Course Information

Name: International Relations and Politics in the European Union
- Peace, conflicts and Human Rights
Teaching Institution: Maastricht University
Location: Maastricht, The Netherlands
Dates: 3rd - 24th January 2015
Duration: 3 weeks
Course contact hours: 36 hours of academic classes and seminars plus additional professional sits visits
Pre-requisites: 1 year of study in a degree related to International Relations, International Studies, Politics, History or Law

Instructor Information
The professor teaching this course is Mr. Matt Heckman LLM from the Zuyd University for Applied Sciences.

Matt Heckman has been teaching European law and European economic integration for 22 years at various universities inside the Netherlands. He was Director of International Affairs for 14 years at a Dutch University and is currently teaching at various graduate programs (both MBA and MA) in the Netherlands, Finland, UK and the USA. Presently he is the academic coordinator of an MBA-programme. He studied at the University of Maastricht, the University of Lancaster and the Vrije Universiteit Brussels. He holds a bachelor degree and a master degree in International and European Law and gained working experience working for the Commission of the EU.

Students will also learn in-situ from professionals during site visits and seminars.

Course Descriptions and Learning Outcomes

The International Relations and Politics course program will give students an in-depth look at the European legal, economic and political landscape. The course contains academic classes around these themes, as well as field trips to a number of relevant institutions.
Academic classes (36 hours)
There will be at least 36 hours of academic classes and seminars across the 3 weeks of the course. Classes will cover the following topics:

- Introduction to the EU
- History of EU/Integration
- The institutional-framework
- The four basic freedoms
- Legal aspects of the Economic and Monetary Union
- The EU competition law
- The Council of Europe and ECHR
- Human Rights & International Relations
- The accession of new member states
- The cooperation between EU Member-States in the field of Justice and Safety
- The future of European integration: EU on the way to a political union?
- EU Common Foreign and Security Policy; cases and analysis

Professional Visits (12 hours)
There will be approximately 12 hours of sites visits and on-site seminars/discussions as part of the program.

It will include visits to institution such as:
- The Peace Palace in the Hague
- International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in the Hague
- European Parliament in Brussels
- European Commission in Brussels

Cultural Activities
The course includes a number of cultural activities, both inside and outside of Maastricht, designed to give participants an appreciation for Dutch culture and attitudes, and the regional context within which the country interacts.

Learning outcomes
Course aim: To develop participants’ awareness and understanding of the legal and political landscape of the European Union and of the issues relating to conflicts, displacements and human rights.

On completion of this program, students should be able to:

- Describe the current European legal and political landscape
- Summarise aspects of the history of the European Union
- Analyse the current key issues the European Union is facing today
- Reflect on these institutions strengths and weaknesses
- Discuss cultural differences in Europe
By the conclusion of the program students should also be able to:

- Understand the economic and political logic behind the EU integration.
- Review the EU’s legal system and main legal principles guiding the economic integration, and describe the legislative processes.
- Understand the political and economic framework of the decision-making inside the EU.
- Understand the various forms of market-integration in-depth.
- Understand the choice and benefits of the Economic and Monetary Union-concept.
- Address the current challenges facing the EU, including the accession of new Member-States, and the resulting migration of people of East to West.
- Understand the underlying principles of the Common Foreign and Security Policy.
- Address the finer details of the EU policy in the field of Justice and Home affairs.

**Course requirements (assessment)**
Students are required to undertake the following assessment.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Assessment</th>
<th>Main topics</th>
<th>Percent of final grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mid-term exam – Open essay questions</td>
<td>Topics covered until then</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final exam - Open essay questions</td>
<td>Cumulative (including guest lectures)</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final paper 2000-2500 words</td>
<td>Topics to be given during the course Paper due before Sunday 15 February 2015 at 11.59pm (GMT+1)</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance and participation</td>
<td>Pertinent preparation and active class participation is graded</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Australian universities may choose to request additional assessment from students, such as submitting a reflective journal, in order to approve credit transfer.
Materials

More about the book:
In The European Union, Susan Senior Nello uses a combination of economics, politics and history to give the reader a strong grounding in European integration, and why and how policies are put in place. The third edition analyses the impact of recent developments on the European Union, with coverage of the Lisbon Treaty, the economic crisis and changes in international trade relationships.

The author is Susan Senior Nello, a Professor in the Faculty of Economics at the University of Siena. Her extensive experience includes working on various projects for the European Institute in Florence, and advising the European Commission.

Online Student Centre
McGraw-Hill Publishers also offers an online Student Centre with material to accompany the study of The European Union, such as:

- Learning outcomes
- Case studies
- Guide answers to essay questions
- Self-test quizzes
- Useful web links
- Topical essays
- Chronology of enlargement
- Exercise on export subsidy
- Supplementary material on fisheries policy and GATT/WTO

Please use the following link and click on the website on the left:
http://highered.mcgraw-hill.com/sites/0077129660/student_view0/

The book will be used alongside the class notes. Students should use the book as supporting material.

The book should be studied in combination with the notes made in class. The exam will be based on both.
Additional Literature
Since the European Union changes rapidly and constantly, just reading the book will not give you adequate information about the most recent developments. In addition to reading chapters from the book, you will be expected to follow EU news and developments on a daily basis.

The following websites are highly recommended:

EU portal site: http://europa.eu with information on topics like:

- European history: http://europa.eu/abc/history/index_en.htm
- European institutions: http://europa.eu/institutions/index_en.htm

Other websites with useful news, information and resources about the EU:

- European Navigator (digital library - multimedia references on the history of Europe): http://www.ena.lu/
- Eurotopics – selection of news from European newspapers (German website in English): http://www.eurotopics.net/en/presseschau/aktuell.html
- European Citizenship – dedicated to informing EU youth: http://www.european-citizenship.org/
- BBC News on Europe: http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/default.stm

Attendance
Students are required to attend all lectures, presentations, visits, practical and cultural activities that are scheduled as part of the program.

The attendance rules for this course are specified in the CES Academic Guide 2013-2014. It is the responsibility of the student to carefully read this document and comply with all rules and regulations.

Class participation
Students will be required to participate in discussions during lectures, seminars and visits.

Academic honesty
Students will be required to comply with Maastricht University’s policies regarding plagiarism and academic integrity.

Grading
At Maastricht University, grades are awarded in numerical terms, from 1-10. According to the CES conversion scale, a numerical grade of 5.5 or
higher constitutes a pass where full credit is awarded. The period of validity for passed courses is unlimited. Numerical grades of 5.4 or lower constitute a fail where no credit is awarded. NG (no grade) can be assigned when a student registers for but never attends a class; when a student drops a course without permission; as a result of plagiarism or academic dishonesty; or when assessment is incomplete and no grade can be assigned. NG automatically constitutes a fail and no credit is awarded.

The International Relations and Politics in the European Union course is worth 7.5 ECTS credits.

### Conversion Scale

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dutch grade</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>Grade point</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8.6 – 10</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.0 – 8.5</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.7 – 7.9</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.4 – 7.6</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>3.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.0 – 7.3</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>3.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.7 – 6.9</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>2.7</td>
<td>Pass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.4 – 6.6</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.0 – 6.3</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.5 – 5.9</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>Fail – no credits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.0 – 5.3</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.0 – 4.9</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NG</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td></td>
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Students will receive a transcript from Maastricht stating their results. The official transcript will usually be available 4-6 weeks after the conclusion of the final program assessment.

**Available Support Services**

The program is fully supported by the Center for European Studies (CES), an entity of Maastricht University specialised in organising international programmes, and students will have access to both academic and pastoral support. Students will have access to campus computing and library facilities to assist them with completing the program’s required assessment.

**Contact Information**

For further information regarding this syllabus, please contact the Australian Institute for Mobility Overseas:

- **info@aimoverseas.com.au**
- **Phone:** (02) 9975 7792
### Draft Course Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Programme</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Introduction</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 3 January</td>
<td>Arrival day. Check-in and grocery store tour and Dutch dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 4 January</td>
<td>Practical city tour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 1</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 5 January</td>
<td>Opening ceremony and introduction (including lunch) and Maastricht excursion part 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 6 January</td>
<td>4 hours of classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 7 January</td>
<td>4 hours of classes + Maastricht excursion part II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 8 January</td>
<td>4 hours of classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 9 January</td>
<td>Belgium Trip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 10 January</td>
<td>Belgium Trip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 11 January</td>
<td>Belgium Trip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 2</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 12 January</td>
<td>Day off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 13 January</td>
<td>4 hours of classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 14 January</td>
<td>4 hours of classes (incl mid-term exam) and Dutch dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 15 January</td>
<td>4 hours of classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 16 January</td>
<td>The Netherlands Trip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 17 January</td>
<td>The Netherlands Trip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sunday 18 January</td>
<td>The Netherlands Trip</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Week 3</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 19 January</td>
<td>Day off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 20 January</td>
<td>4 hours of classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 21 January</td>
<td>4 hours of classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 22 January</td>
<td>2 hours of classes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 23 January</td>
<td>Exam (2 hours) and closing ceremony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday 24 January</td>
<td>Check out of the Guesthouse</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

N.B. Course schedule is subject to change