

Teaching guide

IDENTIFICATION DETAILS

Degree:	International Relations		
Field of Knowledge:	Social and Legal Science		
Faculty/School:	Communication Science		
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		

Teaching staff	E-mail
Ana González Marín	a.gmarin@ufv.es

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 focused on the government of the only supranational organization in the world, and more specifically on the functioning and the role of the different European institutions.

GOAL

The learning outcome expected is to provide the student with a solid knowledge of the government of the European Union and the functioning of the European institutions.

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 of the policies, security and defense and the enlargement process.

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. Besides, they must know the historical process of integration, since the Schuman declaration until the current Lisbon Treaty.

COURSE SYLLABUS

Part I

1. History of European Integration
2. Brief introduction to the policy process and sources of EU law.
 - 2.1 Conferral Principle.
3. Cooperation in Justice and Home Affairs
4. Protection of fundamental freedoms and the European Convention on Human Rights

Part II - Institutions

5. The European Commission
6. The European Council
7. The Council of the European Union
8. The European Parliament
9. The European Court of Justice
10. European Financial institutions

Part III

11. Introduction to the European enlargement Policy
12. Legal framework of ENP
13. Security and Defense in the European Union: a conceptual framework.
 13. 1. The EUGS
 13. 2. PESCO - Permanent Structured Cooperation
 13. 3. CSDP Partnerships

EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

The class will be based on a combination on these, that will depend on the evolution of the specific class

Seminars. 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.

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 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 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 understand and analyse the international reality from the standpoint of respect and protecting democracy, human rights, cultural diversity and the values of equality, justice and solidarity. To be able to take part in discussions on current affairs, based on knowledge of international relations and an analysis of today's world.

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

To be familiar with the elements and characteristics of Spain's foreign policy and its special relationship with European, Ibero-American and North African countries.

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

Understanding the institutional scheme of the European Union

Knowing the main competences of each European institution

Understanding the balance of power among the European institutions

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

Understanding the different nature of the European institutions

LEARNING APPRAISAL SYSTEM

Final exam – 50%

Essays, presentations and debates - 35%

Participation in class - 15%

The final mark will be a weighting between the final exam, the essay and presentation, and the participation in class. If the student fails to show up in class and/or to develop and hand in the requested activities, s/he will have to sit the final exam in July. The final note will be a weighting between the final exam (50%) and the continuous assessment percentage obtained during the course (50%).

The essay must be a critical analysis of a topic related to the subject.

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.

In the case of failing the course, the participation grade will carry over to the July exam, meaning that the July exam will again make up 70% of the overall grade for the course. New activities/essays/presentations will not be taken into account in this case.

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND OTHER RESOURCES

Basic

Paul Craig, P. & de Búrca, G. EU Law, Text, Cases, and Materials. (6th Edition) Oxford European Union Law Library.

Dinan, D. (2010) Ever closer Union: An introduction to European integration (4th edition) Palgrave MacMillan.

McCormick, J. (2017) Understanding the European Union. A concise introduction. (7th Edition) The European Union Series. Palgrave

Additional

Some other manuals

Nugent, N. (2010) The Government and Politics of the European Union (7th Edition) The European Union Series, Palgrave MacMillan.

Some further readings might be provided during the year for specific topics

Fact Sheets on the European Union

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/factsheets/en/home>

Handbook on CSDP, May 2017

https://eeas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-homepage/26437/handbook-csdp-2017_en