

Course Information	
Course Title	Europe and the European Union: Economics, Politics, History and Society
Teaching Language	English
Teaching Methods	Face-to-face lectures using powerpoint and other materials, on-line discussion,
Type of Class Arrangement (A-H)	A2
Course Description	<p>The primary 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 2nd World War, its political and sociological underpinnings, its key economic policies, its primary political organisations, its security arrangements, its social structure and diversity. It will cover the economic theory behind the principal economic policies of the EU, its single market, customs union and currency union (the Eurozone). It will discuss the reasons for the 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 populism and nationalism will be 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 world's most significant and unusual of international organisations. The course will also discuss the place of Europe in general and the EU in particular in the world, its foreign and defence policy stances and objectives and the challenges it faces, both internally and externally, over the years ahead. The course is designed for 1st and 2nd year undergraduates although suitable for undergraduates at any level. No prior knowledge of economics, political science or sociology is required but a keen interest in current affairs across the globe is essential.</p>
Course Syllabus	<p>The main topics to be covered include: 1. The history of Europe in the twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, to include particular reference to questions of war and peace and the implications of two world wars for the desire for unity amongst European nations immediately after the ending after the 2nd World War. There will also be a discussion of the implications of the current war in Ukraine for the EU and Europe generally, 2. The history of the European Union and the key stages of its development, from the 1951 European Coal and Steel Community to today's European Union, involving growth in membership from 6 countries in 1951 to today's 27 countries, the EU today comprising, by size of national income, the largest economic bloc in the world, 3. The political structure and development of the EU, to include discussion of the main institutions of the EU – the</p>

	<p>European Parliament, the Council of Ministers, the Commission and Court of Justice– its decision-making processes and its political parties, 4. Socio-political issues to include equality and diversity, migration both from within the EU and from outside, the refugee crises of the last few years and their significance for European politics and for the rise of populism and nationalism within the EU, to include the development of anti-EU parties in member countries. There will be particular reference to the sociology and politics of Brexit (the departure of the UK from the EU): how and why a majority of British people voted to leave the EU in the referendum of 2016, 5. Economic issues and policies to include its trading arrangements, the single market, the customs union and the currency union (the Eurozone), to include an elementary presentation of the theory of free trade, customs unions and currency unions. Other economic issues to be discussed will be its agricultural policy (the Common Agricultural Policy), environmental and regional policies. 6. Foreign, defence and security policies, to include a discussion of Europe's and the EU's place in the world, to include its relations to NATO and its geo-political relations with other countries to include China and the USA</p>
Course Assessment	<p>I am keen to promote student involvement and have, when I have presented courses at Beiwai's summer school in the past, included student group presentations, as part of the assessment process. However this is extremely difficult to arrange if the number of students rises beyond 20. Last year, my course attracted 49 students. This allowed only limited opportunities for assessing student engagement. Assuming the student numbers to be above 20, my method of assessment will be: 80% final course written examination 10% attendance 10% student engagement (judged through the degree of interest shown by students, the asking of questions and the willingness to engage in discussion etc). If student numbers are below 20, the method of assessment will be: 60% final course written examination 30% student presentations 10% attendance</p>
Course Books and Recommended Reading	<p>There will be specific materials provided by me on a range of topics which I will endeavour to get photocopied. However, there will be two set books which the students will be encouraged to obtain: John McCormick (2020), EUROPEAN POLITICS, Red Globe Press (3rd edition) Jonathan Olsen and John McCormick (2018), THE EUROPEAN UNION: POLITICS AND POLICIES, Westview Press (6th edition) Other recommended texts include: Cini and Borrigan (2019), EUROPEAN UNION POLITICS, Oxford (6th edition) Usherwood and Pinder (2018) THE EUROPEAN UNION, A VERY SHORT INTRODUCTION, Oxford</p>