European Integration and EU Governance

Institution:	Department of Public Policy, Central European University PU
Course instructor:	Marie-Pierre Granger
Year:	Year 1
Course type:	Track-specific course (EPP-GPP)
ECTS:	8

Background and overall aim: This foundational course provides students with a solid understanding of the institutional architecture, decision-making processes, and evolving dynamics of European integration and EU governance. Adopting an interdisciplinary perspective that draws on political science, public policy, and law, the course critically examines the roles, powers, and interactions of key EU institutions and bodies, including the European Commission, the European Parliament, the European Council, the Council of the European Union, the Court of Justice of the European Union, and EU agencies.

Through engagement with academic scholarship and policy-oriented materials, students explore the EU's principal decision-making processes—including treaty-making, legislative, regulatory, and judicial procedures—within the context of Europe's multi-level governance system. The course also introduces major analytical and theoretical approaches to European integration and EU governance, evaluating their relevance for understanding both historical developments and contemporary challenges facing the European Union.

The course is delivered through an interactive and student-centered learning approach that combines critical discussion, collaborative learning, and practical engagement. Students are encouraged to apply theoretical insights to real-world policy issues through a range of activities, including seminars, presentations, debates, simulations, and other participatory exercises.

Designed for students from diverse academic and professional backgrounds, the course is particularly relevant for those interested in European studies, public policy, diplomacy, international organizations, and EU-related careers. By the end of the course, students will have developed a solid understanding of how EU institutions, governance processes, and policies operate, together with the analytical tools needed to critically assess governance beyond the nation-state and to engage in more advanced academic or professional work on European affairs.

Learning outcomes:

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to

- (1) explain and critically evaluate the institutions, governance structures, decision-making processes, and policy outputs of the European Union;

- (2) apply leading theories and concepts of European integration and EU governance to analyze historical and contemporary challenges;
- (3) assess the role of the European Union in regional and global governance and policy-making;
- (4) apply theoretical and empirical insights to real-world policy and negotiation contexts; and
- (5) conduct, communicate, and defend rigorous evidence-based analyses using relevant primary and secondary sources.