# Syllabus – Elective Course

Course title:

**Introduction to European Studies: History, Politics, and Society**

Credits:

6 ECTS credits

Teaching language:

English

Target students:

Students in European Studies, Political Science, International Relations, History, Humanities, Social Sciences, Language and Linguistics, Business, and Economics, and/or any student interested in an introduction to European Studies.

Teacher in charge of the course:

Prof Vincent Rollet, PhD

Professor, Department of International Affairs and Graduate Institute of European Studies (GIES), Wenzao Ursuline University

Chair Holder, Jean Monnet Chair on EU-Asian and One Health

Visiting professor, *Université Catholique de Lille*

## COURSE PRESENTATION

Prerequisite:

Students undertaking this course should normally have completed at least one semester at university, or have equivalent experience. They must have some ability to work as a group and be able to communicate easily in English at a standard university level. In other respects, the course is intended to serve a mix of profiles and learning backgrounds for a more diverse international learning experience.

Content:

This course will provide students with an overview of the main issues of the European Union. It gives a broad overview of some current and classical themes of European integration. The objective of this course is to learn about the main European policies, how the Member States deal with them, and how the EU interacts with the rest of the world. At the end of the course, the students should be capable of naming the various institutions and competencies of the European Union as well as the current challenges faced by the E.U. both within its State members and in the world.

Through different topics, we reflect on how the European Union and the Member States interact and what part should play the EU in Europe and worldwide. Although since its creation the EU has undoubtedly achieved success and recognition, it faces current serious and complex challenges.

This course is then a unique opportunity for students to discuss these successes and challenges.

Course sessions will include:

**EU: Historical, Cultural and Institutional overview**

- European History: Is Europe such a new idea? From the Greek Antiquity to the 21st century: a warlike History; the European Idea through centuries.
- The European Union: over 70 years of construction. From the European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) to the Treaty of Lisbon (2009).
- EU Governance and its evolution.

**EU Regional Policies**

- Europe of the regions, a paradox? EU regional policy: its tangible achievements and its numerous challenges.
- Human rights and protection of the minorities within the EU through European institutions.
- Populism in Europe: A common phenomenon in the EU? Political statement on populism in Europe; the populist problem at the EU level.
- European Economy after Covid-19? What Strength and Weakness for the EU in a globalized economy?
- The European Neighborhood Policy (ENP): What's at stake? Joining the European Union and Success; challenges of ENP implementation.
- Environmental challenges and the EU's role in global environmental governance.
- EU and public health after Covid-19: the challenging task of improving health in the EU and beyond. Towards a European Health Union?
- EU and the migration issue.
- The weight of lobbies within the EU: Battle for Influence.

**EU & the World**

- Is the EU a global actor? Governance of the EU external action; External action of the EU: case studies.
- EU's development aid (ODA) policy towards developing countries. What responsibilities for the biggest donor in the world?
- EU's global promotion of democracy and human rights. Any tangible results?
- EU's defense policy: towards a European Army?
- State of play of the EU-China relations: between economic partnership and systemic rivalry.
- EU-US relations in the Trump era: changing views and uncertainties.
- EU and the African States: renewed partnerships, sustainable cooperation, and future challenges.
- EU interregional relations (EU-ASEAN, EU-Mercosur): Exporting the EU model?
- Wrap up and evaluation.

Learning Outcomes:

At the end of the course, the students should:

- Understand the most important facts concerning European integration, the main European policies, and ways in which the Member States deal with them.
- Understand how the EU interacts with the rest of the world.
- Be able to name the various institutions and competencies of the European Union as well as current challenges faced by the EU both within its member states and in the world.
- Be able to explain the main issues of the European Union, including current serious and complex challenges such as migration, policy coherence, terrorism, social problems, democratic deficit, extremism, economic difficulties, and enlargement.

## WORKLOAD

*French contact hours = 60 minutes (in some countries/institutions, 1 contact hour = 45-50 minutes)*

| Form | Number of hours | Comments |
|---|---|---|
| Face-to-face, in-class, on-site learning | 39 hours | 13 sessions of 3 hours |
| Approximate personal work/homework | 15 hours | |
| Student total workload | **54 hours** | |

## EDUCATIONAL METHODS

Lecture, discussion, presentations, case studies, sharing of experiences, group work, debates.

Fieldtrips: European Agencies, City hall (Lille European Metropolis, MEL),…

## RESOURCES

All course materials will be supplied in class. References may be made to the following resources:

- Consolidated versions of the Treaty on the European Union and the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (OJ C115, 9.5.2008): http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cmsUpload/st06655-re01.en08.pdf
- European Council: http://www.consilium.europa.eu
- European Commission: http://ec.europa.eu
- European Parliament: http://www.europarl.europa.eu
- Committee of the regions: www.cor.europa.eu
- Court of Justice of the European Union: http://curia.europa.eu
- Law of the European Union: http://eur-lex.europa.eu
- European Navigator: http://ena.lu

EU's integration and regional policies:

- B. Szewczyk (2023) European Sovereignty, Legitimacy, and Power, London, Routledge.
- F. Isa, C.C. Muguruza, J. Wouters (2019) EU Human Rights and Democratization Policies: Achievements and Challenges, London, Routledge.
- D Leonard, R Taylor (2016), The Routledge Guide to European Union, London, Routledge.
- I Berend (2016) The History of European Integration, London, Routledge.
- M. Cini and N. Perez-Solorzano (2015) (eds), European Union Politics, Oxford, Oxford UP, 2015.

EU's external action:

- V. Rollet (2024) European Parliament and Global Health, London, Routledge.
- J. Schild, D.Schmidt (2023) EU and US Foreign Economic Policy Responses to China: The End of Naivety, London, Routledge.
- C. Hill and M. (2017) International Relations and the European Union (New European Union Series), Oxford University Press.
- K.E Jørgensen and K.V Laatikainen (2013) Routledge Handbook on the EU and International Institutions, London, Routledge.
- J-U Wunderlich, D. Bailey (eds), The European Union and global governance, London: Routledge, 2010.
- M. Schmith and al., The Diplomatic System of the EU, London Routledge, 2015.

- L.Brenan, P. Murray, Drivers of Integration and Regionalism in Europe and Asia, London, Routledge, 2015.

## ASSESSMENT

| Form | Number | Hours | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Continuous assessment** (20%) | 1 | 20 minutes | Students presentation (topics, readings) + Q&A. |
| **Final exam** (60%) | 1 | 3 hours | Written exam. |
| **Other (student participation…)** (20%) | | | Attendance, participation, and contribution to group discussion. |

*This syllabus is based on information available at the time of publication (November 2026). Changes may occur.*

*For updated information about course content, please contact us: lilleprograms@univ-catholille.fr*