



Study abroad.

SYLLABUS

ECONOMIC INTEGRATION OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Instructor: Dr. Andreas Staab

Fall 2011

Contact Hrs: 39

Language of Instruction: English

LONDON, ENGLAND (ILACA)

Course Content

The course will provide a comprehensive examination of the processes of European economic integration, and offers a critical analysis of EU policies in their broader political-economic context. In addition, the course also addresses the peculiar and often problematic relationship between Great Britain and the EU, while also focusing on the external dimension of Europe in the global economy.

The course is therefore divided into three parts: Part I gives an insight into the main historical currents and analyses the key institutional mechanisms for economic decision making. Part II analyses the main economic policies, which continue to shape the integration processes of the EU including the Single Market, Economic and Monetary Union, cohesion or the Common Agricultural Policy, as well as the environment. In Part III the course focuses on the EU's external policies which have an effect on non-EU countries, as well as future member states, ranging from External Trade and the WTO to enlargement.

Course Objectives

The course does not require any previous knowledge in European affairs, or indeed a background in economics or other social sciences. Through taking this course students will gain a thorough understanding not only of the EU and its key actors and activities, but also of the extent to which economic policies shape societies.

Instructional Methodology

The course places a high emphasis on pro-active teaching methods (such as court-room and summit simulations, SWOT analyses, or group discussions) with the pedagogic aim of

processing recently acquired information (such as lectures or the studying of books and articles) in a conducive, pro-active manner. As such, student presentations (see Method of Evaluation below) often form the basis of intense group discussions and analyses. In addition to standard lectures, the course also integrates a number of TV documentaries.

Study Visits

- Outside of the class room the course also aims to integrate a number of study visits. We will rely to some extent on the nearby London School of Economics; one of the world's top universities, which regularly invites public speakers of extremely high caliber, while also organizing topical debates and panel discussions on matters that are closely related to this course.
- Subject to confirmation, students will participate in a study visit to the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).
- The course also integrates a visit to the UK parliament, where we intend to follow a committee debate on EU affairs, either in the House of Commons, or the House of Lords.

Method of Evaluation (Grading)

1. Presentations, Class Participation, Workshops: 20 %
2. First Essay: 20 %
3. Second Essay: 40 %
4. Report on Visit to the EBRD: 20 %

1. Presentations, Class Participation

Over the course of the semester, students are required to give one presentation per term. Presentations should be **no longer than 25 minutes** and should provide the seminar group with a discussion base. Hence, presentations ought to cover key factual points, but should also give some 'food for thought'. In addition the presentation should also highlight one internet source of your choice and should offer fellow students advice on the suitability of this source (informative, accurate, good/bad points, etc.)

2. First Essay (Take Home)

Over the course of the term, students will be given one take-home assignment. This essay will be handed out after the completion of Part I. Proper referencing, footnotes and a bibliography (at least five sources per essay should be consulted) are expected. There is a strict space limit of **1000 words**.

3. Final Exam

On our final day, we will be writing our final in-class exam which covers topics addressed in Part II and III. Students are allowed to use their course notes. However, books, articles, and laptops/computers are not permitted.

4. Grading System

Students can achieve a combined maximum of 30 points for ‘presentation and class participation’ (which also includes the report for the study visit to the EBRD), as well as 30 points for the first exam. The final exam has a maximum of 40 points, bringing the total number of points to 100. The final number of points translates into the following grade:

A:	94 - 100 points
A minus:	88 - 93 points
B plus:	81 - 87 points
B:	76 - 80 points
B minus:	70 - 75 points
C plus:	65 - 69 points
C:	60 - 64 points
C minus:	55--59 points
D:	50-54 points
F:	0 – 49 points

Course Readings

- Andreas Staab. *The European Union Explained*. Indiana University Press, 2nd edition 2011.
- Updates on this book can be accessed at www.epicseminars.com Click on ‘The European Union Explained’.

This book does not represent an in-depth analysis of the EU, but is instead designed as an accessible introduction for those readers who do not possess any knowledge of European affairs. As such, students are strongly advised to regard the book as elaborate lecture notes, which necessitate the use of additional, academic sources, including the ones listed below. The contents of this book correspond to the outline of this course with the exception of our session on the environment, which the book does not cover.

Other Reference Texts:

1. Desmond Dinan. *Ever Closer Union: An Introduction to European Integration*. Palgrave, 4th edition. 2011
2. N. Nugent. *The Government and Politics of the European Union*. London: Macmillan, 7th edition, 2010.
3. H. Wallace (ed). *Policy Making in the EU*. Oxford University Press. 2010
4. Simon Hix, *What’s wrong with the European Union and how to fix it’*. Polity Press, 2009
5. Ali M. El-Agraa and Brian Ardy. *The European Union. Economics and Policies*. Prentice Hall, 2011.
6. Garcia, Clayton and Hobley. *The Students’ Guide to European Integration*. Polity Press, 2004

Essential Reference Sources:

Official Web Site of the EU: <http://europa.eu.int>

The Financial Times: www.ft.com

The Economist: www.economist.co.uk

The Guardian: www.guardian.co.uk One of the biggest dailies w/ a comprehensive archive
www.euractiv.com an internet portal sponsored by the Commission on a large range of topics.

Course Outline

• **Part I: Understanding the European Union**

Sep 7 and 12 Historical Analysis of European Integration: From Paris to Nice

Sep 14 **no class:** compensation for LSE visit

students will nonetheless meet to work on their EBRD visit

Sep 19 and 21 Historical Analysis of European Integration: From Paris to Nice

Sep 26 and 28 Institutional Mechanisms in the European Union

Please note: Take home exam will be handed out

• **Part II. Common Policies**

Oct 3 and 5 The Single Market, Competition and State Aid

Oct 10 Cohesion

Oct 11 **Tuesday, 9.30 – 10.30:** Common Agricultural Policy

Oct 12 **no class:** compensation for Oct 11 session

Oct 17 and 19 **no class:** mid term break

Oct 24 Economic and Monetary Union

Oct 26 **no class:** compensation for Visit to Houses of Parliament

Oct 31 Economic and Monetary Union

Nov 1 **18.00 – 19.30 visit to the houses of parliament (TBC)**

Nov 2 Economic and Monetary Union

Nov 7 and 9 The sovereign debt crisis in the Eurozone

Nov 14 Environment

Note: EBRD reports are due and will be analysed during these sessions

• **Part III. External Policies**

Nov 16 External Trade

Nov 21 and 23 Enlargement

Nov 28 Common Foreign and Security Policy

Nov 30 Revision

Dec 5 Final Exam

To be confirmed (TBC):

- Visit to London School of Economics
- Visit to UK parliament
- Independent Study visit to EBRD

Course Program

- **Historical Analysis of European Integration: From Paris to Nice**

Questions:

1. What is Europe
2. Is there anything that divides Europeans?
3. Is there anything that Europeans have in common?
4. What are the key issues facing the EU in the next ten years?
5. How similar/different is the EU from other political systems?

Essential Reading: Dinan, relevant chapters

Additional Reading: Garcia et.al, Ch.1

- **EU Institutional Mechanisms:**

Questions:

1. How similar/different is the EU from other political systems?
2. What are the powers of the Commission, the Council (of Ministers) and the European Council?
3. Why has the Council delegated certain powers to the Commission?
4. Can the ECJ influence the direction of European integration?
5. Is the Commission a 'government', a 'bureaucracy' or a 'regulatory agency'?

Essential Reading: Dinan, relevant chapters

Further Reading:

Nugent relevant chapters

Commission Web Site: http://europa.eu.int/comm/index_en.htm

El Agraa, relevant chapters

- **The Single Market and Competition**

Questions:

1. How is market regulation different to redistribution?
2. Has the Single Market resulted in the erosion of national differences and idiosyncrasies? Has Europe lost its cultural variety?
3. Is EU competition policy free market or interventionist?

Essential Reading: Dinan, relevant chapters

Further Reading: El Agraa, relevant chapters

Garcia et.al, Chs.12, 17.. Wallace, relevant chapters

- **Cohesion and Redistribution**

Questions

1. Is EU cohesion policy simply a 'side-payment' to buy support for European integration?
2. Has EU cohesion reduced economic disparities in the EU?
3. How important are regions and sub-national interests in shaping EU cohesion policies?

Essential Reading: El Agraa ch. relevant chapters

Further Reading: Garcia et.al, Ch.15. Wallace, relevant chapters

- **The Common Agricultural Policy**

Questions:

1. What explains the establishment of the CAP and why it is so difficult to reform?
2. Why are farmers more influential than consumers in the EU policy process?
3. What implications did the 2004 enlargement have for the CAP?

Essential Reading: Dinan, ch.12

Further Reading: El Agra, relevant chapters, Garcia et.al, ch.14.. Wallace, relevant chapters

- **The Euro:**

Questions:

1. What are the economic and political costs and benefits of EMU?
2. What explains the adoption of the EMU project?
3. How can 'asymmetric shocks' be dealt with in EMU?

Essential Reading: El Agra, relevant chapters, Dinan, relevant chapters

Further Reading: Garcia et.al. Ch.13, Wallace, relevant chapters. Dinan, relevant chapters

- **The Sovereign debt crisis in the Eurozone?**

Questions

1. Which countries struggle with unsustainable public debt?
2. What has the EU done to help these countries?
3. Has this help been sufficient?
4. What were the structural flaws in the Maastricht Treaty's Stability Pact that allowed this crisis to happen?
5. Will the Euro break up?

Essential Reading: Andreas Staab: update on the Euro on www.epicseminars.com

Further Reading: internet research on Euro crisis in Greece, Portugal and Ireland.

- **Environment**

Questions:

1. Does the environment policy have the potential to add legitimacy to the EU's integration project?
2. Is the EU good for the environment?
3. What has the EU achieved so far in protecting the environment?
4. Where has the EU failed?

Essential Reading: Wallace. Relevant chapter

- **External Trade**

Questions:

1. Is the EU's common commercial policy protectionist or free trade?
2. What explains the making of EU trade policy?
3. What impact does the EU have in the international trading system?
4. Is the EU better off competing or collaborating with the US in economic matters?

Essential Reading: Dinan, relevant chapters

Further Reading: El Agra, relevant chapters

- **Enlargement**

Questions:

1. What impact has the fourth enlargement had on the working and agenda of the EU?
2. What explains the agenda and speed of EU enlargement?
3. What are the costs and benefits of eastern enlargement for the EU?
4. Should Turkey join the European Union?

Essential Reading: Dinan, relevant chapters

Further Reading: Garcia et.al, Ch.21. El Agra, relevant chapters, Wallace, relevant chapters

- **Common Foreign Policy**

Questions:

1. Who represents the EU abroad?
2. In global politics, does the EU pursue more than an economic agenda?
3. What are the instruments, which the EU employs to pursue its common foreign policy?
4. Is the CFSP effective?
5. In the future, is the EU equipped to avoid a human disaster in Europe along the lines of the violent break up of Yugoslavia?

Essential Reading: Dinan, ch. relevant chapters

Further Reading: Garcia et.al, Ch.17. Wallace, relevant chapters 3