

Teaching guide

IDENTIFICATION DETAILS

Degree:	International Relations		
Field of Knowledge:	Social and Legal Science		
Faculty/School:	Law, Business and Governance		
Course:	EUROPEAN UNION I		
Type:	Compulsory	ECTS credits:	3
Year:	2	Code:	7051
Teaching period:	Fourth semester		
Area:	Geopolitics and Today's World		
Module:	Foundations for a Theory of International Relations		
Teaching type:	Classroom-based		
Language:	English		
Total number of student study hours:	75		

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SUBJECT DESCRIPTION

La Unión Europea es un actor internacional particular dada su naturaleza supranacional. Este primer curso de Unión Europea se centrará en el estudio del gobierno europeo y, más en concreto, del funcionamiento y papel que desempeñan las distintas instituciones europeas.

European Union I is a subject devoted to the study of the only supranational organization in the world, the EU, and more specifically, of the role, functioning and nature of its institutions.

GOAL

The goal of this course is to understand why and for what purpose the European Union exists and to have a basic understanding of its structure and functioning: distribution of competences with the Member States, decision-making, institutional balance, etc.

The specific aims of the subject are:

European Union I is focused on the structure and functioning of the international organisation as a supranational one, with the specific characteristic of the integration of its member states. It provides an introduction of the review of the process of integration and its broadening and deepening.

The study of the main institutions, their nature, evolution, current structure and selection process and the role each one plays in the policy making process. All these should be understood in the light of the equilibrium of the Member states and the International Organisation.

PRIOR KNOWLEDGE

Students who have already passed 1st year subject Mundo Actual 1: Europa must know the historical framework within the European process of integration took place. More specifically, they must understand the European unification is a direct consequence of the Second World War, and acknowledge the effects the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union had in the creation and development of the European Project.

COURSE SYLLABUS

I. WHAT IS THE EUROPEAN UNION?

1. The originality of the European integration process

II. WHY IS THE EU THE WAY IT IS?

2. Organizing post-war Europe

3. The European integration process: from Rome to Maastricht

4. The European integration process: from Maastricht to Lisbon and today

III. WHAT IS THE EU FOR?

5. The values and objectives of the EU. The fundamental rights

6. The EU and its citizens

7. The competences of the EU

IV. HOW DOES IT WORK?

8. Decision-making in the EU

9. The European Commission

10. The Council of the EU and the European Council

11. The European Parliament

12. The Court of Justice of the EU

EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

The class will be based on a combination on these, that will depend on the evolution of the specific class Lectures. Students must read in advance the book chapters and the other sources provided to prepare the class, so they can follow the explanations and participate actively in the course.

Group Presentations. Students must expose and explain to their colleagues a topic, chosen in collaboration with the professor. The date for the oral presentations will be set once the students chose the items for their presentations. The oral presentation will include audiovisual elements and both the research work and the presentation will be assessed. After the exposition, a debate moderate by the professor will be performed with the rest of the students on the topic explained

Debates. Journal papers, newspaper articles will be distributed among the students. They will be required to read and think about it and then take part in a discussion about its arguments.

Essay. Students must elaborate one main critical essay based on the contents of the course and the compulsory readings, like most recent judgements & opinions of the Court of Justice of the European Union, newspaper articles, etc.

Tutorials. Meetings with the professor as to clarify specific points of the subject.

Learning through case study: Students, individually or in groups, in the classroom or virtually, have to solve a problem regarding a topic.

DISTRIBUTION OF WORK TIME

CLASSROOM-BASED ACTIVITY	INDEPENDENT STUDY/OUT-OF-CLASSROOM ACTIVITY
30 hours	45 hours
Seminar course - 22 hours Presentations, debates, case studies - 8 hours 30h	Individual and group work - 20hours Online work - 15 hours 45h

SKILLS

Basic Skills

Students must have demonstrated knowledge and understanding in an area of study that is founded on general secondary education. Moreover, the area of study is typically at a level that includes certain aspects implying knowledge at the forefront of its field of study, albeit supported by advanced textbooks

Students must be able to apply their knowledge to their work or vocation in a professional manner and possess skills that can typically be demonstrated by coming up with and sustaining arguments and solving problems within their field of study

Students must have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data (usually within their field of study) in order to make judgments that include reflections on pertinent social, scientific or ethical issues

Students must be able to convey information, ideas, problems and solutions to both an expert and non-expert audience

Students must have developed the learning skills needed to undertake further study with a high degree of independence

General Skills

To acquire critical, analytical, synthetic, reflective, theoretical and practical thought to be able to understand, analyse, interpret and rigorously and independently sum up international reality from a multidisciplinary standpoint.

To acquire the ability to consider and creatively respond to the essential questions as to the whys and wherefores, and the consequences of human, social, political and economic events of global society.

To acquire the ability to present and discuss conflicting ideas, thereby generating meeting forums for individuals or social groups from different countries and cultures.

To be able to generate public opinion and build bridges with the various social sectors, allowing for the formation and dissemination of a message and culture for the benefit of humankind, conveying values based on the search for truth and common good.

To develop personal leadership focussing on communication and mediation in the context of international relations.

To be able to apply group work with common objectives, fostering the analysis and pooling of various approaches.

To develop communication skills allowing for accurate written and oral expression, as well as rigorous discourse and suitable reasoning in public.

To suitably use all possible sources that make it possible to be familiar with the international reality in the historical, political, economic, legal and social spheres, in all formats, in order to organise and plan the study and analysis of the international reality.

Specific skills

To study, identify and analyse the various geostrategic regions and key areas of regional influence worldwide. To be familiar with the origin and development of world crisis and conflict scenarios.

To be able to foresee processes of change and transformation in the various geographical regions.

To be familiar with and apply the foremost concepts and terminology used in international relations from a range of multidisciplinary approaches.

To be familiar with and assess the role of the media with regard to the international reality and their influence on public opinion.

To analyse human problems associated with conflicts, disasters and inequalities, and to exercise mediation duties.

To understand and analyse decision-making in foreign policy in the main European states.

To be familiar with the structure, operation and management of international governmental and non-governmental organisations.

To acquire the ability to express oneself fluently and effectively in Spanish and English, to analyse and study the various processes involved in international relations.

LEARNING RESULTS

Knowing the postulates on which the theories of European integration are based and how they explain/how they influence the process of European integration.

Understanding the unique conditions in which European integration began and identify the changes in the political, economic and philosophical context that explain its evolution.

Understanding the rationale for the proposal that led to the emergence of the European Communities.

Comparing the concepts of supranationalism and intergovernmentalism and their impact on European integration

Understanding the roots of Euroscepticism and of the so-called democratic deficit of the EU

Understanding the content of European citizenship and exploring the concept of European identity

Understanding the institutional scheme of the European Union, identifying the main competences of each institution

Explaining the balance of power among the European institutions

Describing the decision-making and policy-making process within the European Union

Understand the rationale and scope of the values of the European Union.

Getting to know the role the EU plays today in international relations

Arguing about the purpose and meaning of the EU today and whether (and how) it contributes to the common good of Europeans.

LEARNING APPRAISAL SYSTEM

ORDINARY SESSION

- Final exam: 50% . A minimum mark of 4/10 must be obtained for the exam to be averaged with the rest of the assignments.
- Individual or group essays on academic articles or EU documents, text commentaries, exercises, presentations and debates: 40%
- Participation in class: 10% (discussion of news articles, response to questions posed by the professor)

EXTRAORDINARY SESSION

1. If the students **sits for the exam in the ordinary session but fails the subject**, s/he will have to sit for the exam in the extraordinary session. In that case, the exam will amount to 70% of the final grade. New tasks requested by the professor will amount to another 30%. Students who got a 5 or more in the tasks handed in during the ordinary session might keep their grade if the professor decides so.
2. If the student **does not sit for the exam in the ordinary session**, s/he will have to sit for the exam in the extraordinary session. In that case, the final score will be a weighting between the final exam (50%) and the additional essays, text commentaries or book reviews specifically requested by the professor (50%) for that extraordinary session of exams.

ACADEMIC DISPENSATION OR STUDENTS IN EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES

Students with approved academic dispensation. A student may be granted academic dispensation for reasons of work, incompatibility of timetables, illness or other reasons deemed necessary by the Directorate of the Degree Course, after requesting it from the Academic Coordination Office and providing the documentation required for this purpose. Once granted, both the lecturer affected and the student who has requested it will be officially notified by the Academic Coordination Office.

Students in second or successive enrolments and UFV students on exchange programmes. For these students, it is not necessary to request a waiver. They may attend the classes voluntarily but they must follow the alternative evaluation system described below. In any case, it is the student's responsibility to follow the course, as well as the aspects that make up their assessment.

Those students with academic dispensation, in second or successive enrolments or who are on exchange abroad will be assessed **according to the following system**

- Final exam: 50%. A minimum mark of 4/10 must be obtained for the exam to be averaged with the rest of the assignments.
- Essays on academic articles/ text commentaries/ book reviews/ other assignments: 50%

GENERAL REMARKS

All students must fully participate in class and respect other people's opinions. All students must arrive on time for all classes. All assignments must meet deadlines; no extension will be granted in the absence of a genuine emergency. Failure to meet deadlines or adhere to the class expectations will result in a negative impact on the grade. Plagiarism, along with unlawful behaviour during examinations, will be punished according to the University's Assessment Rules and its Norms of Coexistence.

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND OTHER RESOURCES

Basic

McCormick J. European Union Politics 3rd (2020)
Red Globe Press

McCormick J. Understanding the European Union. A concise introduction 7th
The European Union Series

Additional

Craig P. & De Burca G. EU law: texts, cases and materials 7th
Oxford University Press

Moravcsik, A. The choice for Europe: social purpose and state power from Messina to Maastricht 1998
Cornell University Press

Nugent N. The Government and Politics of the EU 2017
The European Union Series

Schuman R. For Europe
Nagel, Fondation Robert Schuman

--- Further readings will be provided to prepare specific chapters