

## **European Integration and EU Governance: An Introduction**

**Institution:** Department of Public Policy, Central European University PU

**Year:** Year 1

**Course type:** Track-specific course

**ECTS:** 4

### **Brief description**

This is an introductory level course which seeks to familiarize students with the European Union institutional framework, its main formal decision-making processes and the broader dynamics of European integration and EU governance, as they vary over time and across policy contexts. It adopts an interdisciplinary perspective, which brings together and confronts approaches from political sciences, public administration and public policy, law, sociology and history. The course provides basic knowledge about the history of European integration, 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, EU agencies) and decision-making processes (with a focus on treaty reform, legislation, rulemaking and caselaw). It supports students in the development of analytical abilities and effective communication skills, encouraging them to critically engage with academic and policy materials to acquire and offer a better understanding of EU institutional processes. Throughout, the course engages with selected analytical and theoretical approaches to European integration and EU governance, including comparative regionalism aspects, and reflects on current and future challenges.

The course caters for students coming from different academic and professional backgrounds, and parts of the world. It should be of particular interest to those who wish to pursue studies or research in European affairs, or envisage a career in EU institutions, diplomatic services, international or regional organizations, international companies or NGOs. It is also relevant to students who are interested in closer regional cooperation and integration process beyond Europe, and in the challenges of policy-making in complex multi-level governance settings.

The course proposes a mix of asynchronous elements (ie reading assignments, material annotations, podcasts, videos watching, quizzes, etc) and synchronous interactive seminars, as well as a simulation exercise.

Assessment is based on preparation and participation (20%); written and oral contribution to the simulation (10%); presentation (30%); and blogpost (40%).

### **Course goals and subject-specific learning outcomes**

The course aims to equip participants with a basic knowledge of EU institutions, decision-making and governance processes, and to develop some familiarity with EU policies and awareness of a range of disciplinary and theoretical perspectives applied to their study.

The course further seeks to foster participants' understanding of governance beyond the state, serving as a basis for, and further explored in, more advanced courses in the student's relevant program/study track. Overall, the course aims to improve participants' knowledge of the complex EU governance structure and the multiple dynamics of European (dis)integration, whilst honing their analytical abilities and oral and written communication skills.

At the end of the course, students should:

- be able to identify the main formal EU institutions, their core organizational features, main functions and role(s) in European Union governance and European integration;

- be able to describe and understand the main EU formal decision-making processes, within a multi-level governance framework;
- be alert to variations in institutional and governance dynamics across policy areas and over time;
- be able to identify and evaluate key analytical and theoretical perspectives on EU governance and European integration;
- be aware of the main contemporary challenges facing European integration and governance;
- know how to locate, access and understand EU policy documents, and legal instruments;
- have a better understanding of negotiations and decision-making processes in complex multi-level governance and policy-settings.