



CIEE Prague, Czech Republic

Course title:	The Politics and Economics of the European Union
Course code:	POLI 3005 PRAG
Programs offering course:	Business, Arts and Sciences, Central European Studies, Communication, New Media, and Journalism
Language of instruction:	English
U.S. semester credits:	3.00
Contact hours:	45.00
Term:	Fall 2023

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 led 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 is 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

To encourage engaged learning, regular class attendance is required throughout the program. This includes any required co-curricular class excursion or event, as well as internship, service-learning, or other required field placement.

An excused absence in a CIEE course will only be considered if approved by a CIEE Center Director/Academic Director (not the Instructor), and:

- it is a self-certified absence for illness (only once per course, requires formal request before or within 24 hours, cannot miss assessment worth more than 5% of final course grade)
- a doctor's note from a local medical professional is provided
- evidence of a family emergency is provided
- it is a pre-approved observance of religious holiday

Unexcused absences include personal travel and/or travel delays, as well as missing more than 25% of a single class period (including tardiness and early departure). Assessments missed due to unexcused absences will be marked as zero. Students with over 10% unexcused absences will be contacted by CIEE staff. Students with over 20% unexcused absences will be contacted by CIEE staff, receive a formal warning letter (shared with their home institution) and lose 10% of the final course point total (e.g., a final A grade of 93% will be lowered to a B grade of 83%).

For more detail, please consult your CIEE Academic Manual.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is essential to a positive and inclusive teaching and learning environment. All students are expected to complete coursework responsibilities with fairness, respect, and honesty. Failure to do so by seeking unfair advantage over others or misrepresenting someone else's work as your own can result in grade penalties or disciplinary action. See the CIEE Student Academic Manual for further information on academic integrity.

N.B. Course schedule and co-curriculars are subject to change. The final duration and distribution of content and assignments will be determined and presented to students at the onset of the course.

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

Class: 4.1 The Maastricht Treaty. The challenges of 1989.

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:

European news servers as specified by the instructor

Assignment:

EU Country Report 3

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:

Agraa (2011), 38-55.

European news servers as specified by the instructor

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 4

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:

Glencross (2014), 285-304.

European news servers as specified by the instructor

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:

Brzezinski (1997), 194-215.

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

European news servers as specified by the instructor

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.

Course Materials

Readings

- Pagden, Anthony. *The Idea of Europe*. Cambridge University Press, 2002, 33-54.
- Gillingham, John. *European integration 1950–2003*. Cambridge University Press, 2003, 294-312.
- Booker, Christopher and Richard North. *The Great Deception*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2003, 427-452.
- Agraa, Ali M. *The European Politics*, Cambridge Uni. Press, 2011, 38-55.
- Glencross, Andrew. *The Politics of European Integration*. Chichester: Wiley, 2014, 285-304.
- Brzezinski, Zbigniew. *The Grand Chessboard*. New York: Basic Books, 1997, 194-215.
- The Treaty on the Functioning of the EU: selected articles.

Recommended books (in the CIEE library)

- Ash, Timothy Garton. *Free World*. Penguin Books, 2004.
- Baldwin, L.-Wyplosz, C. *The Economics of European Integration*. UK, 2009.
- Bongiovanni, Francesco. *The Decline and Fall of Europe*. UK, 2012.
- Gillingham, John. *European Integration 1950-2003*.
- Glencross, Andrew. *The Politics of European Integration*. UK, 2014.
- Pagden, Anthony (edit.). *The Idea of Europe*. Cambridge University Press, 2002.
- The Treaty of Lisbon

Recommended journals

- Perspectives. Published by the Institute of International Relations, Prague.
- Prague Business Journal.
- The Prague Post. Prague, online edition.
- Different EU websites, e.g. Robert Schuman Research Institute.