VL Selected Topics in International Relations: The Dynamics of European Integration (Lecture)

EN

**Course type:** Lecture

**ECTS:** 7

**Course suitable for:** Bachelor

**Language of instruction:** English

**Credit hours 1:** 2

**Attendance:**

Live & on-campus

**Examination achievement:**

**Written exam:** The written examination will cover all topics of the sessions, including the presented slides and the articles listed. Open questions have to be answered shortly.

**Instructor(s):** Prof. Dr. Thomas König

**Date(s):**

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| Tuesday (weekly) | 11.02.2025 – 27.05.2025 | 10:15 – 11:45 | B 243 Hörsaal; A 5, 6 Bauteil B |

**Description:**

**The Dynamics of European Integration** Research on European integration distinguishes between the causes and consequences of the institutional choices for European integration. In the current debate, proponents of liberal intergovernmentalism and differentiated integration argue that the political leaders of the member states are able to design an effective institutional framework for EU policy-making, while postfunctionalists contend that an institutional mismatch exists between supranational form and function. This lecture introduces into the theories and methodologies about the causes and consequences of the institutional choices and their implications for EU policy-making. To understand research on the dynamics of European integration, students should have advanced knowledge in analytical theory and methodology. They should meet three conditions:

* Firstly, knowledge of the basic literature in international relations and comparative politics (lectures in BA);
* Secondly, methodological knowledge of research design and statistics (respective courses in political science or other disciplines);
* Thirdly, high interest in cutting-edge political science research (published in international leading scholarly journals)

As an accompanying reading to the readings published in the syllabus, I recommend reading the book by Thomas König. 2024. The Dynamics of European Integration. Causes and Consequences of Institutional Choices, Ann Arbor: Michigan University Press.  
   
The lecture is interactive, which means that participants can ask questions. To foster interactive communication, the slides of the lecture will be made available before the session.  
   
 Aims:

* Ability to understand and select political science studies on European integration and the European Union;
* Excellent knowledge of the state of research on the main approaches to European integration and the European Union;
* Scientific understanding of the functioning of the integration steps and the political system of the European Union;
* Theoretical and methodological knowledge for the study of European integration and the European Union.
* Applying skills and knowledge to related or future problems of European integration and the European Union.

The course assessment consists of participation in discussions and a written examination (coverage of all sessions – multiple questions). Prior to each session, you are expected to prepare the article assigned. Please prepare at least one question about each article.