



Introduction to the European Union	
Course number	3811
Lecturer	Prof. Dr. Angress
ECTS	5
Number of semester hours	4
Workload	150 h
Type	Elective
Duration	1 Term
Prerequisites	Good/Very good English language skills (at least B2, preferably C1 level of European Reference Framework for Languages)
Type of exam	Oral presentation based on term paper (based on a list with identified topics)
Objectives	<p>The main course objective is to introduce students to a basic understanding of the European Union and its major actors and decision making processes in the EU shaping the context business in the EU is operating in.</p> <p>Each student selects a topic on the European Union for his/her oral presentation and term paper. A list with suggested topics will be made available during the first session by the lecturer.</p> <p>Learning Outcomes:</p> <p><u>Knowledge and Understanding:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students will acquire basic knowledge on relevant concepts and terminology characterising the European Union and develop an understanding of what multi-level governance means with regards to the EU. • Students are able to analyse current political and economic developments in Member States of the European Union and relate them to concepts underlying the mechanisms of policy-making in the EU and European integration. • They will understand and appraise key decision makers in the EU with a focus on Brussels - enhanced also via a 2- day study trip to Brussels <p><u>Skills:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The students will be able to use English effectively for academic purposes (publications, presentation and term paper) while at the same time being introduced to some relevant "Eurospeak" where appropriate in order to understand (business and political) press coverage on international level pertaining to present matters in and of the EU. • This course is not an English language course. However, mostly correct and above all effective language usage is important. • Students are able to hold informed discussions about current key policy trends and areas pertaining to the EU with peers and stakeholders. • They will be able to draft papers and analyse a current topic of the EU both in a written term paper and in an oral presentation using relevant state of the art textbooks and trustworthy EU online sources thus also enhancing their English communication skills.



	<p><u>Transferable Skills:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The students will be able to interact with other (international) students in English on selected EU related topics in a more confident and fluent manner. • They will also learn to organise themselves in teams when preparing a practical assignment on the EU before and during their study trip in Brussels and interview identified key stakeholder in the respective field.
<p>Content</p>	<p>There is much talk about the current state of affair of the EU but do we really know how decisions are made and what is going on behind the scenes? This course addresses students of all disciplines that are interested in gaining an insight into current topics of debate and challenges the European Union with its member states are facing. Besides some basic understanding of its key decision-making actors, policies and processes students will understand how this shapes the context for business in the EU.</p> <p>The course will focus particularly, but not exclusively on state of the art developments by exploring and debating current topics and challenges the EU is facing. This will be introduced and complemented by a mix of inputs, discussions and critical reflections as well as practical assignments.</p> <p>Core topics to be addressed range from current trends and core issues of the European Union as the Single Market, key institutions, structures and decision-making processes in the EU as well as with its relationship to other global partners and players in the world.</p> <p>Current Trends/Core Issues of the EU</p> <p>Brief introduction to the European Union, basic facts, introduction of member states and major stages of the development of the European Union until today. Hot topics such as Brexit and migration will be addressed and reflected against the institutional set-up of the EU.</p> <p>The EU's institutional framework - in theory and practice: EU Institutions, Member States and decision -making including simulation exercise in the Council on a topical issue</p> <p>We will take a practical approach at the main institutions and actors of and in the EU (The European Commission, The Council of the European Union, The European Parliament, The European Central Bank, Interest groups in the European Union) and understand how this creates a framework affecting business and citizens alike. To illustrate how this works in practice a simulation game will form part of the course with participants taking on different roles.</p> <p>EU and the world: International Relations</p> <p>The EU context and its relationship with the rest of the world is relevant for actors of business. The business context will be analysed by way of selected policy fields such as the Economic and Monetary Union/Eurozone, Education and Employment (Erasmus+), Enlargement and the EU's international relations with the rest of the world.</p> <p>The EU in Practice: How does it work? Insights gained from the field</p> <p>An insight into how the EU works in practice can best be gained from the field. Based on this rationale, a two-day study trip to major EU institutions</p>



	and decision-making bodies in the heart of the European capital Brussels forms an integral but strictly optional part of this course and is subject to university funding. This course also features a visit and lecture about current challenges of the Euro at the ECB in Frankfurt.
International applicability	This course is particularly suited for students who want to add an international dimension to their curriculum/ profile and those who would like to prepare for their academic studies or practical experience abroad by following and participating to an English-taught course. This course is also particularly suitable for international host/Erasmus+ students.
Reading Material	Recommended Reading: A variety of articles and literature can be accessed online particularly via the official Gateway of the European Union http://europa.eu . A selection of relevant press articles (Financial Times, Economist etc.) will be made available in class/via Moodle. The following publications are recommended and are available in the library and from the lecturer. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elisabeth Bomberg et al. The European Union. How does it work? Oxford University Press. 3rd edition. 2012. (partic. Chapters 1, 3, 5, 8 and 10). • Michelle Cini. European Union Politics. Oxford University Press. 5th edition. 2016. • John Mc Cormick, Understanding the European Union: A concise introduction. 6th edition. 2014. • New!Hartmut Marhold (ed.)- Europe under Stress. Internal and External Challenges for the EU and its Members States. 2016. • Andreas Staab. The European Union Explained. Institutions. Actors. Global Impact. 3rd edition. 2013. • Gabriele Suder. Doing business in Europe. SAGE Publications. 2nd edition. 2012./latest edition 2017 upon availability.
Forms of instruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lecture • Practice
Language of instruction	English
Availability	Every winter term
Further applicability	Ideal for preparing to study at an international/English-speaking study or working abroad term (e.g. International Business and Law; International Sales Management) as well as for international /Erasmus+ Incoming Students that would like to gain an understanding of the EU and Germany's place in this setting.
Remarks	Forms of instruction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Course with a mix of inputs, discussions, practical assignments and documentary films as well as guest speakers from the ECB (visit to ECB, Frankfurt) and the EU institutions and a practical EU Negotiation Simulation with a EU expert/representative • An optional co-funded two-day field trip to Brussels (EU institutions and decision-makers e.g. European Commission, Council of the European Union, External Action Service, European Parliament, German Association of Industry) • Project work , independent studies and simulation exercise