



<b>Online Course Title</b>	<b>The European Union between Supranational Integration and National Sovereignty</b>
<b>Category</b>	Social Sciences, Politics & Education
<b>Online Course Period</b>	<b>Session 2: July 20<sup>th</sup> – August 14<sup>th</sup> 2020</b>
<b>Course Structure</b>	<p>The course content is equivalent to an on-site course offering 45 contact hours.</p> <p>The study time includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• virtual class room lessons with the lecturer and the fellow students (30%) - includes at least four synchronous sessions ca 1.5 hours per week</li> <li>• group exercises (30%)</li> <li>• assignments and self-study (40%)</li> </ul> <p>Weekly schedule of virtual class room lessons (Berlin time, CEST):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monday: 2.00 pm – 3.30 pm</li> <li>• Wednesday: 2.00 pm – 3.30 pm</li> </ul>
<b>Technical Requirements</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fully functional device (laptop, tablet, PC or smart phone)</li> <li>• Stable internet connection</li> <li>• Software: Zoom (video/audio), Moodle (e-learning platform)</li> </ul> <p>Recommended hardware: external headset for better sound quality</p>
<b>Course Level &amp; Target Group</b>	International undergraduate students of all subjects with an academic background and a strong interest in European Integration and European History.
<b>Course Language</b>	This course is taught in English, including readings in English. For the understanding of the texts and the discussions in class a language level B2 (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) is required.
<b>ECTS</b>	5 ECTS
<b>Instructors</b>	Magnus Römer David Nonhoff

## Course Description

The course will reflect upon the history and the current challenges of the European Union as the most ambitious project of supranational integration. As the common narrative goes, the project of integration was based on the quest for peace in its beginnings, and later shifted to the economic benefits as the main incentive for further integration. After the Euro-Crisis, which many commentators argue has still not been solved, the European Union today faces another severe Crisis. The Coronavirus pandemic and the current negotiations about financial solidarity between the member states yet again lead many to question the Union's roots and aims.

Thus, the course will explore the development of the EU as a political entity, will try to understand the reasons for the current crises and will finally also try to look ahead – what future for European integration?

Since Berlin is one of the hearts of Europe, we will focus on Germany's role in particular. Germany is the economic power house of Europe and plays and played a crucial part in the recent crises, such as the Schengen-Crisis or the Euro-Crisis.

We will study answers mainly from political science and sociology, but will also take a look at some economists' and historians' arguments. Finally, participants will also be asked to interview ordinary citizens in order to gain a perspective outside of academia.

This is **not an introduction to European politics**. Participating requires substantial knowledge in European Integration and European History.

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## Course Schedule

**NB: This Schedule is not final and still subject to changes and updates. Actual dates and times can be adjusted to meet student needs. The dates below are intended to indicate the expected workload. The assignments will be explained in more detail on the moodle course page.**

In general, there will be two Zoom meetings per week, one on Monday and one on Thursday. Students have to submit a short assignment every week and the final paper in the last week. The readings will always be discussed in the first Zoom meeting on Monday. In the Thursday meetings, we will discuss the assignments and set the stage for the following week.

### Week 1: History, patterns and theories of European Integration

In the first week, we will discuss the origins of the European project since the end of World War II. We will critically assess the motivations for early European integration – the desire for peace? Mere economic motives? The rescue of the nation state? – and shed light on these motivations via the most important theories of European integration.

On **Monday, 20 July, a 45 minute Zoom meeting** will serve as an introduction to the course, the instructors and your fellow students.

A first short written assignment (one page) is due on **Wednesday, 22 July, 13:00 CET**. Choose one of the following subjects: i. Explain and contrast two theories of European Integration; ii. Give a brief overview over the history of European Integration; iii. Outline the major motivations to participate in the European project for a country of your choice.

Another 60-90 minute video-conference with all participants is scheduled for **Thursday, 23 July**. This meeting will include a short lecture by the instructor and a discussion of your assignment and the readings.

#### *Readings:*

- Hatton, L. (2011). *Theories of European Integration*. CIVITAS Institute for the Study of Civil Society; <https://www.civitas.org.uk/content/files/OS.16-Theories.pdf>
- Milward, A. (2000). *The European rescue of the nation-state* (fragments from ch. 1 and 6, pp. 15-17, 318-319; 325-330, 333-337). London: Routledge. ISBN 0-415-21628
- Kuhn, T. (2019) *Grand theories of European integration revisited: does identity politics shape the course of European integration?*, *Journal of European Public Policy*, 26:8, 1213-1230, DOI: 10.1080/13501763.2019.1622588; <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/13501763.2019.1622588?needAccess=true&>

### Week 2: The European Union today and European identity

The readings due for this week will be discussed in a Zoom meeting on **Monday, 27 July**. They will focus on the current state of the European Union and the question of a European identity.

In week two, we will discuss the question of European identity, and the EU's democratic deficit as well as proposals to mitigate this major shortfall of the EU. In this vein, we will also look at the particular role

Germany has played in the European integration and discuss how Germany's policies have strengthened and/or weakened the integration process.

Students will have to conduct three short interviews with English-speaking people in the country they are based at and ask them politely to respond to the following questions (please take good notes of each interview):

1. How do you evaluate the situation in contemporary Europe?
2. What would you want to change in Europe?
3. How do you think the European Union will look like in 10 years?
4. What do you think about the conduct and the standing of your own country in European affairs or (if not a member state) towards the European Union?
5. (If in Europe: Do you feel "European"? Why, why not?)
6. Do you think there is a European identity? Why, or why not? If yes, what does it consist of?

Students will have to submit the recordings by **Wednesday, 29 July, 13:00 CET**, either as audio or video files or as transcripts.

We will discuss the results of the interviews and in a Zoom meeting on **Thursday, 30 July**.

*Readings:*

- Follesdal, A. & Hix, S. (2005). *Why There is a Democratic Deficit in the EU: A Response to Majone and Moravcsik*. *Journal of Common Market Studies*. 44(3), 533-562.
- Simms, B. (2015): Germany's triumph: from the ruins of war, how a new German empire was built. *New Statesman*, 07/30/2015; <https://www.newstatesman.com/politics/2015/07/germany-s-triumph-ruins-war-how-new-european-empire-was-built>
- Innerarty, D. (2014). Does Europe Need a Demos to Be Truly Democratic? LSE 'Europe in Question' Discussion Paper Series, LEQS Paper No. 77/2014 July 2014; <http://www.lse.ac.uk/europeanInstitute/LEQS%20Discussion%20Paper%20Series/LEQSPaper77.pdf>

### **Week 3: The Schengen-Crisis, Brexit and the populist challenge**

In this week, we will focus on the major crises the EU faced in the recent past: The Schengen-Crisis (2015-today), the Brexit-Crisis (2016-today) and the populist challenge to European integration. All three are interconnected, but still challenge the European Union at different levels. We will especially focus on the challenges that national-conservative governments in Eastern Europe and populist parties in Western Europe pose towards the rule of law in the EU.

The readings due for this week will be discussed in a Zoom meeting on **Monday, 3 August**.

Students will have to hold or upload short presentations on/by **Wednesday, 5 August, 13:00 CET**, on one of the crises or an aspect of it. All presentations will be made available to all course participants.

The presentations will be discussed in a Zoom meeting on **Thursday, 6 August**.

*Readings:*

- Hall, Peter. A. (2012): The Economics and Politics of the Euro Crisis, *German Politics*, 21:4, 355-371
- Kundnani, Hans (2016): How Europe's Refugee and Euro Crisis are Linked. *GMF Transatlantic Take*, 02/16/16; <http://www.gmfus.org/blog/2016/02/16/how-europe-s-refugee-and-euro-crises-are-linked>
- Zielonka, J. (2019). The European demos and Ursula von der Leyen's democratic quandary. *OpenDemocracy.org*, 22/07/2019; <https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/can-europe-make-it/the-european-demos-and-ursula-von-der-leyens-democratic-quandary/>
- Dempsey, J. (2020). Judy Asks: Can Europe Save Democracy in Hungary and Poland? *Carnegie Europe*; <https://carnegieeurope.eu/strategieurope/81732>

#### **Week 4: The Euro and the Corona-Crisis**

In this week, we will discuss lingering conflicts of European integration and the current challenges arising due to the Coronavirus pandemic. We will compare the Corona-Crisis to the Euro-Crisis and have a pro/contra-debate about the introduction of Corona-Bonds (or Euro-Bonds). Students should prepare their argumentation with their classmates in a pro- or contra-group. Groups will be allocated in the Monday session.

The readings due for this week will be discussed in a Zoom meeting on **Monday, 10 August**.

There will be a final Zoom meeting on **Wednesday, 12 August**, during which the debate on Corona-Bonds will be held.

The written assignment as a final paper (5 pages double-spaced) on a topic relevant to the course is due on **Friday, 14 August 23:59 CET**.

Possible research questions for the final assignment:

- Is the EU a distinct supranational entity or rather a loose association of independent nation states?
- Is Germany the EU's hegemon and/or should it be?
- Does the EU have a democratic deficit?

#### *Readings:*

- Video: Bruegel event with Ashoka Mody (2018): Euro tragedy: a drama in nine acts  
<https://www.bruegel.org/events/euro-tragedy-a-drama-in-nine-acts/>
- Jenkins, S. (2020). The coronavirus crisis has exposed the truth about the EU: it's not a real union. The Guardian 10/04/2020,  
<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/apr/10/coronavirus-crisis-truth-eu-union-financial-rescue>
- Valleé, S. (2020). Coronavirus has revealed the EU's fatal flaw: the lack of solidarity. The Guardian, 28/04/2020, <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/apr/28/eu-coronavirus-fund-share-crisis-soul-european-parliament-fiscal>
- Stevis-Gridneff, M. (2020). As Europe Confronts the Coronavirus, What Shape Will Solidarity Take? The New York Times, 08/04/2020, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/08/world/europe/eu-coronavirus-aid.html>
- Erik Jones, R. Daniel Kelemen, Sophie Meunier (2015). Failing Forward? The Euro Crisis and the Incomplete Nature of European Integration;  
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0010414015617966>

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## **Course Objective & Learning Outcomes**

After completion of this course, students will have a good understanding of the challenges of European integration and the public as well as academic debates surrounding it. They will be able to critically evaluate current proposed solutions to the Corona-Crisis and have gained a deep understanding of the underlying conflicts and tensions of the European Union that arise out of its nature as a supranational entity with strong nation states.

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## **Readings**

Reading materials will be available via Moodle during the course.

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## Assignments

In order to be granted 5 ECTS, participants will be asked to actively attend all sessions (you may not miss more than one synchronous session), and to hand in weekly assignments as well as an academic paper (5 pages) on the topic.

Submission deadline: last course day.

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## Assessment Components

The final grade will be composed of weekly assignments and active participation in class (50%) and the final academic paper (50%).

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## Expectations & Policies

Preparation for lively discussions in the virtual classroom: be on time, have at least the required readings completed and points in mind for discussion or clarification.

Assignments: complete all assignments according to the specified requirements on schedule including handing over to the lecturer.

Commitment in online-class: pay particular attention to the lecturer and respect differences of opinions (classmates', lecturers).

Academic guidelines: Comply with academic integrity policies (such as no plagiarism or cheating, nothing unethical) especially the academic honor code and the student code of conduct (see *FAQs* on [www.huwisu.de](http://www.huwisu.de)).

Attendance policy: No unexcused absences are permitted. Students must contact their class teachers to catch up on missed work – to excuse absence please contact the HUWISU office.

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## Your Instructors

David Nonhoff is Research Assistant to MP Marja-Liisa Völlers at the German Bundestag and has worked for two further MPs before. In his previous position as Research Associate at the Global Public Policy Institute (GPPi) he worked on digitalization as well as authoritarian challenges to liberal democracies. David holds a BA in European Studies from Maastricht University and completed his MSc Philosophy of the Social Sciences at the London School of Economics and Political Science in 2016. His paper on the accountability of the European Parliament will be published in May 2020.

Magnus Römer works at the department of European affairs of the Berlin Data Protection Authority. Previously, he managed the establishment of the European New School of Digital Studies at the University of Frankfurt (Oder) and analysed the enforcement of European data protection laws at the Berlin Social Science Center as Research Associate. Magnus holds a BA in European Studies from Maastricht University and an MA in International Politics from Free University Berlin.

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Please note that the course and its syllabus are subject to change. Last update: June 2020