



School of International Affairs
Academic Year 2026-27
Fall Semester 2026

EUROPEAN UNION: HISTORY AND POLITICS
MA(DLB) 0656
CROSS-ELECTIVE
4 CREDITS

Instructors Information

Instructors: Professor (Dr.) Raffaella Puggioni

Biography: Raffaella Puggioni is Professor at the School of International Affairs, Jean Monnet Chair¹ and Executive Director of the Centre for European Studies. She has some sixteenth years of teaching experience in International Studies/Political Science in countries as diverse as Italy, China, and Azerbaijan. Her work is broadly situated in the disciplines of International Relations Theory, Political Theory, Resistance Studies and Border Studies, with a geographical focus on the European Union. Her work has appeared in the *Journal of Refugee Studies*, *Political Studies*, *Citizenship Studies*, *Third World Quarterly*, *Global Society*, *Journal of Borderlands Studies*, *Politics, Societies*, *Thesis Eleven*, *Philosophies* and a monograph, *Rethinking International Protection*, has been published by Palgrave.

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¹ The Jean Monnet Chairs (JMC) — named after one of the main architects of European integration, Jean Monnet, are established by the European Commission, through a competitive selection, and aim at promoting excellence in teaching and research in European Studies. The JMC runs over a period of three years. This chair — running from Jan 2024 up to Dec. 2026 — promotes teaching and research in the field of European Migration, Security and Border Studies.

Overview of the course

This course will offer students a good combination of the history and politics of the European Union. Attention will be given to the key historical moments that led to the establishment of the European Union, as we know it today, as well as to key EU common policies. A brief analysis of its key institutions (such as the Commission, the Council, the Parliament and the Court of Justice) will also be offered. The course will be organized into three main parts:

1. The first part will analyze the process of European integration starting immediately after the Second World War. The historical context is needed in order to fully understand the major difficulties European states have gone through before establishing the Union as we know it today.
2. A brief overview of EU institutions will be discussed in order to fully understand how decisions are taken and which power each institution possesses. This analysis will be combined with an analysis of the main theories that scrutinize EU integration process: functionalist approach, intergovernmentalism and supra national governance.
3. The following common EU policies will be looked at: the monetary policy, borders/migration and security, EU enlargement, and European neighbourhood policy (ENP).

At the end of the course the student will have acquired

Knowledge:

- The European integration process and core debates
- The institutional structure of the European Union;
- Some (common) EU policies
- Key theories of integration

Academic skills:

- develop analytical and research skills necessary to understand, interpret and discuss core EU political issues and integration process;
- Analytical and critical skills through class discussion and in-depth reading of selected materials.

Format of the course:

The classes will be organized in such a way as to provide a good mixture of lectures, class discussions, documentary and debates. Students are required to read the materials before coming to class whenever it is specified that there will be a class discussion.

ALL students are required to participate during class debates and discussion. In order to do so in a meaningful manner, students are asked to read and analyze the required reading materials before coming to class, as specified in the programme. What matters is not how often you participate, but how deep you engage. Moreover, students are encouraged to ask for clarification/explanation of those concepts and/or theories which are not fully clear during the class. Asking questions and/or making comments are very good ways of learning.

Assessment

Students will be assessed according to performance as specified below:

1. **Group presentation: 25%**

Group presentation will take place during the following weeks: 11-13. The group will be organised taking into consideration the size of the class. The presentation will be based upon selected readings, which the instructor will choose.

2. Class discussion 15%

The aim of the course is to make it as lively and interactive as possible. Students are encouraged to ask questions and clarifications, make comments, participate to class/group discussion based on selected readings and/or documentaries. Students' engagement is expected throughout the course.

3. Mid-term exam 30%

Mid-term exam will be in-class exam, and it will consist in writing two essay questions out of 4 options, as well as some *ad-hoc* questions that require short answers of no more than 3-4 sentences.

4. Final exam 30%

The final exam will have the same format of the mid-term.

Grade Definition

Students will be graded on absolute scale as specified below.

Grading and Comments			
Letter Grade	Percentage of Marks	Grade Points	Comments
O	80 and above	8	Outstanding: Exceptional knowledge of the subject matter, thorough understanding of issues; ability to synthesize ideas, rules and principles and extraordinary critical and analytical ability.
A+	75 - 79	7.5	Excellent: Sound knowledge of the subject matter, thorough understanding of issues; ability to synthesize ideas, rules and principles and critical and analytical ability.
A	70 - 74	7	Very Good: Sound knowledge of the subject matter, excellent organizational capacity, ability to synthesize ideas, rules and principles, critically analyse existing material and originality in thinking and presentation.
A-	65 -69	6	Good: Good understanding of the subject matter, ability to identify issues and provide balanced solutions to problems and good critical and analytical skills.
B+	60 - 64	5	Fair: Average understanding of the subject matter, limited ability to identify issues and provide solutions to problems and reasonable critical and analytical skills.

B	55 - 59	4	Acceptable: Adequate knowledge of the subject matter to go to the next level of the study and reasonable critical and analytical skills.
B-	50 - 54	3	Marginal: Limited knowledge of the subject matter and irrelevant use of materials, and poor critical and analytical skills.
P1	45 - 49	2	Pass 1: Pass with Basic understanding of the subject matter.
P2	40 - 44	1	Pass 2: Pass with Rudimentary understanding of the subject matter.
F	Below 40	0	Fail: Poor comprehension of the subject matter; poor critical and analytical skills and marginal use of the relevant materials. Will require repeating the course.

Academic Integrity

Academic Honesty is a key principle and value that needs to be respected at all times. This requires students to refrain from cheating and from using another person's materials without the proper acknowledgement. Please read below what plagiarism is.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is the **unacknowledged reproduction of another person's work**. If you quote from a written source (book, article etc.), an electronic source (internet, data files etc.), a media source (video, radio etc.) or from a person giving a public statement (lectures, interviews etc.) you have to give the reference of your quote. You have to give reference not only for verbatim quotes but also if you present an idea, a concept, a theory, an invention, a patent or any other kind of intellectual work, which was elaborated by someone else. **If you do not acknowledge the other person's work, you are plagiarizing.** Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and will be sanctioned. Presenting content from the Internet as if your own work is as well an act of plagiarism.

JGU Penalties:

1. **Level 0:** Similarities up to 10% - Minor Similarities, no penalty.
2. **Level 1:** Similarities between 11% to 20% - Such student shall receive a reduction of 5 Marks
3. **Level 2:** Similarities between 21% to 29% - Such student shall receive a penalty of 10 marks.
4. **Level 3:** Similarities of 30% and above -Award of Fail Grade

Use of AI and/or suspected plagiarism

Faculty may, at their discretion, ask students to conduct a viva if they suspect plagiarism or AI use. If students are unable to demonstrate that the assignment was the result of their own work, they will get an F with no opportunity to re-submit the assignment.

Core textbooks

Simon Bulmer, Owen Parker, Ian Bache, Stephen George, and Charlotte Burns, *Politics in the European Union*. Fifth Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press: 2020.

Weekly programme

Week	Topic
	PART I – The History of the EU
1	Introduction: course overview Europe post-WWII and the Schuman Plan (ch. 5)
2	The EEC during 1960s and 1970s (ch. 6-7)
3	1970s-1980s: the revival of the EC (ch. 8)
4	From Maastricht to Amsterdam (ch. 9-10)
5	EU in crisis (ch. 11)
6	REVISION IN LIGHT OF THE MID-TERM
7	MID-TERM EXAM
	PART II – Integration Theories
9	Integration theories and governance (ch. 1-2)
10	Some critical perspectives (ch. 3-4)
	PART III – EU Policies
11	Freedom, Security, and Justice (ch. 23)
12	- Common Foreign and Security Policy (ch. 25)
13	Border policies - TBD
14	Revision
15	Final exam