



Instituto Universitario
de Investigación en
Estudios Norteamericanos
"Benjamin Franklin"

UNDERSTANDING EUROPE: PRESENT AND FUTURE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course offers students an overview of the European Union, its structure and functioning, analyzing the rights and freedoms of its citizens. The European Union is one of the most important players in the international arena, so special emphasis will be placed on the analysis of current issues and challenges the EU faces as an institution.

The first part of the course will consist of an introduction to the study of the European Union from its inception to the present day, paying special attention to the integration of Spain into the European Union: how it has influenced national policy, and what changes have occurred in Spain following its accession to the EU, and the transformations that took place at an economic, political, social and legal level. We will also examine the challenges currently facing the European Union (terrorism, refugees, Brexit...) and its potential consequences; particularly the severe economic and institutional crisis that it is faced with in the twenty-first Century. Once students have acquired a global vision on the functioning of the European Union, we will focus on the specific characteristics of each of its institutions, its regulatory system, its foreign relations, and many of the policies undertaken by the EU.

OBJECTIVES

The course objective of this course is to analyze the process of European integration, the institutional system of the European Union and its legal system in order to provide students with the knowledge necessary for a critical and constructive analysis of the main goals of the Union: institute a European citizenship; guarantee freedom, security and justice; promote economic and social progress and reaffirm the role of Europe in the world.

The teaching and learning method throughout this course is based on active learning by students, so that through various activities, each student can acquire the following set of competences:

Competence 1.	Acquisition and understanding of basic theoretical concepts about the European Union (EU)
Competence 2.	Ability to resolve practical cases and apply theoretical knowledge to political and judicial realities of the EU

Competence 3.	Learn and point out research techniques as well as select and evaluate technical documentation about the EU
Competence 4.	Ability to summarize and critically articulate new knowledge about the EU, through a reflexive and self-directed learning
Competence 5.	Recognize and use technical legal terms in proper context
Competence 6.	Ability to work in peer groups

METHODOLOGY

Strategic Methodology:

Classes: Active and critical learning; sharing ideas and participating in debate

- Theoretical and practical classes
- Classes begin with a brainstorming regarding the current international issues related with the European Union, followed by Power Point presentations and other media to cover the basic concepts of the subject matter on the syllabus. The professor prompts further debate and will focus on the practical application of these concepts to the current EU reality.
- Once the basics have been covered, students will have to delve into the lesson by reading and analyzing recommended materials.
- Analysis and debate of case studies.
- Dynamic group exercises and learning activities
- Active learning strategies.

Tutorials: Problem Solving.

Individually or in small groups, students may request tutorials in order to properly monitor the autonomous learning of each student and answer any questions regarding the subject.

Exam: Knowledge enhancement and its practical application

There will be two theoretical tests throughout the semester.

Midterm exam: Topics will cover all issues discussed from the start of the course up until the class prior to the exam.

Final exam: Topics will cover all issues discussed after the midterm exam to the last prior class prior to the exam. Content and materials from the midterm exam will also be included in the final exam.

Team work: Franklin Student’s Blog

Throughout the course, we will develop a content that will be posted on the Franklin Student's Blog. During the first days of class we will discuss the format and theme of this activity.

Individual Student Assignment: Written work and in-class presentation

Each student must select a specific problem or issue facing the EU, which the student must explain and summarize to the whole class and hand in as a written assignment.

Both the written assignment and the oral presentation must include the following:

- Description of the topic and an explanation for choosing this particular issue.
- Clear development of the chosen topic: applicable legislation, be able to identify the EU institutions involved with the supervision or jurisdiction of this issue, a clear chronology of events as they happened, its causes and/or reasons, etc.
- Implications and consequences of this issue.
- Conclusion and a personal analytical opinion.
- References

List of possible research topics:

- Integration to the EU: Turkey
- Humanitarian Assistance
- Foreign Trade
- Economic and financial crisis
- Human Rights
- Education
- Employment and Social Policies
- Future of the EU
- Languages of the EU
- Environmental Policies
- Mass media and communication
- Equal Opportunity Programs
- Protection of Minority Groups
- Protection of Minors
- Transatlantic Relations USA-EU
- EU Foreign Policy with other regions: Asia, Africa, Middle East, etc
- Public Health
- Food Security
- Transport EU-NAFTA
- Current EU issues: political, social, economic problems, etc.

Throughout the course individual and group tutorials will be made to direct the elaboration of this work which finally will be the subject of an oral presentation.

PREPARATION

Students are expected to read the materials provided in class to improve their knowledge of the course subject and facilitate a more rigorous class discussion. Students who do not complete homework assignments will see a reduction in their final grade.

EVALUATION

The evaluation will take into account all the activities for this course, with special emphasis on lifelong learning and active participation of students, making sure that they have acquired the skills and have met the objectives of the course.

Evaluation Criteria:

- Understand the main concepts and ideas of each of the lessons.
- Be able to integrate and apply theoretical contents to practical situations discussed in class.
- Ability to summarize arguments in a clear manner, use of formal language and to apply the correct legal evidence and discourse while correctly citing sources.
- Attendance and active participation in all course works and activities.
- Contributing quality commentary and showing creativity in class, especially when using legal arguments.

Evaluation Breakdown:

1. Individual Student Assignment: research paper and in-class presentation	20%
2. Mid-term Exam: First Theory Test	20%
3. Final Exam: Second Theory Test	20%
4. Class participation, group discussion, case studies, Franklin Student's Blog activity	20%
5. Out-of-class activities	20%

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is **mandatory** both in classroom lectures and in the out-of-class activities. If the student misses more than the allowed absences (**1 absence**) in the June program and (**2 absences**) in the fall and spring programs, their final grade is reduced by **10 points** (unless it has been excused by doctor's certificate from a local medical center or their Program Director). In case of an absence (excused or not), students are responsible to get any class material (handouts) issued in class on their own and have to make up any missed information or class content on their own.

CLASS SCHEDULE	
TOPIC	
Presentation of the program and syllabus Introduction to the course content Introductory activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- What do you know about the European Union?- Where in the world is the European Union?- EU's political map- Analysis of international events related to the EU	
SECTION I: WHY THE EUROPEAN UNION? <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) What is the European Union? Preliminary considerations2) Historical data<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) The idea of Europeb) The Founding Fathers	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">3) The founding and development of the European Union<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) The three communities: ECSC, EC, Euratomb) Treatiesc) The process of integrationd) Membership conditions<p>*Activity: Robert Schuman Declaration</p>	
Oral presentations: a country in the EU	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">4) Spain and the European Union5) The values of the European Union	

SECTION II: WHO IS THE EUROPEAN UNION?: STRUCTURE OF GOVERNMENT

- 1) Main actors in the European sphere
- 2) Member States
- 3) The European Institutions
 - a) The European Council
 - b) The Council of the European Union (Council of Ministers)
 - c) The European Commission
 - d) The European Parliament
 - e) The European Court of Justice
 - f) The European Central Bank
 - g) European Court of Auditors

DEBATE: Current International issues: "BREXIT" and Turkey (importance for the EU, USA)

SECTION III: EUROPEAN LEGISLATIVE PROCEDURE

- 1) European legislative procedure

**Questions and review for the midterm exam*

MIDTERM EXAM

- Correction of the exam

SECTION IV: HOW DOES THE EU WORKS?

- 1) European Union Law
 - a) Constitutional law
 - b) Administrative law
 - c) International Agreements

SECTION V: ECONOMIC INTEGRATION

- 1) The EU's Economic and Monetary Union
- 2) The Single Market and Free Trade

SECTION VI: PRESENT AND FUTURE OF THE EU

- a) Foreign Policy and Shared Security
- b) Foreign Trade
- d) Humanitarian aid
- e) Cooperation in criminal cases
- f) Other policies

Activity: European Union Foreign Relations and Challenges

PAPER SUBMISSION AND ORAL PRESENTATIONS I
ORAL PRESENTATIONS II
* <i>Questions and review for the final exam</i>
FINAL EXAM

ASSIGNMETNS OUT-OF-CLASS
SUBMISSION: 2 Policy Memos

NOTE: This syllabus is subject to change. The final syllabus will be given to students on the first day of class.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Carazo, Teresa (Coord.). *Cuadernos pedagógicos sobre la Unión Europea. Vol. 2: La acción exterior de la Unión Europea*. España: Estudios de Política Exterior SA, 2010. ISBN: 978-84-88025-37-1
- Carazo, Teresa (Coord.). *Cuadernos pedagógicos sobre la Unión Europea. Vol. 1: El porqué y el cómo de la Unión Europea*. España: Estudios de Política Exterior SA, 2010. ISBN 978-84-88025-36-4
- Carazo, Teresa (Coord.). *Cuadernos pedagógicos sobre la Unión Europea. Vol. 3: La Europa económica*. España: Estudios de Política Exterior SA, 2010. ISBN 978-84-88025-38-8
- Castilla y León en Europa. “Una Europa sin barreras: las cuatro libertades básicas de la UE: libre circulación de mercancías, trabajadores, servicios y capitales”. N.f.
- Comisión Europea: Representación de España. Publicaciones. https://ec.europa.eu/spain/about-us/publications_es
- Parlamento Europeo. “La carta de los Derechos fundamentales de la Unión Europea”. *Fichas técnicas sobre la Unión Europea*. 2015.
- Parlamento Europeo. “La evolución hacia el Acta Única Europea”. *Fichas técnicas sobre la Unión Europea*. 2015
- Parlamento Europeo. “Las fuentes y el ámbito de aplicación del Derecho de la Unión Europea”. *Fichas técnicas sobre la Unión Europea*. 2015.
- Parlamento Europeo. “Los tratados de Maastricht y Ámsterdam”. *Fichas técnicas sobre la Unión Europea*. 2015.

WE WILL ONLY SPEAK IN SPANISH

In class we are going to speak only in Spanish. The use of English in the classroom would prevent the total immersion of the student in the process of learning Spanish. Moreover, it is important to emphasize that in order to understand and enjoy the class we will ask for an additional effort of terminological adaptation with the sole aim of helping the student get used to the specific jargon of the professional field. For a better understanding of the class a medium-high level of Spanish is recommended.