

**COURSE SPECIFICATION DOCUMENT**

<b>Academic School/Department:</b>	Communications, Arts and Social Sciences
<b>Programme:</b>	Political Science
<b>FHEQ Level:</b>	5
<b>Course Title:</b>	The European Union in the New International System
<b>Course Code:</b>	PLT 5405
<b>Course Leader:</b>	Dr Michael F. Keating
<b>Student Engagement Hours:</b>	120
Lectures:	22.5
Seminar / Tutorials:	22.5
Independent / Guided Learning:	75
<b>Semester:</b>	FALL and/or SPRING and/or SUMMER
<b>Credits:</b>	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

**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 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 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 University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board.

### **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.

