



Online Course Title	The European Union between Supranational Integration and National Sovereignty
Category	Social Sciences, Politics & Education
Online Course Period	January 6th – January 26th 2021
Course Structure	<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"> • virtual class room lessons with the lecturer and the fellow students (30%) - includes at least four synchronous sessions ca 1.5 hours per week • group exercises (30%) • assignments and self-study (40%) <p>Weekly schedule of virtual class room lessons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course days: Monday and Wednesday • 10.00 am – 12.00 pm (Berlin time, UTC+1) 17.00 pm – 19.00 pm (Beijing time, UTC+8) 20.00 pm – 22.00 pm (Sydney time, UTC+11) 03.00 am – 05.00 am (Chicago time, UTC-6)
Technical Requirements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully functional device (laptop, tablet, PC or smart phone) • Stable internet connection • Software: Zoom (video/audio), Moodle (e-learning platform) <p>Recommended hardware: external headset for better sound quality</p>
Course Level & Target Group	International undergraduate students of all subjects with an academic background and a strong interest in European Integration and European History.
Course Language	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.
ECTS	5 ECTS
Instructors	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 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.

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 Wednesday. Students have to submit a short assignment every week and the final paper in the last week.

Week 1: Welcome and introduction

In the first Zoom meeting on **Wednesday, 6 January, 10:00 CET**, students will be introduced to the course, their fellow students and the teachers.

Prior to the first class, students should make sure they are somehow familiar with the functioning of the European Union and the main integration theories. One short text and some explanatory videos can help those who are unfamiliar to these issues:

- 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>
- DW News (2016). *How does the EU work (and why is it so complex)?* | DW News: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Rkwllr912A>
- CNBC International (2019). *How does the EU work?* | CNBC Explains: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9eufLQ3sew0>
- The Atlantic (2019). *How Does the EU Actually Work?*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=idlCpZI9hQ4>
- The European Parliament (2016). *Law-making in the EU*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=clmSKbV5Z9w>

Week 2:

Part 1: History, patterns and theories of European Integration

In this part, we will discuss the historical origins of the European project. 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.

The Zoom meeting on **Monday, 11 January, 10:00 CET** will include a short lecture by the instructor and a discussion of the readings.

A first short written assignment (one page) is due on **Monday, 11 January, 23:59 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.

Required readings:

- Video (45 min.): Snyder, T. (2014). *Nations, Empires, Unions: European Integration and Disintegration Since 1914*. Lecture held at the House of Literature (Litteraturhuset), Oslo, Saturday 8 February 2014: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=32_cqhaSJLs
- 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

Further readings:

- Börzel, T., Risse, T. (2018). *From the euro to the Schengen crises: European integration theories, politicization, and identity politics*, *Journal of European Public Policy*, 25:1, 83-108
- Moravcsik, A. (2018). *Preferences, Power and Institutions in 21st-century Europe*; *JCMS* 2018 Volume 56. Number 7. pp. 1648–1674
- Hooghe, L., Marks, G. (2020). *Is liberal intergovernmentalism regressive? A comment on Moravcsik (2018)*. *Journal of European Public Policy*, 2020, Vol. 27, No. 4, 501–508
- Hooghe, L., Marks, G. (2020). *What the rise of radical nationalism tells us about the debate between postfunctionalism and liberal intergovernmentalism*. LSE European Institute Blog: <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/euoppblog/2019/02/26/what-the-rise-of-radical-nationalism-tells-us-about-the-debate-between-postfunctionalism-and-liberal-intergovernmentalism/>

Part 2: A European Germany or a German Europe?

The Zoom meeting on **Wednesday, 13 January** will focus on Germany's prominent position in the European Union: Being a major economic powerhouse, having the largest population and being in the center of the continent, examining the role of Germany gives unique possibilities to better understand the functioning and future prospects of the EU.

While focusing on Germany we will also start to discuss why the European Union faced so many crises in the past and why responses to these crises often follow similar patterns. This topic will be picked up again in further detail in Week 4.

Required readings:

- Bagger, T. (2018). *The World According to Germany: Reassessing 1989*. Originally published in „The Washington Quarterly“, Taylor and Francis, January 22nd, 2019
- 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>
- Erik Jones, R. Daniel Kelemen, Sophie Meunier (2015). *Failing Forward? The Euro Crisis and the Incomplete Nature of European Integration*
- Video: DW News (2015). *A German Europe or a European Germany? | Quadriga*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yro7HjGY-m0>

Further readings:

- Video: Al Jazeera English (2013). *A German Europe? The Union disunited | Empire*: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XksZYV3-6eg>

Week 3: The European Union today and European identity

In week three, we will discuss the questions of European identity and the EU's democratic deficit as well as proposals to mitigate this major shortfall of the EU.

The readings due for this week will be discussed in a Zoom meeting on **Monday, 18 January**.

Students will then 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):

- How do you evaluate the situation in contemporary Europe?
- What would you want to change in Europe?
- How do you think the European Union will look like in 10 years?
- Do you think there is a European identity? Why, or why not? If yes, what does it consist of?
- If in Europe: Do you feel "European"? Why, why not?

Students will have to submit the recordings by **Tuesday, 19 January, 18:00 CET**, either as audio or video files or as transcripts.

We will discuss the results of the interviews in a Zoom meeting on **Wednesday, 20 January**.

Required readings:

- Follesdal, A. & Hix, S. (2006). *Why There is a Democratic Deficit in the EU: A Response to Majone and Moravcsik*. Journal of Common Market Studies. 44(3), 533-562.
(Pay special attention to the fact, that this text is quite old (2006). Keep the following questions in mind: What has changed since 2006? Do the arguments of the authors still hold today?)
- Risse, T. (2014). *No Demos? Identities and Public Spheres in the Euro Crisis*. Journal of Common Market Studies, 2014 Volume 52. Number 6. pp. 1207–1215
- Tekiner, U. (2020). *The 'European (Union) Identity': An Overview*. E-International Relations, Apr 15 2020: <https://www.e-ir.info/2020/04/15/the-european-union-identity-an-overview/>
- Papadogiannis, N. (2019). *Is there such a thing as a 'European identity'?* The Conversation, May 22, 2019: <https://theconversation.com/is-there-such-thing-as-a-european-identity-117052>
- Video: Guest, R., Alexander, D., Hirsi Ali, A., Mortensen, G., Murray, D. (2019). *European Values, Identity, and Politics in 2019*. Milken Institute Debate: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=avQxaq57hjl>

Further readings:

- 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>
- Video: Casale, R. (2018). *Is There (Still) Such A Thing As European Identity?* TEDxOxford: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-b3kNX4tcTM&t=256s>

Week 4: The Schengen-Crisis, the Euro-Crisis, and the populist challenge

In this week, we will focus on the major crises the EU faced in the recent past, such as the Schengen-Crisis (2015-today), the Euro-Crisis (2011-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, 25 January**.

Required readings:

- Berend, I. (2019). *Against European Integration - The European Union and its Discontents*, pp. 1-24 and 44-50; Routledge: New York
- Drago, A. (2018). *Towards a New EU: Why Populism Can Save the European Union*. Review of European and Russian Affairs 12 (1), 2018
- Homles, S., Krastev, I. (2019). *How liberalism became 'the god that failed' in eastern Europe*. The Guardian – The long read; Thu 24 Oct 2019; <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/oct/24/western-liberalism-failed-post-communist-eastern-europe>
- Video: Laffan, B. (2018). *Populism in and of the European Union*. Lecture held at the Populism Conference in Amsterdam: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QhaQFZQsZw4>

Further 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>
- Lochocki, T. (2018). *The Rise of Populism in Western Europe. A Media Analysis on Failed Political Messaging*; Cham, Switzerland : Springer, 2018
- Krastev, I. (2017). *After Europe. Chapter 1: We the Europeans*. University of Pennsylvania Press
- Davies, C. (2016). *The conspiracy theorists who have taken over Poland*. The Guardian – The long read; Tue 16 Feb 2016; <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/feb/16/conspiracy-theorists-who-have-taken-over-poland>
- Streeck, W. (2015). *Why the Euro divides Europe*. New Left review, 2015-09-01 (95)
- Börzel, T., Risse, T. (2018) *From the euro to the Schengen crises: European integration theories, politicization, and identity politics*, Journal of European Public Policy, 25:1, 83-108

The written assignment as a final paper (5 pages double-spaced) on a topic relevant to the course is due on **Sunday, 31 January 23:59 CET**.

You can formulate your own research question for your final written assignment. Here are some suggestions:

- 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?
- Is there a European identity and does the European Union need one to survive?

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.

Readings

Reading materials will be available via Moodle during the course.

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.

Assessment Components

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

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).

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.

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 was 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.

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