CIEE Prague, Czech Republic

Course title: The Politics and Economics of the European Union
Course code: POLI 3005 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 very existence and the radical enlargement of the European Union is becoming one of the defining events of the early twenty-first century. The course explores the history and ideology of the European unification process and the emergence and transformation of political institutions. As the collapse of communist regimes in Central and Eastern Europe posed new challenges and lead to the compilation of a new comprehensive document, the Lisbon Treaty, the course examines its rationale and impact on member countries. In addition, the course addresses current issues, including the current monetary crisis and the political processes in respective member states.

Learning Objectives

By completing this course, students will:

- Outline and critically examine the history and the motives of the emergence of the EU on the European continent;
- Analyze and critically discuss different present political and economic events;
- Explain and illustrate the interdependence of economic, political, and cultural phenomena on the European continent;
- Predict, critically discuss and assess issues arising from the future possible enlargement of the EU in the changing geopolitical context.

Course Prerequisites

General interest in European politics and integration studies is expected.

Methods of Instruction

The course is based on: lectures, respective debates, and discussions based on readings. Every student covers one of the EU countries and informs the class about current issues. Great attention is paid to the analysis of political press and current political and economic developments. The course is based on active participation. The teacher will help the students choose and work on their final paper paying respect to their major and minor studies. Advice will be offered concerning individual travel plans in Europe.

Assessment and Final Grade

1. EU country reports and portfolio 20%
2. Midterm Test 20%
3. Final Test 20%
4. Final Paper (incl. the presentation in the class) 20%
5. Class Participation 20%
TOTAL 100%

Course Requirements

EU country reports and portfolio

Throughout the course, students will carry out research about one Central European country of their choice, based on requirements specified by the instructor on a weekly basis. Findings will be shared in class on a regular basis (Report) and the Country Portfolio will be submitted to the instructor by Week 11.
Midterm Test

The midterm test will be written in the classroom in the sixth week of the program. The midterm will test basic acquaintance with the issues taught in the first five weeks.

Final Test

The final test will be written in the classroom to test the issues in the second half of the course, during Week 12.

Final Paper (incl. the presentation in the class)

The final paper (8-10 pages, i.e., 2000-2500 words) will be submitted and presented in the last week of the program. The selection of the topic starts in the middle of the program. In addition, students are required to present on the subject of their research in class during the final week of classes.

Class Participation

Active participation is required. It assessed regularly and partial participation grades are distributed four times per semester. Active participation includes activity in class (answering instructor’s questions, working on tasks as assigned, demonstrating home preparation for class, including required readings, etc.). The instructor reserves the right to give short quizzes on the reading or past lecture content, which will be included in the Class Participation grade. For details on CIEE Prague Participation Policy, see the section below.

CIEE Prague Class Participation Policy

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: 1.1 Introduction to the course.

The relation between European studies and the studies of the EU. International organizations and the theories of integration.

Class: 1.2 European geopolitics.

Terminology and bibliography.
The history of the idea of Europe.
The importance to study political maps and statistics.

*Required readings:*
European news servers as specified by the instructor

*Homework assignment:*
Political map of Europe.

**Week 2**
Class: 2.1 The history of European integration process 1945-1989.

*Required readings:*
Pagden (2002), 33-54.
European news servers as specified by the instructor

Class: 2.2 Economic reconstruction and cooperation.
The fathers of Europe. Security and the Cold War in Europe.

*Required readings:*
European news servers as specified by the instructor

*Assignment:*
EU Country Report 1

**Week 3**
Class: 3.1 The road from Rome to Maastricht 1991/92. – Part 1

*Required readings:*
Gillingham (2003), 294-312.
European news servers as specified by the instructor

Class: 3.2 The road from Rome to Maastricht 1991/92. – Part 2

*Required readings:*
European news servers as specified by the instructor

*Assignment:*
EU Country Report 2

**Week 4**

*Required readings:*
Broker and North (2003), 427-452.
European news servers as specified by the instructor

Class: 4.2 The decision to enlarge towards Central and Eastern Europe and the consequences:
The discussion on the "finality" of the EU.
The controversy between the Eurooptimists and Europessimists.

*Required readings:*

Week 5
Class: 5.1 The institutional framework of the EU and its history:
the European Council, the European Commission, the European Parliament, the European Court of Justice, the Council of Ministers. – Part 1

Required readings:

Class: 5.2 The institutional framework of the EU and its history:
the European Council, the European Commission, the European Parliament, the European Court of Justice, the Council of Ministers. – Part 2

Required readings:
European news servers as specified by the instructor

Assignment:
EU Country Report 3

Week 6
Class: 6.1 The elections to European Parliament in May 2014 and resulting questions.
The last general elections in selected member states having impact on the integration process. Referendums concerning the integration process. Trends towards autonomy and separatism.

Required readings:
European news servers as specified by the instructor

Class: 6.2 Midterm Exam Period

Midterm Test

Week 7
Class: 7.1 Evaluation of the midterm test.
Economic policies of the EU: the EU budget, Single market and Single currency.

Required readings:

Class: 7.2 Agricultural policy.
Regional Policy.
Association agreements with the countries applying for the membership.

Required readings:
European news servers as specified by the instructor
Assignment:
EU Country Report 5

Week 8
Class: 8.1 Foreign and security policy of the European Union.
External relations.
Relations with the United States of America: TTIP.

Required readings:
European news servers as specified by the instructor

Class: 8.2
Challenges: Ukrainian-Russian crisis.
Immigration issues.

Required readings:
European news servers as specified by the instructor

Assignment:
EU Country Report 6

Week 9
Class: 9.1 The Treaty of Lisbon.

Required readings:
The Treaty on the Functioning of the EU: selected articles.
European news servers as specified by the instructor

Class: 9.2 The ratification process of the Treaty. The case of Ireland.

Required readings:
European news servers as specified by the instructor

Assignment:
EU Country Report 7

Week 10
Class: 10.1 The Treaty of Lisbon.
European citizenship and identity? Opinions of some prominent European thinkers.

Required readings:
The Treaty on the Functioning of the EU: selected articles.

Week 11
Class: 11.1 Current political problems in the EU
Politics: e.g. EU-Russian Federation, Illegal immigration, EU-Middle East and others.

Required readings:
selected articles in international press
Class: 11.2 Current political problems in the EU:

Economics: Public debt of selected countries and the proposed solutions.

Required readings:
selected articles in international press
European news servers as specified by the instructor

Assignment:
EU Country Portfolio due

Week 12
Class: 12.1 Review before the Final Test.

Class: 12.2 Final Written Test.

Week 13
Class: 13.1 Final Exam Week

Evaluation of the Final test.
Final Paper due before class 1

Class: 13.2 Final Exam Week

Presentations of Final Papers and discussion.
Evaluation of the course.

Course Materials
Readings
- The Treaty on the Functioning of the EU: selected articles.

Recommended books (in the CIEE library)
- Bongiovanni, Francesco. The Decline and Fall of Europe. UK, 2012.
- The Treaty of Lisbon

Recommended journals
- Perspectives. Published by the Institute of International Relations, Prague.
- Prague Business Journal.
- Different EU websites, e.g. Robert Schuman Research Institute.