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: 3.00
Contact hours: 45.00
Term: Fall 2020

Course Description

The course focuses on differences in the functioning of national economies around the world and especially on differences between the national economies of individual EU member states and Central and Eastern European countries. It discusses 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. Using Hofstede's dimensions, students explore cultural differences among European countries and discuss practical issues such as the differences in the style of management and differences in consumer preferences. In addition to other theoretical tools employed in the course such as contemporary population theories, natural resource abundance, and production theories, also statistical data are included, serving as supplementary information for the comparison. The course explains 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) and analyzes the implications of differences between economic and social models used by individual member countries for competitiveness. In addition to helping students understand economies of different countries and their ability to do business, it also helps them gain an insight into European economic institutions and policies. Although the lectures and readings contain extensive empirical evidence and data, the emphasis is 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;
- Explain and evaluate 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.

Assessment and Final Grade

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

Assessment of students’ participation in class is an inherent component of the course grade. Participation is valued as meaningful contribution in the digital and tangible classroom, utilizing the resources and materials presented to students as part of the course. Students are required to actively, meaningfully and thoughtfully contribute to class discussions and all types of in-class activities throughout the duration of the class. Meaningful contribution requires students to be prepared, as directed, in advance of each class session. This includes valued or informed engagement in, for example, small group discussions, online discussion boards, peer-to-peer feedback (after presentations), interaction with guest speakers, and attentiveness on co-curricular and outside-of-classroom activities.

Students are responsible for following the course content and are expected to ask clarification questions if they cannot follow the instructor's or other students' line of thought or argumentation.

The use of electronic devices is only allowed for computer-based in-class tests, assignments and other tasks specifically assigned by the course instructor. Students are expected to take notes by hand unless the student is entitled to the use of computer due to his/her academic accommodations. In such cases the student is required to submit an official letter issued by his/her home institution specifying the extent of academic accommodations.

Class participation also includes students’ active participation in Canvas discussions and other additional tasks related to the course content as specified by the instructor.

Students will receive a partial participation grade every three weeks.

Attendance

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program.

If you will miss a class for any reason, notify the Program Coordinator and your instructor beforehand via Canvas. You are responsible for any materials covered in class during your absence, and except in the specific cases listed below, credit will not be granted for missed assessments.

Excessive absences will result in a notification letter, and finally a warning letter, sent to you and your home school, based on the following:
The notification letters are intended to ensure that you are well advised in advance of any potential for failure or dismissal, so that you can take steps to avoid this.

As the table shows, **missing more than 20% of any class (e.g., due to undocumented illness, travel delays, flight cancellations, over-sleeping, etc.) results in automatic failure of the course.**

If you miss an assessment in class due to an absence, you will be able to make it up in the following instances:

- You provide a relevant doctor's note from a local medical professional to your Program Coordinator within 24 hours of your absence (a scan or photograph sent via e-mail are acceptable)
- A CIEE staff member verifies that you were too ill to attend class.
- You provide evidence of a family emergency to your Program Coordinator.
- You have an approved absence related to the observance of a religious holiday from the Academic Director based on a request submitted before you arrived onsite.

Please note: Absences incurred due to documented illness, documented family emergency or the observance of a religious holiday approved before arrival onsite do not count towards the total of absences. Students may self-certify one absence due to illness without providing a doctor's note as long as they notify the Program Coordinator within 24 hours of their absence by e-mail or a text message.

**Other attendance-related policies**

If you transfer from one CIEE class to another during the Add/Drop period, you will not be considered absent from the first session(s) of the new class provided you were marked present for the first session(s) of the original class.

If you are over 15 minutes late for a class, the instructor is required to mark you absent.

In case of class conflicts (irregularities in the class schedule, including field trips and make-up classes), always contact the Academic Department to decide the appropriate course of action.

Please remember to track your attendance on the Canvas Course Sites and report any errors in the record to the Academic Department within one week of the discrepancy date, as later claims may not be considered.

These attendance rules also apply to any required co-curricular excursion, activity, or event, and to for-credit internships.

CIEE staff does not manage absences at partner institutions providing direct enrollment classes (FAMU, ECES and FSV), but they have similar attendance policies and attendance is monitored there. Grade penalties may result from excessive absences.

**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.**

**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.
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:**

**Books:**


**Papers:**


**Recommended:**


**Online Resources**


Doing Business (October 2013): Understanding Regulation for Small and Medium-Size Enterprises, Annual report