

EC 445 – ECONOMICS OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to introduce the undergraduate student to the politics and development of the European integration. The course will then proceed to examine the origins and development of the European integration, the main theories behind the process of integration, the institutional structure of the European Union and the specific economic and political areas of inter-state cooperation.

Objectives of the Course

- To explain the origins and the challenges for this regional block within the globalization process.
- To critically analyze several internal aspects of the EU as well as the enlargement process.
- To be able to observe and draw conclusions about the development of the European institutional system and the common policies.
- To relate the knowledge they acquire through the different media channels about the European reality with the situation in their country.
- To organize their individual research work and ideas on several topics related to the European Union.
- To participate in class actively and support their opinions in a coherent way.

Format of the Course

• **Class lectures and discussions** will further develop the issues touched upon in the assigned readings. Students are expected to participate actively in class discussions. They are required to keep abreast of current European events in the media to be able to participate in discussions of these issues. They will be evaluated for their level of preparation with two exams.

• **Activities.** For each module, a set of readings will be assigned to be discussed extensively in class. For that purpose, each student will have to prepare a **briefing** for the rest of the class, identifying the opinions and/or key issues to be debated.

Each student will prepare the presentation of two TERMPAPERS, the first one based on economic situation of the European Union and the second comparing the economy of the countries of Enlargement, as well as the challenges it has posed for full integration into the European community. A forum discussion will be held comparing the main results.

• **Term papers.** The objective of the papers is to develop analytical skills and the ability to assume and defend a position regarding economic and political issues. Each paper will be written as the response to a question posed by the professor about the specific issue chosen.

- The papers must have complete, correctly prepared footnotes.
- Format: Word Document, Times New Roman/Tahoma 12, 1.5 interlined space, text fully justified
- Extension: A **maximum of 4 pages** is established (including graphs, tables, etc.)
- A warning on plagiarism. When writing a research paper or an essay exam you must identify your intellectual indebtedness to the authors you have read. This can be done through footnotes, bibliography, or by making a direct reference to the scholar or author in question. Failure to do so will be considered plagiarism. Plagiarism is the most serious academic offense you can incur in and could have serious consequences for you. **Plagiarized works or exams will receive and F and two incidents will result in an F in the final grade of the course.**
- There will be NO EXTENSIONS and late papers WILL NOT be accepted.

Grading system

The final grade for the course will be evaluated as follows

Midterm Exam	20%
Final Exam	20%
Briefings	25%
Term paper	15%
Oral presentation – Discussion Forum	15%
Participation (preparation for class, participation...)	5%

Topics, Assignments and Activities

Module 1. *History of the European Union*

Module 2. *Explaining how the European Union works*

Module 3. *The Euro: Monetary Union and Policy*

Module 4. *The European Economy*

Module 5. *EU Enlargement*

Module 6. *EU policies*

Readings

M.J. Artis and F. Nixson, eds., *The Economics of the European Union: Policy and Analysis*, Oxford University Press. Fourth Edition, 2007.

A *package of selected readings* will be available for specific topic.

Course Policies

- (1) Papers and written assignments must be printed out on paper and handed in during class time.
- (2) Students are not allowed to eat or drink in class or *use cell phones*.
- (3) Student conduct: Students are expected to follow all university policies on academic conduct (e.g., those regarding plagiarism and cheating, being cooperative and respectful with their classmates and instructors, etc.). The first incidence regarding academic conduct will be dealt directly with the instructor. **Two incidences will immediately be turned in to Suffolk authorities for immediate correction.**