COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT

NOTE: ANY CHANGES TO A CSD MUST GO THROUGH ALL OF THE RELEVANT APPROVAL PROCESSES, INCLUDING LTPC.

Academic School/Department:	Communications, Arts and Social Sciences	
Programme:	Political Science	
FHEQ Level:	5	
Course Title:	The European Union in the New International System	
Course Code:	PLT 5405	
Course Leader:	Dr Michael F. Keating	
Student Engagement Hours: Lectures: Seminar / Tutorials: Independent / Guided Learning :	120 22.5 22.5 75	
Lectures: Seminar / Tutorials:	22.5 22.5	

Course Description:

Historical beginnings of the European Union, its institutions and its economic performance. The Single European Act, the European Monetary System, social, political and economic aspects of integration and foreign policy cooperation.

Pre-requisites: PLT 3100 or PLT 3105 or INR 4100 or ECN 4110 or ECN 4115

Aims and Objectives:

- To provide the student with various forms of explanation that will in turn allow him/her to interpret and grasp the nature of European politics and economics;
- To give the student the opportunity to articulate their thoughts, to formulate ideas and to fashion arguments that will promote a greater confidence in discussing the analysis of foreign affairs.
- To intellectually challenge students by engaging with difficult and demanding ideas;
- To provide a critical examination of the assumptions and implications of some of the core concepts, theoretical orientations and debates of contemporary integration theory;
- To locate these within the context of the intellectual and institutional development of international relations as an academic discipline;
- To connect these discussions to ongoing events in the international world.
- To help students to develop the ability to present complex material and arguments in a clear, concise and engaging fashion;

- To foster the ability to display this engagement in a lucid and compelling writing style.
- To have a basic understanding of the main ideas and dominant theories of European politics
- To know the major issue areas of study
- To be able to critically assess arguments that are made and/ or present some alternative arguments or examples or questions
- A key objective of the course is that students learn to critically evaluate European Union politics and economics in the light of a range of historical and contemporary evidence.

Programme Outcomes:

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

5A(iii); 5B(i); 5B(ii); 5B(iii); 5C(i); 5C(ii); 5C(iii); 5D(ii)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes are found in the Programme Specification. This is located at the Departmental/Schools page of the portal.

Learning Outcomes:

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

- Demonstrates a critical engagement with different theories of European integration
- Demonstrates a detailed understanding of European Union political institutions, practices and systems
- Demonstrates a critical and theoretical engagement with core problems and issues with and facing the European Union
- Demonstrates a detailed understanding of the continuities and transformations evident in the politics and institutions of the European Union
- Completes assigned work with a degree of autonomy, clarity, technical competence, capacity for self-evaluation and critical thinking appropriate for a 5000-level course

Indicative Content:

- History and Background of the European Union
- Governance and Institutions of the EU
- The Single European Market and EU integration
- Euro scepticism and Britain's Role in the EU
- Role of Germany in the EU
- EU Foreign and Security Policy

Assessment:

This course conforms to the Richmond University Standard Assessment Norms approved at Academic Council on June 28, 2012.

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.

Bibliography:

- Michelle Cini, European Union Politics, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2009
- Ian Bache and Stephen George, *Politics in the European Union*, 2nd edition, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2006, and see also Online Resource Centre, www.oxfordtextbooks.co.uk/orcbache_george2e/
- T. Bainbridge, The Penguin Companion to the European Union, Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1998.
- Dinan, Desmond, Encyclopaedia of the European Union, Penguin, 2004

Major or Minor Change?	Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry

Change Log for this CSD: