



Course Code IREL-610	Course Title Current European Issues	ECTS Credits 7.5
Department European Studies and International Relations	Semester Spring	Prerequisites IREL-570
Type of Course Elective	Field International Relations	Language of Instruction English
Level of Course 2 nd Cycle	Year of Study 2 st	Lecturer(s) Dr Giorgos Kentas
Mode of Delivery face-to-face	Work Placement N/A	Co-requisites None

Objectives of the Course:

This course will assess issues, problems and prospects in the process of deepening and enlargement of the European Union. It will examine the recent developments in the European Union, the Treaty of Lisbon and its implications as well as current socio-economic problems. It will also cover the issues of, a common defense policy, the institutional problems and the direction of enlargement of the European Union.

The course will not be confined to EU issues alone, but a broader European perspective will be taken, by addressing issues such as the crises in Kosovo and Georgia, NATO enlargement, as well as Euro-Atlantic relations. In other words, the EU will not be treated as an isolated system, but it will be rather integrated in the wider international arena, by viewing it from a broader global perspective.

Learning Outcomes:

After completion of the course students are expected to be able to:

1. Analyze and evaluate various current European issues (e.g. EU enlargement policy, ratification and implementation of the Lisbon Treaty, NATO enlargement policy, EU-Russian relations, EU-US relations, energy security, immigration, sustainable development, aging societies, etc.).
2. Demonstrate independent research skills on current European issues.
3. Illustrate a familiarity with a range of primary and secondary resources.
4. Illustrate a full understanding of current European events that affect the daily lives of European citizens.
5. Illustrate an ability to analyze the EU from the wider global perspective.
6. Examine the EU's role in the international context.
7. Analyze the appropriateness of and effectiveness of various responses to conflict in Europe and beyond.
8. Demonstrate a full understanding of the implications of the various aspects of cooperation in Europe today (e.g. bilateral, multilateral, intergovernmental, supranational, intra-societal, etc.).

Course Contents:

1. The current state of affairs of the EU's political, economic and monetary union
2. Appraisal of current European Issues: Which issues are the most pressing ones?
3. The Democratic Deficit of the EU
4. Reforming CAP
5. Enlargement fatigue?
6. EU-Turkey relations
7. The EU as a global actor
8. The role of the EU in international and domestic conflict
9. CFSP-ESDP
10. Causes of, and Responses to, terrorism in Europe
11. Disputed territory in Europe: Kosovo, Georgia, Transnistria
12. Euro-Atlantic Relations
13. EU-Russian Relations

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Lectures, Discussion, Presentation and Assignments.

Assessment Methods:

Participation, Review Essay, Project and Final Exam.

Required Textbooks/Reading:

Cini, Michelle (2007) *European Union Politics*. 2nd Edition. Oxford: Oxford University.
McCormick, John (2008) *Understanding the European Union*. 4th Edition. New York: Palgrave.

(Students are provided with a package of readings on current European Issues in accord with the issues to be discussed in class)

Recommended Textbooks/Reading:

- Ahtisaari, M. *et al.*, eds., *EU Security and Defense Policy*. Paris: EU Institute for Security Studies, pp. 35-54.
- Elden, Stuart and Luiza Bialasiewicz (2006) "The new Geopolitics of Division and the Problem of a Kantian Europe," *Review of International Studies* 32(4): 623-644.
- Gross, Feliks (1969) "Political Violence and Terror in Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Russia and Eastern Europe," in J. Kirkham, S. Levy and W. Crotty, eds., *Assassination and Political Violence*. Washington: Government Printing Office.
- (1990) *Political Violence and Terror in Nineteenth and Twentieth Century Russia and Eastern Europe*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Kagan, Robert (2003) *Of Paradise and Power: America vs. Europe in the New World Order*. New York: Knopf.
- Katzenstein, Peter ed. (1997) *Tamed Power: Germany in Europe*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press.
- Mearsheimer, John (1990) "Back to the Future. Instability in Europe after the Cold War," *International Security* 15(1): 5-57.
- Mitzen, Jennifer (2006a) "Anchoring Europe's Civilizing Identity: Habits, Capabilities, and Ontological Security," *Journal of European Public Policy* 13(2): 270-85.
- Nesser, Petter (2008) "Chronology of Jihadism in Western Europe 1994-2007: Planned, Prepared, and Executer Terrorist Attacks," *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism* 31(10): 924-946.

Scott, James Wesley (2006) *EU Enlargement, Region Building And Shifting Borders of Inclusion And Exclusion*. Hampshire: Ashgate Publishing Company.

Snyder, Jack (1990) "Averting Anarchy in the New Europe," *International Security* 14(4): 5-41.

Van Evera, Stephen (1990/91) "Primed for Peace: Europe After the Cold War," *International Security* 15(3): 7-57.

Wallace, William (1999) "Europe After the Cold War: Interstate Order or Post-Order or Post-Sovereign Regional System?" *Review of International Studies* 25(5): 201-223.