

# SORG.00.075 Introduction to the European Union

2021/2022 autumn regular studies 6 ECTS

Faculty/Department	Johan Skytte Institute of Political Studies (SVJS)
Amount of credits (1 ECTS=26 hours)	6 ECTS
Amount of credits (before 31.08.2009)	4 CP
Duration in semesters	1
Final assessment	differentiated (A, B, C, D, E, F, not present)
Syllabus credits	6 ECTS
Lecturers	Stefano Braghiroli (responsible), Anselm Schmidt
Languages of instruction	English
Other languages needed for achieving learning outcomes	English
Minimum number of attendants	15
Maximum number of attendants	60
Study levels	bachelor's studies, professional higher education studies, bachelor's and master's integrated studies
Target group and/or preconditions for participation	Riigiteaduste bakalaureuseõppekava üliõpilased ja kõik huvilised
Forms of teaching and learning and no of hours	lectures: 16 practice learning: 4 seminars: 10 independent work (including e-learning): 126
Web-based learning	Partially
Study period (in weeks)	2-16

## Curricula containing this course

Government and Politics (2444)

bac. 2018/2019 2019/2020 2020/2021 2021/2022

## Objectives

The aim of this course is to give an overview and a clear understanding of the political, institutional, and historical dimensions of the EU and of European integration. Part of the course investigates and discusses different theoretical perspectives, thereby enabling students to understand and interpret the recent transnational developments critically. A part of the course is devoted to the understanding and problematization of some of the most controversial contemporary issues such as the current economic crisis in the Eurozone, prospects for further political integration, and enlargement.

### CORE QUESTIONS:

- What is the EU?
- What are the main institutions of the EU and how do they work?
- How are decisions and policies made in the EU?
- Where is the EU going? How sustainable it is in the long term?
- Which are the lessons that can be learned from the past mistakes in the process of European integration?
- What is Estonia's role in the EU?
- How far should/can European integration go?
- Is the EU democratic and legitimate?

## Learning outcomes

At the end of the course, student will have a solid understanding of the nature, foundation, history, and overtime institutional and political developments of the EU. They will have developed a critical perspective on the major achievements of European integration and will be able to problematize the most relevant EU-related issues.

By the end of the course students are expected to:

- Be familiar with the EU development and structure
- Critically read the institutional and political developments EU and discuss the future trajectories
- Contextualize the EU within the debate on federalism, inter-governmentalism, functionalism, etc.
- Be able to discuss the most recent and most relevant pan-European issues
- Understand (and problematize) the democratic and political process in the EU
- Be familiar with the EU policy-making



### Assessment methods and criteria

final written assessment	Final written exam: The last class meeting will be devoted to a final written exam. It consists of a mix of open and closed questions addressing the main dimensions discussed during the course.
demonstration	In the last meeting students will be involved in a negotiating exercise of the Council of the EU where the knowledge and notions acquired during the lectures and the seminars are tested and put into practice. In particular, students are grouped as representatives of Member States. Students' activism is taken into account and the preparation of the material assessed on a differentiated basis.
home work	Written assignments: Throughout the course, students are expected to submit two short critical assessments based on the proposed articles (around 600 words). A collective discussion will follow during the successive class meeting.

### Requirements to be met for final assessment

In order to be considered for the final assessment, students are expected to attend at least 4/5 of the classes and actively participate to class activities, submit at least 1 of the 2 written critical review, and prepare the material for the simulation/negotiation exercise.

### Minimal amount of credits required for assessment

51

### To obtain final grade, the following is required

All the components of the final evaluation will be assessed according to an A-E(F) grading scale.

The components of the final evaluation will weight in the definition of the final grade according to the following percentages and distribution of points:

Work description: Max. points

Written critical review (30% of the final grade): 30

Final test (40% of the final grade): 40

Preparation of simulation/negotiation exercise (30% of the final grade): 30

Total max: 100

The required threshold to pass is 51 points, while the final grade is computed as follows:

Grade Point range

A (Excellent) 100-91

B (Very good) 90-81

C (Good) 80-71

D (Satisfactory) 70-61

E (Acceptable) 60-51

F (Fail) 50-0

### REQUIREMENTS:

1. Students are expected to attend all course meetings and to come to class well prepared to discuss the readings.
2. Students who are not satisfied with the outcome of the final written exam and wish improve their course grade can submit a 4-page critical review of a short reading previously agreed with the instructor. A max of 5 points can be added to the final grade according to the quality of the review.
3. Plagiarism is not tolerated and can lead to failing the course. More details are available at [www.plagiarism.org](http://www.plagiarism.org)

### Options for taking tests/exams at later date

Students who are not satisfied with the outcome of the final written exam and wish improve their course grade can submit a 4-page critical review of a short reading previously agreed with the instructor. A max of 5 points can be added to the final grade according to the quality of the review.

### Other information

This course is developed and implemented with the support of the Jean Monnet Module "Neighbourhood Enlargement and Regionalism in Europe" (NearEU). The project has received funding from the European Union's Erasmus+ Jean Monnet programme under Grant Agreement 620279-EPP-1-2020-1-EE-EPPJMO-MODULE.