

Jean Monnet Module on European Integration 1:

An Introduction to European Integration and European Union Governance

Institution:	School of Public Policy, Central European University
Year/Term:	Year 1
Course type:	Track-specific course
ECTS:	4

Brief description (including learning outcomes):

The Jean Monnet Module (JMM) is a two-part interdisciplinary course on European integration and governance in the European Union. The first part is an introductory one delivered in the Fall Term (JMM1) and the second –advanced- part proposed in the Winter term (JMM2). Mundus MAPP students must take both JMM1&2. Legal studies students may take JMM1 or JMM2, or both, depending on their respective program requirements.

JMM1 is an introductory level course which seeks to familiarise students with key European Union (EU) institutions and decision-making processes, across different policy contexts. It adopts an interdisciplinary perspective, which brings together and confronts political sciences and legal approaches on core issues and aspects of European integration and governance. After an historical overview of European integration since WWII, the course critically engages with academic and policy materials which expose and explain the role and functioning of the main EU institutions and bodies (European Commission, European Parliament, European Council and Council of the EU, Court of Justice of the European Union, other EU bodies and agencies) and core formal EU decision-making processes (including treaty-making, legislative, regulatory and judicial) and more informal dynamics, and situating them within the multi-level governance framework which characterizes Europe today, and the range of policy areas which EU activities cover. Throughout, the course engages with selected analytical and theoretical perspectives on European integration and governance.

JMM1 is designed to enable the participants to become familiar with, and have a basic understanding of, the complex EU governance structure and the core dynamics of European integration, whilst honing their analytical skills (in particular through direct engagement with different disciplinary perspectives, theories and methods), and improving their oral and written communication skills (including in an online environment). It caters for students coming from different academic and professional backgrounds, but aims particularly at those who wish to pursue studies or research in European affairs or law, or envisage a career in EU institutions, diplomatic services, international or regional organizations, international companies or NGOs.

The course includes both asynchronous elements (core readings, audio-visual materials, pre-recorded mini-lectures, recorded presentations, etc) and synchronous – interactive – sessions (either in-person or online, depending on the COVID situation evolution), discussing key issues and contrasting disciplinary and professional perspectives. It also features a simulation exercise.

JMM1&2 aims at providing participants with a solid knowledge of EU institutions and decision-making processes, across a range of specific policy areas, and reflecting on past and current challenges. It also seeks to offer participants a truly interdisciplinary perspective on those matters, through direct engagement with relevant analytical and theoretical approaches from (primarily) law and political science, and materials produced by, and for, different categories of professionals.

JMM1 aims to develop a basic understanding of core institutional features, processes, and dynamics, and key theoretical perspectives, which will be further explored through selected issues and within specific policy areas in Jean Monnet Module 2 (Advanced issues of European integration and governance).

At the end of JMM1, students should:

- be able to identify the main EU institutions, their core organizational features and their main functions and role(s) in European integration and governance;
- be able to describe and understand the EU main formal decision- and law-making processes, and informal coordination and cooperation mechanisms, within a multi-level governance setting;
- be aware of variations in institutional and governance dynamics across policy areas, and over time;
- be able to identify and evaluate key analytical and theoretical perspectives on European integration and governance;
- be familiar with the main contemporary challenges facing European integration;
- know how to locate and use core EU policy documents, treaties, legislation, and case law.
- be able to recognize and assess similarities and differences between different disciplinary perspectives;
- have improved their ability to reason analytically and logically within more than one disciplines;
- have increased their capacity to synthesize, analyze and evaluate primary and secondary sources;
- be able to write in a concise, analytical and critical way;
- have improved their oral communication skills, including through the development of video-recording skills for effective oral communication in an online environment;
- be able to effectively mobilise online media to communicate analysis and findings;
- be in a position to apply theoretical knowledge to explain and assess empirical situations;
- be able to draw theoretical implications from the observation of past and current events;
- have a better understanding of negotiations and decision-making processes in complex governance and policy-settings.

Assessment: 20% class preparation and participation; 10% contribution to simulation exercise, 30% video presentation, 40% academic blogpost