

## Packag 2 Bachelor European Studies



**Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences**

# EU Politics: Theories, Institutions and Challenges

## Period

Period 5, Startdate: 7 April 2015, Enddate: 29 May-2015

## Workload for applicants

Tutors for package 2 teach 2 tutor groups each/per course

## Code

EUS 1006

## ECTS credits

9

## Organisational Unit

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

## Coordinator

Dr. Heidi Maurer

## Course / skills training description:

What is the European Union? This course takes an institutional perspective to this question, and equips students with a general understanding of the EU as a political system, its development since the Treaty of Maastricht, its institutional set-up and its working processes. Europe was the main point of debate in several courses in this first year of the BA ES, while *EU Politics* takes a narrow stance by focusing at the European Union. The factual knowledge gained in the first weeks of this course provides the necessary tool for informed reflections and critical debates taking place within the end of the course about current challenges that the EU integration process is facing today.

## Disciplinary perspectives:

Political science, international relations, history.

## Teaching methods:

PBL tutorials (2 per week) and lectures (1-2 per week).

## Assessment methods:

Final Exam (multiple choice for factual knowledge; essays for applying knowledge).

## Learning outcomes:

The main objective of this course is to gain a basic understanding of the European Union: its development, its institutional framework, its way of working and its current debates. First, this course introduces the European integration process since the late 1990s, outlining major changes from the Maastricht Treaty and subsequent treaty revisions to the Lisbon Treaty. Secondly, we investigate the institutions of the European Union, their tasks and the main decision-making mechanisms. Finally, current political challenges of the European integration project are put up for debate. Throughout the whole course, we also reflect on how specific theoretical approaches and concepts explain what we observe within the European Union. To sum up, the main aims of this course in terms of content are:

- To provide insight into the EU development since the Treaty of Maastricht;
- To introduce to the EU institutions and EU decision-making processes;

To remind students of the main integration theories and make them familiar with new approaches (e.g.

- institutionalism; constructivism; multi-level governance);

To stimulate an informed debate about major political challenges faced by the EU.

## Instruction Language

EN



# **Back to the Sources: An Introduction to Researching the History of European Integration**

## **Period**

Period 5, Startdate: 7 April 2015, Enddate: 29 May-2015

## **Workload for applicants**

Tutors for package 2 teach 2 tutor groups each/per course

## **Code**

EUS 1006

## **ECTS credits**

4,5

## **Organisational Unit**

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

## **Coordinator**

Dr. Manuel Stoffers

## **Course / skills training description:**

This research training offers a first introduction to the ways historians deal with the problems of tracing, selecting and assessing primary sources, especially those related to the (early) history of European integration. During the course, the specific characteristics of the following types of primary sources are discussed: political speeches, international treaties, archival records and public opinion sources. Also the specific problems of using internet sources are dealt with. Each of the three assignments is devoted to a specific problem and a specific category of historical sources: the assignment on political speeches is mainly devoted to the critical analysis of sources. The assignment on archival sources focuses on the problems of selecting and combining a variety of sources. Finally, the assignment on public opinion sources addresses the problems of representativity and influence.

## **Disciplinary perspectives**

History.

## **Teaching methods**

Students have to perform three small individual research assignments; students pre- and post-discuss the assignments with the tutor in class; students receive feedback on their individual research assignments during the skills training.

## **Assessment methods:**

Written exam (3 research papers throughout the course)

## **Learning outcomes:**

This training stimulates a critical and methodical attitude towards sources. At the end of this training, students will be able to:

- Differentiate between primary and secondary sources;
- Appreciate the importance of primary sources for the study of historical phenomena;
- Recognise the different characteristics and pitfalls of several types of primary sources.

## **Instruction Language**

EN