

COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department: Social Sciences and Humanities

Programme: Political Science
International Relations

FHEQ Level: 6

Course Title: The European Union

Course Code: PLT 6105

Total Hours 160

Timetabled Hours: 45

Guided Learning Hours: 15

Independent Learning Hours: 100

Credits: 16 UK CATS credits
8 ECTS credits
4 US credits

Course Description:

This course analyses the historical evolution of the European Union from its inception until the current times. The course also examines the nature of the EU, the role of its institutions, the impact of European common policies like the Single Market, the monetary union and Foreign and Security Policy. The course then addresses the governance challenges the EU faces, namely the rise of Euroscepticism, the management of the Eurozone and migratory pressures from outside the EU.

Pre-requisites:

One of the following:

INR 4101 Global Politics in the C21st

PLT 5102 Democracy and its Enemies

PLT 5205 British Politics

PHL 5400

Aims and Objectives:

- To enable students to understand and interpret the complex economic and political processes of the European Union both within and between the member states and in terms of their external relations
- To provide a critical examination of the assumptions and implications of some of the core concepts, theoretical orientations and debates in Political Science including contemporary regionalism, regionalization and integration theory
- To provide a background for eventual careers in fields (including work in government, international organizations, business and the media) which require articulate, clear-thinking individuals with a grasp of the politics and economics of the European Union
- To provide a framework to assist concerned citizens to think critically about issues that are of increasing importance in the 21st century
- To promote critical engagement with a wide range of literature, and the development of both a succinct writing style, and the ability to present complex arguments orally

Programme Outcomes:

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following programme outcomes.

Political Science: 6A(ii); 6A(iii); 6B(i); 6B(ii); 6C(ii); 6C(iii); 6D(ii); 6D(iii)

International Relations: 6Aii, 6Aiii, 6Bi, 6Bii, 6Cii, 6Ciii, 6Dii, 6Diii

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification.

This is maintained by Registry and located at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of this course, the students will have achieved the following learning outcomes.

- Demonstrates a systematic understanding of and critical responses to different theories of European integration
- Demonstrates a systematic understanding of theories of the policy-making process as it applies to the European Union
- Demonstrates a systematic understanding of policymaking and the policy process of the European Union in practice
- Demonstrates a systematic understanding of core problems and issues with and facing the European Union
- Completes assigned work with a degree of autonomy, clarity, technical competence, capacity for self-evaluation and critical thinking appropriate for a 6000-level course
- Demonstrates well-developed skills that translate into the workplace by adapting communication skills to changing contexts, audiences, and degrees of complexity

Indicative Content:

- History and Background of the European Union
- Governance and Institutions of the EU
- The Single European Market and EU integration in theory and practice
- Euro-skepticism and the impact of Brexit
- Debates around the democratic deficit of the EU
- The EU's role in international affairs
- Governance challenges faced by the EU such as migratory pressures and the managing of the EU

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board and located at: <https://www.richmond.ac.uk/university-policies/>

Teaching Methodology:

This course will be taught through a combination of lectures and seminar-type activities, including group work, sub-group activities, classroom discussion, and the showing of documentaries. The general approach to classes is informal, and discussion is viewed as an essential part of an interactive and participatory learning program. Audio-visual aids, study materials and electronic learning resources will be used as appropriate.

Lectures provide a framework for the course and are designed to ensure students have an overview of main issues and concerns on a particular topic, receive clarification on the major points of debate understand the broad dimensions of core problems, and are aware of relevant literature in the specific area of concern. It is essential that lectures are supplemented with assigned readings; together, the readings and the lectures are designed to provide guidance for seminar discussion.

Seminar classes are based on the principle of active and student-directed learning, and are designed to be Safe, Enjoyable, Managed, Inclusive, Necessary, Academic, Respectful & Stimulating. The seminars provide an opportunity for discussion of contentious issues, addressing questions and exploring academic debates in more depth, group and sub-group discussion. They are encouraged to share their opinions freely but must also maintain respect for the opinions of others. It is expected that students will participate regularly in discussions in a creative, competent and critical way, as the formulation of their own thoughts and clarification of their assumptions, often in contradiction to other students' thoughts and assumptions, form a crucial part of the learning process. Students are expected to come to seminar classes prepared.

Indicative Texts:

De Vries, C.; Hobolt, S. B.; Proksch, S. (2021) *Foundations of European Politics: A Comparative Approach*, Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Cini, M. and M. Perez-Solorzano Borraran (2019) *European Union Politics*. 6th ed. Oxford: OUP.

Richardson, J. and S. Mazey (2015) *European Union: Power and Policy-Making*. Routledge.

Change Log for this CSD:

Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
Various updates as part of the UG programme review	AB Jan 2022	
Revision – annual update	May 2023	
Total Hours Updated	April 2024	