

# The Idea of Europe

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

## The Idea of Europe

### Full course description

This first course of the Minor European Studies curriculum has an introductory character. It touches on a number of issues which will be dealt with more extensively later on in the programme, but it also calls attention to a fundamental question concerning Europe: Does Europe exist? Does the name "Europe" refer to a political and/or cultural identity of its own? And if so, what are the distinguishing characteristics of this identity, what have been the decisive common experiences that have fostered a sense of European community, and how has it evolved in time?

### Course objectives

At the end of this course, students will:

- have a basic overview of the development of the idea and identity of Europe, which can serve as a broad historical framework for understanding the process of European integration as it has occurred after 1945;
- be more familiar with specific characteristics of European history, notably in comparison with that of other (non-European) societies;
- have an understanding of some of the basic theoretical and methodological problems in dealing with this subject matter. Students are introduced to problems concerning the study of identity, especially the social and symbolic construction of community and identity, as well as corresponding notions of representation, invention of tradition, and 'lieux de mémoire'. They are also made familiar - at a rudimentary level - with some of the most influential (and contested) theories in the historical study of society like Max Weber's concept of rationality, Norbert Elias' theory of civilisation, different views on modernisation (Sigmund Freud, Ernest Gellner, Zygmunt Bauman).

### Recommended reading

Delanty, G. (1995). *Inventing Europe: Idea, identity and reality*. London: Macmillan Press

# MES3000

Period 1

**5 Sep 2022**

**28 Oct 2022**

[Print course description](#) 

ECTS credits: **9.0**

Instruction language: **English**

Coordinator:

[F.L. Laczó](#)

Teaching methods: **PBL**

Assessment methods: **Final paper**

Keywords:

**The idea of Europe, Identity, History**

## Back to the Sources

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

### Back to the Sources

#### Full course description

This research training offers a first introduction to the ways historians deal with the problems of tracing, selecting and assessing primary sources, especially those related to the (early) history of European integration. During the course, the specific characteristics of the following types of primary sources are discussed: political speeches, archival records and public opinion sources. Each of the three assignments is devoted to a specific problem and a specific category of historical sources: the assignment on political speeches is mainly devoted to the critical analysis of sources. The assignment on archival sources focuses on the problems of selecting and combining a variety of sources. Finally, the assignment on public opinion sources addresses the problems of representativity and influence.

#### Course objectives

This training stimulates a critical and methodical attitude towards sources. At the end of this training, students will be able to:

- ❶ differentiate between primary and secondary sources;
- ❷ appreciate the importance of primary sources for the study of historical phenomena;
- ❸ recognise the different characteristics and pitfalls of several types of primary sources.

#### Recommended reading

To be announced. Please see course manual.

## Great Expectations

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

### Great Expectations

#### Full course description

The main aim of this course is to provide students with a basic understanding of the European Union: its development, its institutional framework and current problems. First, this course introduces the European integration process since the early 1950s. Using the current debate on the future of the Union as our point of departure, this course goes back to the early years of the European Communities and subsequently traces all the major developments in the EU up to the present. Secondly, we investigate the institutions of the European Union, their tasks and the main decision-making mechanisms. Finally, current political challenges of European integration are put up for debate. Throughout the whole course, students, additionally, get familiarized with the main European integration theories.

#### Course objectives

To provide insight into the historical development, the EU institutions, decision-making processes and current issues of the EU, and to get familiar with integration theories.

#### Recommended reading

Nugent, N. (2010). The government and politics of the European Union. (7th ed.). Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan.

## MES3500

Period 1

**5 Sep 2022**

**28 Oct 2022**

[Print course description](#) 

ECTS credits: 3.0

Instruction language: English

Coordinator:  
[E.P.M. Stoffers](#)

Teaching methods:  
**PBL, Presentations, Work in subgroups**

Assessment methods:  
**Final take home exam, Presentation**

Keywords:  
**Research training, source criticism, historical methods, EU integration history**

## MES3001

Period 2

**31 Oct 2022**

**22 Dec 2022**

[Print course description](#) 

ECTS credits: 9.0

Instruction language: English

Coordinator:  
[A. Nastase](#)

Teaching methods:  
**Assignment(s), Paper(s), Presentation(s)**

Assessment methods:  
**Assignment, Written exam**

Keywords:  
**European Union, European integration history, institutional framework, European integration theories**

# Negotiation Skills

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

## Negotiation Skills

### Full course description

This six-week training is organised around three simulation games, which allow students to improve their negotiation skills and to better understand the practicalities of decision-making processes in Brussels. The purpose of this skills training course is threefold :

1. to provide a basic introduction to the main concepts of negotiation and negotiation theories;
2. to improve students' negotiation skills;
3. to arrive at a better understanding of EU decision-making (public vs. foreign policy-making, the composition and competencies of various institutions, interaction between institutions, interactions within the Council etc.).

### Course objectives

By the end of the course, students will:

- ① gain a better understanding of the decision-making in Brussels;
- ② gain new knowledge on the theory of negotiations;
- ③ improve their negotiation skills in practice.

### Recommended reading

To be announced. Please see course manual.

# MES3501

Period 2

**31 Oct 2022**

**22 Dec 2022**

[Print course description](#) 

ECTS credits: 3.0

Instruction language: English

Coordinator:

[E.V. Sapir](#)

Teaching methods: PBL, Assignment(s)

Assessment methods:

**Assignment, Participation**

Keywords:

**Negotiations, simulation games, diplomacy**

# Europe: a Critical Reflection

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

## Europe: a Critical Reflection

### Full course description

The concluding course brings the whole minor together. Equipped with the knowledge gained in the previous courses, students work in pairs on a comparative research paper. The course book provides students with broadly defined topic areas from the field of European Studies, allowing them to pick a topic of their own choosing. The tutorials accompany the writing process, providing common ground for discussion on key controversies in European Studies and on the methodology of comparative analysis. Lectures provide further food for thought on what it means to conduct critical research in European Studies. At a concluding conference, students present their findings to their peers.

### Course objectives

At the end of this course students are trained in key academic processes: selecting a topic for research, developing a research design, writing a co-authored research paper and presenting in a conference setting.

# MES3002

Period 3

**9 Jan 2023**

**3 Feb 2023**

[Print course description](#) 

ECTS credits: 6.0

Instruction language: English

Coordinator:

[C.M. Sommerey](#)

Teaching methods:

**Work in subgroups, PBL, Presentation(s)**

Assessment methods:

**Presentation and paper**

# Bachelor thesis

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences  
**Bachelor thesis**

## Full course description

The Bachelor Thesis is the final work of the Bachelor in European Studies and offers students the opportunity to explore their personal interests within the field of European Studies. In this 7,500-8,000 words research paper students should demonstrate that they are able to write a substantial individual paper that critically reflects on a topic of their own choice, while applying the knowledge and skills acquired in other European Studies courses and showing that they master the final qualifications of the programme. The writing of the Bachelor Thesis takes place during the sixth semester (periods 3/4/5), meaning that individual and independent work on the paper is scheduled parallel to the regular study programme. Instead of normal tutor meetings, students will meet with their supervisor and fellow students in smaller groups organised around specific themes. They will also receive written individual feedback on the work submitted on four preset deadlines. Three lectures, a Skills Café and a Bachelor Thesis Conference offer further support and additional opportunities for feedback.

## Course objectives

At the end of this course students will be able to:

- Write a substantial individual research paper that critically reflects on a topic of their own choice and which applies the knowledge and skills acquired in other European Studies courses;
- Develop a sound conceptual/theoretical and methodological framework;
- Use this framework in an innovative way, either by looking at a topic from a different perspective, or by using original data;
- Build a balanced and convincing argument and communicate this to academic and non-academic audiences;
- Reflect on feedback and comments from their supervisor;
- Work independently and plan their time effectively.

## Recommended reading

- Booth, W.C., Colomb, G.C. & Williams, J.M. (2008). The craft of research. (3rd ed.). Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press.
- Greetham, B. (2014). How to write your undergraduate dissertation. (2nd ed.). Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Wisker, G. (2019). The undergraduate research handbook. (2nd ed.). London: Red Globe Press

# EUS3900

Period 3

**9 Jan 2023**

**23 Jun 2023**

[Print course description](#) 

ECTS credits: **12.0**

Instruction language: **English**

Coordinator:  
[P.H.M.G. Bijsmans](#)

Teaching methods: **PBL**

Assessment methods: **Final paper**

Keywords:  
**European Studies, Academic research and writing, final work, independent research paper.**

# Diversity in Contemporary Democracies

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

## Diversity in Contemporary Democracies

### Full course description

This course will give students the opportunity to delve into challenging issues in contemporary European democracies, such as democratic transitions, migration, religion and politics, safeguarding LGBTQ rights, climate change and the environmental movement. The course is the first elective in the 'Culture and Diversity' track. The course will introduce students to the core institutions of representative democracy, such as the executive, legislative, judiciary branches of government, as well as elections, political parties, interest groups and social movements. Parallel to the examination of how the institutions of representative democracy work (or not), every week students will tackle one topical contemporary issue. The course will also examine how these challenges affect existing democratic structures, for example, against the backdrop of rising Euroscepticism, declining voter turnout in elections, and the conundrum of ensuring public participation and fostering open societies during the covid-19 pandemic. Furthermore, the course will encourage students to explore how the history, politics and culture of a specific 'area' (i.e. a country) are shaping the way in which European societies are coping with these important societal challenges. In doing so, the course does not limit itself solely to Europe but also includes the global context, drawing on examples from countries that have specific links with Europe. Students will practice analysing a wide variety of different sources of information ranging from newspaper items to legal texts and policy documents, as well as films, music, and literature. This will allow them to examine complex European challenges and issues in their institutional, socio-political, and historical context.

### Course objectives

Understand the core institutions of representative democracy, such as the executive, legislative, judiciary branches of government, as well as elections, political parties, interest groups and social movements;

Analyse challenging issues in contemporary European democracies, such as democratic transitions, migration, religion and politics, safeguarding LGBTQ rights, climate change and the environmental movement;

Analyse how the history, politics and culture of a specific 'area' (i.e. a country) are shaping the way in which European societies are coping with these important societal challenges;

Analyse a variety of different sources of information ranging from newspaper items to legal texts and policy documents, as well as films, music, and literature.

Develop effective team-work skills (tutorial chairing and discussions);

Practice presentation, moderation and discussion skills (small-group work and in-class debates).

### Recommended reading

Caramani, D. (Ed.). (2017). *Comparative Politics* (4th ed.). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Hague, R., & Harrop, M. (2019). *Comparative Government and Politics: An Introduction* (11th ed.). Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.

Lijphart, A. (1999). *Patterns of Democracy: Government Forms and Performance in Thirty-Six Countries*. New Haven and London: Yale University Press.

# EUS2012

Period 4

6 Feb 2023

6 Apr 2023

[Print course description](#) 

ECTS credits:

9.0

Instruction language:

English

Coordinator:

[A. Sierp](#)



# Policy Domains

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences  
**Policy Domains**

## Full course description

In order to understand how the EU functions, it is essential to know how the policy process works. In this course we depart where the courses EU Politics and EU Law I ended, and we provide insight into both theoretical and practical aspects of policy-making in the EU. As decision-making procedures and the actors involved vary highly in the different policy domains regulated at European level, it is necessary to study the various policy domains in details in order to understand the complexity of EU policy-making. Therefore, students conduct their own policy analysis via an in-depth case study of a particular legal instrument in a by the students selected policy domain. Via this particular case, students will analyse how policy is made in the EU, what kinds of decision are taken and by whom, and how decisions differ according to policy domain. Furthermore they will become familiar with giving presentations and writing papers.

## Course objectives

In the course Policy Domains: Analysing the European policy process we aim to give students an insight into both theoretical and practical aspects of policy-making within the EU. At the end of the course the students should be familiar not only with a certain policy domain and a decision falling into that policy domain, but should also be able to put their observations within a wider context of studying public policy in general and analysing EU policy-making in particular. At the end of this course students should be able to "read" and analyse different European legal instruments. Students should also be able to link the practical aspects of their research on policy domains to more theoretical aspects.

## Recommended reading

Versluis, E., Van Keulen, M. & Stephenson, P. (2011). Analyzing the European Union policy process. Basingstoke: Palgrave.

# EUS2014

Period 5

**10 Apr 2023**

**9 Jun 2023**

[Print course description](#) 

ECTS credits: **9.0**

Instruction language: **English**

Coordinator:  
[J.S.C. Adriaensen](#)

Teaching methods: **PBL**