

SEVI 343 THE EUROPEAN UNION

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Class description and objectives

This course aims to give students a deep understanding of the principal political, social, cultural and economic entity in Europe, from its beginnings following WWII until the most recent incorporations of its new member states.

Usually, American students are under the impression that the European Union is the same as their country but in another continent; that is, that the European Union is similar to a “United States of Europe”. Following this assumption, students may believe that everything from the functioning to the fundamental values of the European Union are the same as the system in the United States, but “Europeanized”—which is a vastly wrong assumption. For this reason, the objectives of this course include:

- Understand the fundamental differences between Europe and the European Union, especially focusing on the different states that make up the Union
- Understand the symbols that unify the members of the European Union, but also the primary differences that differentiate them
- Familiarize students with cultural characteristics of each member state (history, customs, contributions to Europe, historical figures, etc.) so that they can appreciate the states not only as members of the European Union but also as independent nations that have conserved their own cultural roots
- Learn about the chief functioning and community organizations of the European Union (Parliament, Councils, European Commission, etc.) with the objective that students understand the existing coordination on a social, political, economic and cultural level of the European Union
- Highlight the utility of the European Union, not only in the historical context since its foundation but also in terms of the future of Europe
- Learn the value and utility of the distinct communal institutions with regards to the issues that concern the member states of the European Union
- Analyze objectively the problems that face the European Union today, and how they relate to/concern international relations as well

Methodology

The approach of this class is based on three fundamental methods: (1) thematic lectures by the professor; (2) discussions of current events/matters regarding the European Union; and (3) exposition of works and research conducted by the students. Through this approach, the structure course is intended to be more of a participatory forum for everyone.

The course materials will consist of the required written materials, and also include audiovisual material and other documents that will be exchanged between professor and the students electronically.

Contents

I: History of the European Union

- The historic beginnings; the unification of Europe throughout history
- Origins of the European Union; post-WWII Europe
- Pan-Europeanism
- The pioneering states and following additions
- The procession of Treaties over time
- Future of Europe; non-member countries and their relations to the Union

II: Institutions and Community Organizations

- European Parliament
- European Council and the Council of the European Union
- European Commission
- European Central Bank
- Court of Justice and the Court of Auditors
- Other administrative organizations

III: The European Union and its Citizens

- The rights and responsibilities of the community citizens
- Symbols of the European Union
- Areas of work in the European Union
- The road towards a community Constitution

Schedule

Day 1:

General introduction to the course

Day 2:

- Historical beginnings, unification of Europe throughout history
- The origins (I): post-WWII Europe

Day 3:

- The origins (II): pan-Europeanism and similar movements

Day 4:

- Treaties of CECA (1951), the Economic Community of Europe (1957) and EURATOM (1957)

Day 5:

- Quiz (1):** Material from days 2-4 (Historic beginnings...Treaties of CECA)
- Institutions and community organizations (I): European Parliament

Day 6:

-Institutions and community organizations (II): the European Council and the Council of the European Union

Day 7:

-Capitalism vs. Socialism in Europe; processes of integration (I)
-Watch movie *Good bye, Lenin!* (2003)

Day 8:

-Capitalism vs. Socialism in Europe; processes of integration (II)
-Watch movie *Good bye, Lenin!* (2003)

Day 9:

-Institutions and community organizations (III): the European Commission and the European Central Bank

Day 10:

-Institutions and community organizations (IV): the Court of Justice, the Court of Auditors and other specialized organizations

Day 11:

-**Quiz (II):** Material from days 5-10 (Institutions and community organizations (I)...Institutions and community organizations (IV))

-Religion and politics: divorce, abortion, euthanasia, and gay marriage in the European Union

Day 12:

-The different phases of expansion, until "Europe of the 28"
-Treaties of reform of the CEE and the European Union (I): the Schengen Agreement (1985-1995) and the Single European Act (1986)

Day 13:

-Treaties of reform of the CEE and the European Union (II): Maastricht Treaty (1992)

Day 14:

-Treaties of reform of the CEE and the European Union (III): Amsterdam Treaty (1992), the Treaty of Nice (2001) and the Treaty of the European Constitution (2004)

Day 15:

-**Quiz (III):** Material from days 11-14 (Religion and politics...Treaties (III))

-Cultural diversity in the European Union; rejection of the integration of sociocultural customs (I)
-Watch movie *Oriente es Oriente* (1999)

Day 16:

-Cultural diversity in the European Union; rejection of the integration of sociocultural customs (II)
-Watch movie *Oriente es Oriente* (1999)

Day 17:

-Treaties of reform of the CEE and the European Union (IV): The Treaty of Lisbon (2007-2009)

Day 18:

-Rights and responsibilities of citizens
-The European Union and environmental policies

Day 19:

-Common Foreign and Security Policy
-Police, military, and security in the European Union

Day 20:

-The “Crisis of 2008” and the sociopolitical consequences for members of the European Union

Day 21:

-Symbols of the European Union

Day 22:

-**Quiz (IV):** Material from days 15-21 (Cultural diversity (I)...Symbols of the European Union)

-Neo-nationals in current day European Union; political and social extremists in the 21st Century (I)

-Watch movie *La Ola* (2008)

Day 23:

Neo-nationals in current day European Union; political and social extremists in the 21st Century (II)

-Watch movie *La Ola* (2008)

Day 24:

-The European Union in the world; relations with other international institutions

-Immigration to the European Union in the 21st Century

Day 25:

-“Distancing” between member states; the future of the European Union as an international power

-“Brexit” (2016) and its consequences

Day 26: FINAL EXAM**Grading Criteria**

- Participation (10%)
Active participation will be expected from students during in class activities, and will be assessed especially in activities like debates, discussions, and general questions and contributions.

- Oral reports (20%)
Research and oral presentations on the various Member States (and, if appropriate, candidate states of future incorporation) of the European Union. The States will be equally divided among students, and depending on the size of the groups, each will present on a minimum of one to a maximum of three countries. The presentations will explain the main values and aspects of the member state(s). Presentations will last 10 minutes.
- Quizzes (15%)
There will be four quizzes, consisting of brief short answer questions, to test students knowledge of the subjects and topics. The final quiz grade will be an average of the grades on all four quizzes.
- Current events (30%)
Research reports of current events that occur during the course, based on such events that appear in the news or different media (national or international press, television, etc.) as well as the analysis of the topics related to the different films watched in class. The average grade of these analyses will be 30% of the final grade
 - All research reports (except country fact sheets) must be approximately 2-3 pages, typed, double-spaced with font size 12, and printed double-sided. They must include works cited (course sources, web sites, press, etc.) and consist of a mix of cited information and the personal opinions of the student.
 - The reports must be printed and turned in – the professor will not accept them by email.
- Final exam (25%)
A final exam, consisting of specific “test” questions, as well as questions related to Member States, maps or charts, and short essays (students will be able to choose between several essay options)

Bibliography

Additional sources may be recommended throughout the course depending on what topics students may research. However, the primary source recommended for the course material is the official website of the European Union: http://europa.eu/index_es.htm.

The main source for the course will be:

- Díaz Buiza, F. *Book of photocopies, texts and exercises* (students will purchase this at the start of the course)

*Additional sources, which are not required but are recommended, include:

- Calvo Hornero, M. A.: *“Organización de la Unión Europea”* (2o ed). Editorial Universitaria Ramón Areces. Madrid, 1999. ISBN 9788480043977.
- Carpentier, J. and Lebrun, F: *“Breve historia de Europa”*. Colección *“Humanidades, no. 4225”*. Alianza Editorial. Madrid, 2006. ISBN 9788420657233.

- Fernández Navarrete, D.: *"Historia de la Unión Europea. España como Estado miembro"*. Delta Publicaciones. Madrid, 2010. ISBN 9788492954117.
- Forner Muñoz, S.: *"Comprender Europa. Claves de la integración europea"*. Editorial Biblioteca Nueva. Madrid, 2010. ISBN 978849729658.
- Hermida del Llano, C.: *"Los derechos fundamentales en la Unión Europea"*. Colección *"Autores, Textos y Temas Ciencias Sociales, no. 48"*. Anthropos Editorial. Barcelona 2005. ISBN 9788476587508.
- López Garrido, D.: *"El Tratado de Maastricht."* Autor Editor. 2002. ISBN 9788460431633.
- Martín de la Guardia, R. and Pérez Sánchez, G.: *"Historia de la Unión Europea. De los Seis a la ampliación del Este."* Colección *"Cuadernos de Historia, no. 101"*. Arco Libros. Madrid, 2003. ISBN 9788476355558.
- Molina del Pozo, C.F.: *"Tratado de Lisboa."* Editorial Universitaria Ramón Areces. Madrid, 2011. ISBN 9788499610603.
- Pérez Bustamante, R.: *"Un siglo en la Historia de la Unión Europea. 1914-2014. Cronología"*. Tirant Lo Blanch. Valencia, 2015. ISBN 9788416062775.
- Tamames Gómez, R. and López Fernández, M: *"La Unión Europea"* (5a ed.) Alianza Editorial. Madrid, 2002. ISBN 9788420686196.
- Vilariño Pintos, E.: *"La construcción de la Unión Europea"*. Colección *"Cuadernos de Historia, no. 12"*. Arco Libros. Madrid, 1998. ISBN 9788476352175.

Attendance and Classroom Policies

- A maximum of three unexcused absences are allowed throughout the course. After the third unexcused absence, each additional unexcused absence will result in one point taken off of the final grade
- The dates of exams and quizzes are as appear on the syllabus. These dates will not be changed for students' personal reasons (travels, family visits, etc.)
- If a student misses an exam or a quiz, they can only make it up at the end of the course, on a day to be determined between the 12 and 16 of December
- Eating in class is prohibited, as well as the use of laptops, tablets, cellphones, and other electronic devices

Additional information

- The professor will have office hours, which will be announced the first day of class
- Because of national holidays, there will not be class on the following days:
 - November 1 (Festival of All Saints)
 - December 6 (Constitution Day)
 - December 8 (Festival of the Immaculate Conception)