

# INT351 CONTEMPORARY EUROPEAN POLITICS

Course coordinator : **Albrecht SONNTAG**

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## Course Information

Department : **AFFAIRES INTERNATIONALES**

Semester : **05** — Teaching campus : **ANGERS**

Total of course hours : **45,00** — ECTS credits : **6,00**

Teaching language : **English**

## OVERALL DESCRIPTION

The objective of the course is to provide a good understanding of the numerous political and economic challenges the European Union faces today. Based on a good fundamental knowledge of geographic, economic and demographic realities of Europe, the course will be strongly focused on the current state of the Union, between attempts at institutional reform, the sovereign debt crisis and the issues surrounding monetary union and the stability pact. It will also revise some major policies and have a critical assessment of current attitudes and strategies towards European integration. At the end of this course students will be in a position to critically assess forthcoming events and developments that concern the Union.

## LEARNING GOALS & LEARNING OBJECTIVES

### 2 Intellectual capacities

**2.1 Analyse a situation, a process, an environment, through identifying and integrating relevant information.**

**2.2 Coordinate knowledge from different fields and synthesize complex data.**

**2.4 Show the capacity of critical thinking in elaborating an argumentation on concepts and projects.**

### 4 Ethics and cultural as well as international awareness

**4.1 Demonstrate the capacity to analyse the economic, social cultural and political environment of a country or region.**

## ORGANIZATION

### 1.A critical assessment of EU governance ..... SEMINAR:9.0h

#### Session1 : Current affairs and debates

- Hot topics and fundamental problems in the European Union - Definition and purpose of the EU - Assessment: Taking stock in 2012.

**Readings and homework**  
Reader of visionary texts 1943-1950: A new design for Europe.

#### Session2 : An institutional revolution

- Emergence and design on a new post-war Europe - Supranationalism vs. Intergovernmentalism - The Monnet method and its heritage

**Readings and homework**  
Reader : Historical overview 1950-2013

#### Session3 : The decision-making process in the EU

- The development of the EU institution since its inception - The role of main institutions - The making of European law

**Readings and homework**  
Reader on the decision-making process of the European Union.

#### Session4 : A critical analysis of the current institutional framework

- SWOT analysis of the major EU institutions. Technocratic tendencies. Is there a democratic definit in the European Union?

**Readings and homework**  
Preparation of personal Excel datasheet with geographical, demographical, economic data.

### 2.Markets, budgets, policies and lobbying ..... SEMINAR:33.0h

#### Session1 : Enlargement of the European Union

- Phases of enlargement - Criteria for membership - Review of geogographical, economic and social issues related to EU membership - Levels of membership: Eurozone, Schengen, EU, EEA, Neighbourhood Programme. - Case study: Turkey

**Readings and homework**  
Completion of personal datasheet The situation of Ukraine

#### Session2 : The Single Market and Schengen

- Discussion: Geopolitics: the Neighbourhood Agreement with Ukraine - The Single Market: from the ECSC to the 2011 Single Market Act - Intra-EU competition: an unfair playing field? - Case study: the abattoir industry: Germany vs Europe

**Readings and homework**

#### Session3 : EU External Trade

- EU competition with the world: tariffs and regulations - Import and export barriers - The WTO and Trade Wars - Bilateral trade agreements: Canada, MERCOSUR, China and TTIP - Case study: EU meat production and TTIP negotiations with the USA

**Session4 : Lobbying in the European Union (Part 1)**

- Lobbying and lobbyists - Techniques and practices - Exercise: preparation of lobbying exercise for EU animal transport regulations

Readings and homework

**Session5 : Lobbying in the European Union (Part 2) and Euroscepticism**

- Presentation of lobbying exercise in groups (EU animal transport regulations) (assessed) - Variations of popular support (Eurobarometer surveys). - Causes, origins, tendencies of Euroscepticism - Case study: UKIP

Readings and homework

**Session6 : The Budget of the European Union**

- The budget of the European Union - Structure of revenues and expenditures - The EU budget's multiplier effect in business - Possible avenues for budget reforms

Readings and homework

**Session7 : Major policies (1): the Common Agricultural Policy and its critics**

- Origin and development of the CAP - Intended and unintended effects - Criticisms and attempts at reform - Case study: Cameroon and chicken

Readings and homework

**Session8 : Major policies (2): EU energy and environment policy (Part 1)**

- Sustainability: discourse and action in the European Union - Environment policy: between good intentions and economic compromise - A critical assessment of the 2020 strategy - Case study: geopolitics and EU gas supplies. Russia and Nabucco.

Readings and homework

- Preparation of energy / environment research in groups.

**Session9 : EU energy and environment policy (Part 2) / The EU debt crisis (Part 1)**

- Group presentation energy data and policy - The US sub-primes crash - Breaking the Stability Pact and the new Six-Pack - The impact of the sovereign debt crisis - Actors and policy in the crisis: the Troika and IMF restructuring

Readings and homework

**Session10 : The EU debt crisis (Part 2) / Discussion 'The EU in 2050'**

- Solutions: the existing EU austerity programme and possible alternatives - Case study: Greece - Discussion. The future of the euro and the European Union.

Readings and homework

Course hours : SEMINAR, 42.0h

**ASSESSMENT**

	% of final grade	Assessment type %	Duration (hours)
Final Exam (FE)	60	Written exams Individual 100	2,00
Midterm Exam (ME)	20	Written exams Individual 100	1,00
Continuous Assessment (CA)	20	Project Group 100	

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

## Session 1

Reader of visionary texts 1943-1950: A new design for Europe.

## Session 2

Reader : Historical overview 1950-2013

## Session 3

Reader on the decision-making process of the European Union.

## Session 4

Preparation of personal Excel datasheet with geographical, demographical, economic data.

Session 5  
Completion of personal datasheet  
The situation of Ukraine

Session 6  
Prepare readings as assigned in the previous session.

Session 7  
Prepare readings as assigned in the previous session.

Session 8  
Prepare readings as assigned in the previous session.

Session 9  
Prepare readings as assigned in previous class

Session 10  
Prepare readings as assigned in previous class

Session 11  
Prepare readings as assigned in previous class

Session 12  
Preparation of energy / environment research in groups.

Session 13  
Prepare readings as assigned in previous class

Session 14  
Prepare readings as assigned in previous class