

Course information 2011–12

PS3088 Politics and policies of the European Union

This course focuses on the political system of the European Union (institutions and decision making processes) and its key policy areas.

Prerequisite

If taken as part of a BSc degree, courses which must be passed before this course may be attempted:

PS1114 Democratic politics and the State.

Aims and objectives

The detailed aims of the course are to:

- provide an introduction to the analytical parameters which shape the processes of European integration
- familiarise students with key events and major treaty developments relating to the EU.
- provide analytical tools and guidelines on how to judge the future of the European project
- analyse internal EU policies and their impact on European, but also non European societies
- focus on the external dimension of EU and its impact on the outside world
- identify potential avenues for the future course of European integration.

Assessment

This course is assessed by a three hour unseen written examination.

Learning outcomes

At the end of this course and having completed the essential reading students should be able to:

demonstrate a thorough understanding of the European Union, its institutional processes and policies and their impact on European, as well as non-European states and citizens

demonstrate an understanding of the main political processes of the EU

assess the present and future processes of European Integration in light of the main theories, models and concepts used in the EU studies

demonstrate a critical understanding of the EU's key policies and their impact on the outside world

Essential reading

For full details please refer to the reading list.

Hix, Simon *The Political System of the European Union*. (London: Macmillan)

Nugent, Neill *The Government and Politics of the European Union*. (London: Macmillan)
Wallace, Helen and William Wallace (eds) *Policy Making in the European Union*. (Oxford University Press)

Students should consult the Programme Regulations for degrees and diplomas in Economics, Management, Finance and the Social Sciences that are reviewed annually. The Prerequisites, Exclusions, and Syllabus are subject to confirmation in the Regulations. Notice is also given in the Regulations of any courses which are being phased out and students are advised to check course availability.

Syllabus

This is a description of the material to be examined, as published in the Regulations. On registration, students will receive a detailed subject guide which provides a framework for covering the topics in the syllabus and directions to the essential reading.

Part one:

Introduction

1. Parameters of EU integration
2. Competing theories

Part two:

The political system of the EU

3. The institutions of the EU (the councils, the commission, the parliament, the courts)
4. Policy-making and implementation

Part three:

Internal policies and their impact on EU and the outside world

5. Single market and competition
6. Regional policy and cohesion
7. Common Agricultural Policy
8. Economic and Monetary Union
9. Justice and home affairs

Part four:

The External Dimension of the EU

10. Enlargement
11. Common foreign and security policy
12. Trade and the common commercial policy

Part five: Conclusion

13. The Future of EU integration. Deepening, widening or consolidating?