

Europe and the European Union: Economics, Politics, History and Society Info

Course title	Europe and the European Union: Economics, Politics, History and Society
Language	English
Teaching methods	Face-to-face lectures using powerpoint and other materials, on-line discussion,
Type	July 18 to 29
Course intro	<p>The objectives of the course will be to familiarise students with the history of Europe in the 20th century and the development of the European Union after the Second World War, its sociological and political underpinnings, its key economic policies, its primary political organisations, its social structure and diversity and its foreign policy, defence and security arrangements. It will cover the economic theory behind the economic policies of the EU, its single market, customs union and currency union, the Eurozone. It will discuss the reasons for the creation and existence of the EU, its steady growth in membership and functions, the advantages it provides for its members and the difficulties and problems that exist between its member nations from time to time. These problems are grounded in conflict brought on through diversity and inequality on the one hand and the socio-political pressures brought on by change on the other, often leading, particularly in recent years, to a populist and/or nationalist response. Key socio-economic problems pertaining to migration, the movement of refugees and the rise of nationalism and populism in Europe will be also discussed. These issues will be analysed through a historical socio-economic lens, the overall objective being to provide students with a comprehensive social-scientific understanding of recent developments in Europe as a whole, to include a thorough analysis of the structure, workings and dynamics of the EU, one of the most significant and unusual of international organisations. The course will also discuss the place of Europe and the EU in the world as a whole, its foreign policy, security and defence stances and objectives and address the challenges it faces, both internally and externally, currently and over the years ahead.</p>
Syllabus	<p>The syllabus will cover the following topics: 1. The history of Europe in the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, with special reference to the two world wars and their significance and legacy 2. The history of the European Union and the key stages in its development, from its early creation in 1951 as the European Coal and Steel Community with just six member countries through to its present incarnation as the European Union with 27 members (until 2020, 28). Growth in membership and economic growth within its borders has led to the EU becoming, by size of national income, the largest economic bloc in the world 3. Economic issues and policies to include trade and trading arrangements, the single market and customs union and their rationale, the development of the European currency union, the arguments for that development and the difficulties it involved for member countries in southern Europe, specifically Greece, agricultural, environmental, regional and budgetary policies 3. The political structure and development of the EU, to include discussion of the main institutions of the EU (the Presidency, the European Parliament, the Council of Ministers the Commission and the Court of Justice), its decision-making process, its political parties and electoral arrangements 4. Socio-political issues to include equality and diversity, migration both within the EU a</p>

	<p>nd from outside, the refugee crises as a result of wars in the Middle East and the current war in the Ukraine, their significance, particularly in relation to the rise of populism and nationalism within the EU. 5. The development of anti-EU parties within the EU and the history and sociology of Brexit, brought on by the referendum on membership of the EU in the UK in 2016 6. Foreign, Defence and Security Policies, involving a discussion of the place of Europe generally and of the EU in particular in the world, its geo-political relations with other countries to include the USA and NATO members and with China 7. The future of the EU. Will it thrive and expand and take a greater role in world affairs or will it succumb to the difficulties it faces and become increasingly irrelevant?</p>
Assessment	<p>Given the difficulties of arranging group presentations in a course taught online through ZOOM, the assessment arrangements will be as follows: 1. Attendance (10%) 2. Active Participation, measured by the switching on of the video function, the degree to which students engage in discussion, ask and answer questions and so on (10%) 3. Written end-of-course examination (80%)</p>
Recommended	<p>The students will be provided with specific reading materials on particular topics by me. Additionally the students will need to refer to the following set books: John McCormack (2020), EUROPEAN UNION POLITICS, Red Globe Press, (3rd ed.) McCormack and Olsen (2018), THE EUROPEAN UNION, Routledge (6th ed.) Cini and Borrigan (2019), EUROPEAN UNION POLITICS, OUP (6th ed.)</p>