

Global Learning Semesters

Course Syllabus

Course: EUS-105 Introduction to the European Union

Department: International Relations & European Studies

Host Institution: University of Nicosia, Cyprus



Course Summary		
Course Code	Course Title	Recommended Credit Hours
EUS-105	Introduction to the European Union	3
Subject	Contact Hours	Prerequisites
European Studies	42-45	None
Department	Level of Course	Language of Instruction
International Relations & European Studies	Lower-Division	English

Course Description

The study of the European Union (EU) is about fundamental questions:

- Who rules?
- How do different communities live alongside each other?
- How is the system of government organised?
- How do different policy areas function?

These questions are particularly acute, as the EU represents a system of international governance. The Union has developed, over the years, from a narrow organisation that sought the peaceful management of the 'industries of war' in the post war era to a comprehensive framework of economic policy management.

The process of European integration is a matter that demands more attention now than ever before. The European project began with the aim of maintaining peace after the Second World War. Since then, this process of European integration has developed through various Treaties, and has come to cover areas of life, ranging from economic to social, agricultural, regional, and other policies. The EU represents today a complex organisation, with its own institutions, and a complex policy-making system. The several enlargements of the Union through the years, culminating with the recent 2004 and 2007 'Eastern Enlargements', have turned it into a Union of 27 member states, and this has had major implications, both on its institutional, as well as policy operations. This course is designed to explain how these developments in the integration process have come about. It will also compare and contrast the policy domains within which the Union has had a great deal of influence, as opposed to those areas where authority has been more moderate.

The course aims to integrate the economic and the political fabric of European affairs, through an interdisciplinary analysis of the key political, economic and social aspects of contemporary Europe. In this respect, the course describes how economic, political and social factors interrelate, to influence policy performance in Europe.

The aim of this course is essentially, then, to provide the theoretical background needed in order to understand the EU, and to give many insights into both national and international politics.

Prerequisites

None

Instructor Information

Dr. Christina Ioannou is Lecturer in the Department of European Studies and International Relations of the University of Nicosia. She holds a BSc degree in Economics from the University of Warwick, UK (obtained in 2001), an MA in European Politics and Policy from the University of Manchester, UK (obtained in 2002), which was awarded to her with distinction, and a PhD in Politics from the University of Manchester, UK (obtained in 2007). Her area of specialisation is European Integration, Europeanisation and social policy, and her doctoral work specifically deals with the Europeanisation of Cypriot social policy. Since 2002 she has been a member of the European Policy Research Unit (EPRU). While at the University of Manchester, she was among the founders and served as Deputy Editor of a refereed electronic journal for postgraduate research on political and social theories, and she also held the post of graduate teaching assistant. In this course, and while also working as a research fellow at the Cyprus Center for European and International Affairs, she has completed a number of projects related to European policy issues, and has participated in a number of conferences, colloquia and discussion networks, focusing mainly on European integration, social policy, welfare state politics, as well as European Union politics and policy issues. She is also a member of 'Team Europe' of the European Commission's Representation, with expertise on European integration and social issues. Recent publications include, among others, two chapters in edited volumes on the European Union and on the welfare system of Cyprus, and European Union reports, while forthcoming publications include three articles in refereed journals on Europeanisation, Cypriot social policy, the Treaty of Lisbon and the EU's 'Democratic Deficit', and a book chapter on the Cypriot welfare system.

Guest Lecturer

Dr. Michalis Attalides holds the rank of Professor and is currently the Dean of the School of Humanities, Social Sciences and Law at Intercollege. Dr. Attalides has represented the Republic of Cyprus as its Ambassador in a number of capitals including Paris, London, and the European Union in Brussels, before being appointed Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He has also represented the Cyprus government in the European Convention. Dr. Attalides has been a lecturer in Sociology at the University of Leicester, a counterpart to the UNESCO Expert at the Cyprus Social Research Centre and a Guest Lecturer at the Free University of Berlin. His books include Cyprus: Nationalism and International Politics and Social Change and Urbanization in Cyprus. He has also published a number of articles on society and politics in Cyprus.

Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course students should develop knowledge on:

- Why and how European integration originated and developed
- How the European Union is governed
- How the European Union manages a range of policy areas
- What the role of the member states is
- The origins and development of the EU
- The historical process of European integration
- Market integration from the Single Market to Economic and Monetary Union
- Policy-making in the EU
- The process of Enlargement
- The three-pillar structure of the Union
- Common Policies
- Common Foreign and Security Policy
- Justice, Freedom and Security
- The basic theories of European integration

Course Outline

Class Sessions

1. The Origins	1, 2
2. Evolution, Treaties	3, 4, 5
3. The EU member states, enlargement	6, 7
4. The Commission, Council	8
5. European Parliament	9
6. European Court, and other EU institutions	10
7. How the EU works	11
8. Policy-Making in the EU	12
9. The EU Constitution	13
10. The Lisbon Treaty and the future of the EU	14
11. Democracy in the EU	15
12. EU policy areas: Pillar I	16
13. EU policy areas: Pillar II	17
14. EU policy areas: Pillar III	18
15. Final Examination	

Evaluation and Grading

Performance in this course will be assessed by:

Assignments	30 %
Mid-Term Report	20 %
Final Examination	40 %
In-class participation and attendance	10 %

Readings and Resources

Required Textbook

McCormick, John, Understanding the European Union, 2002.

Other Academic Policies

Class attendance is compulsory.

If a student is unable to attend a class, he or she must inform the course lecturer in advance. Students who have absences that exceed 20% of the course sessions (three sessions) will be withdrawn from the course. Moreover, any work missed due to absence must be completed upon return to class.

Plagiarism (including from internet/multimedia encyclopedias) or cheating will result in immediate failure of the entire course.

Materials and Supplies

No additional materials or supplies are required for this course.