

## **SYLLABUS**

**COURSE:** European Economic Integration

**CREDITS:** 3 ECTS

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## **LEARNING OBJECTIVES**

The main purpose of the course is to provide students with the tools to evaluate the process of regional economic integration in Europe and to analyze the major challenges and policy responses. The economic role that the EU plays in the global economic order is also discussed and, in this context, related to competing processes of economic integration. Policy-making tools of economic governance are introduced and specific case studies discussed.

The lectures will provide a general and multifaceted overview on the policies related to the process of regional economic integration in the context of European integration. The diversity of the EU member states' contexts and the role of the EU, especially in fiscal, monetary, trade and regional development is scrutinized.

Several questions will be addressed: How does the state interfere with private sector economic activities? What are major challenges to the EU? Why the EU is a unique project? How has the crisis affected the EU and its economic governance? What are the most relevant developments in the EU's external relations, in terms of external trade agreements and regional economic integration models.

A part of the course is devoted to the understanding and problematization of some of the most controversial contemporary issues such as the current economic crisis in the Eurozone, Brexit, or the Russia sanctions.

## **LEARNING OUTCOMES**

By the end of the course, student will have a solid understanding of the nature, foundation, history, institutional structure and policy-making process when it comes to economic integration in the EU. They will have developed a critical perspective on the major aspects of policy making and inter-institutional dynamics and will be able to problematize the most relevant issues of regional economic integration.

Upon successfully completing the course, the students will:

- demonstrate knowledge of the history and current state-of-affairs regarding the - integrated economy of the EU (customs union, single market, monetary integration, increased EU coordination of domestic economic policies)
- understand the major current socio-economic developments and challenges in the context of regional economic integration in Europe
- critically assess the major policy (and institutional) responses to these developments and challenges
- make sense of the process of economic integration in Europe and relate it to the context of Eurasian integration, in terms of communalities and differences
- understand and analyse the EU's external trade policy and its multilateral, bilateral, and unilateral tools

#### **LIST OF LECTURED TOPICS**

##### **1. Economic integration in the context of European integration**

- Introduction to the course
- Key historical milestones of the process of economic integration
- Focus on the definition of the single market
- Institutional setting of the EU economic governance

##### **2. The practice of EU integration: policies related to economic integration**

- Monetary integration and related policies
- EU cohesion policy
- EU competition policy
- Labour and social policy
- Trade policy
- Focus on current issues: the Eurozone crisis

##### **3. Externalizing regional economic integration**

- Power in trade vs. power through trade
- EU competences
- Multilateral, bilateral, unilateral dimensions
- Types of trade agreements (DCFTA, FTA, CEFTA, EEA, CETA, etc.)
- Focus on current issues: Brexit and Russia sanctions

##### **4. Simulation of decision-making**

- Eastern Partnership Summit (focus on economic cooperation)

#### **LEARNING PROCESS**

Students' independent work is a key and fundamental element of the course. It is fundamental for a successful and proficient learning process and - as such - it will be evaluated and assessed

during every meeting. Students are expected to work independently between sessions. This is crucial both in order to better interiorize the notions and experiences acquired during the preceding session (i.e. individual reflection on the results of the class discussion and application of the introduced research methods) and to prepare the informative background necessary to successfully participate to the successive meeting (preparations for the discussions in class).

## **ASSESSMENT METHODS**

**FINAL TEST:** It consists of a mix of open and closed (multiple-choice) questions addressing the main dimensions discussed during the course.

**PREPARATION OF SIMULATION MATERIAL:** In the last meeting students will be involved in a Eastern Partnership summit negotiating exercise (role game) where the knowledge and notions acquired during the lectures and the seminars are tested and put into practice. In particular, students are grouped as representatives of Member States and Eastern Partnership countries, and have to conduct multi-lateral and bi-lateral negotiation accordingly. Students' activism is taken into account and the preparation of the material assessed on a differentiated basis. The participation to the exercise is assessed on a non-differentiated basis (pass/fail). If the student participates to it, meeting the required minimum criteria, the task is considered achieved. The participation to the exercise is a pre-requisite to be considered for the final assessment.

The components of the final evaluation will weight in the definition of the final grade according to the following percentages and distribution of points:

Final test – 60%

Preparation of simulation material – 40%

## **SPECIFICATIONS**

1. Students are expected to attend all course meetings and to come to class well prepared to discuss the readings.
2. Plagiarism is not tolerated and can lead to failing the course. More details are available at [www.plagiarism.org](http://www.plagiarism.org)

## **TEXTBOOK**

Verdun, A., Tovias, A. (Eds.) (2013). *Mapping European Economic Integration Editors*. Palgrave MacMillan

Additional articles and readings for the seminars and lectures will be made available in due time