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: 3.00
Contact hours: 45.00
Term: Spring 2021

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 are thoroughly analyzed. Considering that the participants are American undergraduates, this course systematically compares and contrasts 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:

- Analyze the process of economic changes in the broad context of social and political development;
- Define major economic, social, and political changes in Europe since WWII;
- Compare economic, social and political development among different countries;
- 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

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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of course hours missed</th>
<th>Number of CEE classes</th>
<th>Minimum penalty</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Up to 10%</td>
<td>One to Three 90-min. classes; or One 180-min. class</td>
<td>No penalty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10% - 20%</td>
<td>Four 90-min. classes</td>
<td>Written notification* to the student, followed by a warning letter to the student and home school; 3% reduction in the final grade</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Five 90-min. classes</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Two 180-min classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>More than 20%</td>
<td>Six 90-min. classes; or Three 180-min. classes</td>
<td>Automatic course failure, and possible expulsion with notification to the home school</td>
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* 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: 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:
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:

Recommended:

Online Resources
http://europa.eu/index_en.htm