind economic development of the regions of Europe;
• assess the structural differences between new member states of the EU and the original EU15 countries;
• illustrate the main specific features of CEE countries (i.e. differences between these markets and West European and U.S. markets);
• establish the differences between transition economies and traditional developing countries.

Course Prerequisites
None

Methods of Instruction

Students will read selected parts of the relevant literature for each weekly topic. This will allow them to participate in discussions during the interactive lectures. Students will be further required to create structured projects and present them at the end of the course during the final class session. There will be required trips and excursions.

N.B. Course schedule is subject to change due to study tours, excursions, or local holidays. Final schedules will be included in the final syllabus provided to students on site.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. Memos 10%
2. Project + Presentation of the project 25%
3. Midterm Exam 20%
4. Written Final Exam 25%
5. Class Participation 20%
   TOTAL 100%

Course Requirements
Memos

Part of the overall classification will be memos prepared by students as a base for discussion. The memos should be about half a page (250 words) and stem from readings presented in this syllabus for each class and therefore allow students to take part in meaningful discussion. Therefore, the overall content of the reading and keynotes should be included. Every required reading should have a separate memo. The prepared memos will be graded twice during the semester.

Project + Presentation of the project

(20% + 5%)

The topic and hypothesis of the written project (at least 2500 words) should be related to one of the weekly topics in the syllabus. One class will be specifically dedicated to the structure and research methods that should be used. Students will present their projects to the rest of the class.

Midterm Exam

Written mid-term exam (mix of approximately 20 multiple choice and open-ended questions)

Written Final Exam

Written final exam (mix of approximately 30 multiple choice and open-ended questions)

Class Participation

CIEE Prague Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program, and all absences are treated equally regardless of reason for any affected CIEE course. Attendance policies also apply to any required co-curricular class excursions or events, as well as Internship.
Students who transfer from one CIEE class to another during the add/drop period will not be considered absent from the first session(s) of their new class, provided they were marked present for the first session(s) of their original class. Otherwise, the absence(s) from the original class carry over to the new class and count against the grade in that class.

Missing classes will lead to the following penalties:

90-minute semester classes:

180-minute semester classes:

Persistent absenteeism (students approaching 20% of the total course hours missed, or violating the attendance policy in more than one class) will result in a written warning, a notification to the student’s home school, and possibly a dismissal from the program.

Missing more than 20% of the total class hours will lead to a course failure, and potential program dismissal. This is a CIEE rule that applies to all CIEE courses and is in line with the Participant Contract that each CIEE student signs before arriving on-site.

Late arrival to class will be considered a partial (up to 15 minutes late) or full (15 or more minutes late) absence. Three partial absences due to late arrivals will be regarded as one full class absence.

Students must notify their professor and Program Coordinators (PC) beforehand if they are going to miss class for any reason and are responsible for any material covered in class in their absence.
If missing a class during which a test, exam, the student’s presentation or other graded class assignments are administered, make-up assignment will only be allowed in approved circumstances, such as serious medical issues. In this case, the student must submit a local doctor’s note within 24 hours of his/her absence to the PC, who will decide whether the student qualifies for a make-up assignment. Doctor’s notes may be submitted via e-mail or phone (a scan or a photograph are acceptable), however the student must ensure that the note is delivered to the PC.

Should a truly extraordinary situation arise, the student must contact the PC immediately concerning permission for a make-up assignment. Make-up assignments are not granted automatically! The PC decides the course of action for all absence cases that are not straightforward. Always contact the PC with any inquiry about potential absence(s) and the nature thereof.

Personal travel (including flight delays and cancelled flights), handling passport and other document replacements, interviews, volunteering and other similar situations are not considered justifiable reasons for missing class or getting permission for make-up assignments.

For class conflicts (irregularities in the class schedule, including field trips, make-up classes and other instances), always contact the Academic Assistant to decide the appropriate course of action.

Course attendance is recorded on individual Canvas Course Sites. Students are responsible for checking their attendance regularly to ensure the correctness of the records. In case of discrepancies, students are required to contact the Academic Assistant within one week of the discrepancy date to have it corrected. Later claims will not be considered.

CIEE staff does not directly manage absences at FAMU and ECES, but they have similar attendance policies and attendance is monitored there. Grade penalties may result from excessive absences.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1

Class  Course introduction
administration of the course; preparation for the project assignment;
Why are some countries rich and others poor? – Resources, culture, institutions, and policies

Required reading:

- Olson M. (1996)

Memo 1

Week 2
Class European religions and imperial languages – a description of differences

Required reading:

- Huntington S. (1993)
  - Provided selection of maps and other materials on Canvas

Memo 2

Week 3
Class International cultural differences – economic and management view

Required reading:


Memo 3

Week 4
Class Europe and its natural resources

basic data on economies of EU, Central and Eastern Europe (CEE).
Required reading:

- IMF Regional Economic Outlook – Europe
- Provided selection of maps and other materials on Canvas

Memo 4

Week 5

Class Basic data on populations of EU, CEE

Required reading:


PC-lab: testing the hypothesis, learning the Practical part of the project.

Week 6

Class Midterm Exam

European economic institutions and policies – introduction to comparative economics, convergence

Required reading:

- Cohen & Pisany-Ferry (2008)

Memo 5

Week 7

Class European economic institutions and policies

Midterm Exam Period

Introduction to comparative economics, productivity

Czech National Bank, excursion to permanent exposition
Required reading:

- Timmer, Ark & van, O’Mahony (2008), pp. 25–44.

Memo 6

Week 8
Class European economic institutions and policies – reaction to globalization

Required reading:

- Sapir (2006), pp.369-90
- Fischer (2012)

Memo 7

Week 9
Class Democracy, Voting systems, and Political Freedom

Required reading:

- The Democracy Index report (2014)

Memo 8

Week 10
Class Economic freedom - Doing business in Europe and US

Required reading:

- Doing business: The Ease of doing business and distance to frontier,
Memo 9

Week 11
Class Economic freedom – Indexes and Country comparisons

Required reading:

- The Heritage Foundation: Index of Economic Freedom, The Executive Highlights 2014
- The Heritage Foundation: Index of Economic Freedom, The Special 20th Anniversary Essay
- The Frazer Institute, The Economic freedom of the world, Executive summary
- The Frazer Institute, The Economic freedom of the North America 2013 (only Chapter 1)
- Visual guide and geographical distribution webpage to CPI

Memo 10

Week 12
Class Transparency and Economic Development

Required reading:

- Transparency International, Corruption Perception Index 2014
- Political Corruption Report (only to page 18 incl.)
- UNDP: The rise of the South, Human development index 2013
- UNDP: about the index
- The Economist: Where to be born index

Presentation of projects

Week 13
Class Final Exam Week

Final Exam
Course Materials

Readings

Required Reading

Books:


Papers:


Recommended Reading


Online Resources


