

SAMPOL215 EU Institutions and Politics

Credits: 15.0

Course offered (semester)

This course is offered every spring semester.

Exam offered (semester)

Spring

Language of Instruction

English

Aim and Content

EU Institutions and Politics aims at giving a good understanding of the polity, politics and policies of the European Union from its beginning to the present. Much emphasis is put on the institutional development towards an ever closer union and the conflicts created by the constant enlargement of the EU. The theoretical perspective combines intergovernmental federalist and supragovernmental functionalist approaches to the understanding of European integration.

The first part deals with the history and institutional development of the European Union from its very beginning as an intergovernmental economic community in the 1950s to its supragovernmental and constitutional structure as a political union today.

The second part is focused on the political processes and politicisation of the European Union and takes as its point of departure the changes of its institutional structures and functions from the introduction of the Treaty on European Union in 1993 until the European Constitution agreement of 2004.

The third part brings an analysis of the most important policy areas of the European Union and its member states, such as the common agricultural policy, the structural and regional policy, cohesion, labour market and social policies, economic and monetary union, common foreign and security policy and research and development policy.

Learning Outcomes

Through this course students have acquired knowledge about the history and institutional development of the European Union (EU) from its beginning as an intergovernmental economic community in the 1950s to its present supragovernmental and constitutional structure as a political union. They know the basic theories of European integration, and are familiar with how the political processes and politicisation of the European Union. Students should be able to critically analyse and understand how the EU is functioning as a political

system, and they should have an overview of the most important policy areas of the EU and its member states.

Pre-requirements

Fulfilment of general admission requirements

Recommended previous knowledge

Introductory courses in European Studies, MET102, SAMPOL110, SAMPOL115

Teaching Methods

Form: Lectures and seminars

Hours per week: approximately 4

Total number of hours: 24

Compulsory Requirements

Assessment methods

Six hour written exam

Grading Scale

Grading A-F

Contact Information

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Please note: this course is no longer offered.