

Academic Year: (2024 / 2025)

Review date: 26-04-2024

Department assigned to the subject: Social Sciences Department

Coordinating teacher: SOJKA SWITON, ALEKSANDRA ANNA

Type: Basic Core ECTS Credits : 6.0

Year : 2 Semester : 2

Branch of knowledge: Social Sciences and Law

OBJECTIVES

The national politics of European countries are increasingly intertwined with the supranational developments on the continent. The main goal of the course will be to apply the theoretical tools of political science to the analysis of the emerging European multilevel political systems. The course's specific focus will be on different elements of the political regime of the European Union (EU), the key public policies it produces, and the underlying political community.

The course emphasises the logic of European integration reflected in its historical development, theoretical approaches to the dynamics of supranational integration, the political and institutional functioning of the European political system, the design and outcomes of EU public policies, and its political and democratic legitimacy.

Students' understanding of the different topics will be deepened through practical exercises and debates on current issues in European politics. By the end of the course, students will have a clear understanding of the European integration process, comprehend the extent to which a political system exists in today's European continent, be familiar with the functioning of EU institutions, and be able to analyse the evolution of European politics with theoretical and analytical rigour and from a critical perspective.

The course is part of the following Jean Monnet initiatives of the Erasmus+ Programme: The "PromethEUs" Chair of Interdisciplinary European Governance and the Madrid Centre of Excellence for Interdisciplinary EU Studies.

DESCRIPTION OF CONTENTS: PROGRAMME

1. The European Union as a political system
2. European integration: Historical perspective
3. European integration: Theoretical approaches
4. Executive policy in the EU
5. Legislative policy in the EU
6. Judicial policy in the EU
7. Economic policies: Single Market and Economic and Monetary Union
8. Expenditure policies
9. Democracy, parties, elections
10. Public opinion and European identity

LEARNING ACTIVITIES AND METHODOLOGY

Practical exercises in class (15%)

The simulation exercise (10%)

Presentation in groups (10%)

Attendance and participation (5%) in debates in practical classes (seminars) will be evaluated by teachers throughout the course.

ASSESSMENT SYSTEM

% end-of-term-examination:	60
% of continuous assessment (assignments, laboratory, practicals...):	40

Written exams account for 60% of the final grade. To pass the course, you must obtain a minimum of 5 on average between the midterm and final exam.

Practical classes (seminars): Work developed in the seminars (debates, assignments, preparation of material for the simulation) and participation account for 40% of the final grade.

BASIC BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Hix, Simon & Bjørn Høyland The Political System of the European Union, Bloomsbury, 2022

ADDITIONAL BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Ares, Cristina & Luis Bouza Política de la Unión Europea: crisis y continuidad, CIS, 2019
- Cini, Michelle & Nieves Pérez-Sólorzano Borragán European Union Politics, 6th edition, OUP, 2019
- Coman, Ramona, Amandine Crespy & Vivien A. Schmidt Governance and Politics in the Post-Crisis European Union, Cambridge University Press, 2020
- Hodson, Dermont The Institutions of the European Union (5th edition), Oxford University Press, 2022
- Leuffen, Dirk, Berthold Rittberger, & Frank Schimmelfennig. Integration and Differentiation in the European Union: Theory and Policies (2nd ed.), Palgrave, 2022
- Wallace, Helen, Mark A. Pollack & Alasdair R. Young Policy-Making in the European Union, Oxford University Press, 2020