



Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine Petro Mohyla Black Sea National University

Syllabus of the Academic Discipline «The History of the European Union»

Degree Level	3rd (Educational-Scientific) Level
Specialty	032 History and Archaeology
Number of Credits	4 ECTS Credits (120 hours)
Classes	Lectures – 20 hours Seminars – 20 hours
Language of Teaching:	English
Department Offering the Course	History
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1. Course Annotation

The course "**The History of the European Union**" offers an in-depth exploration of the historical evolution of European integration, providing postgraduate students – particularly PhD candidates in History and related disciplines – with a comprehensive understanding of the political, economic, and social processes that have shaped the European Union (EU) over time. The course examines the EU's development from its early post-war origins to its current role as a major global actor, addressing key treaties, institutions, crises, and challenges that have influenced the course of European history.

The course begins by examining the historical background that led to the emergence of European integration. It explores the devastating consequences of World War II and the widespread recognition among European leaders that long-term peace and economic stability could only be achieved through cooperation. The first attempts at European unity, including Winston Churchill's call for a "United States of Europe" and the formation of the **European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC)** in 1951, are studied as foundational steps toward integration. The Treaty of Rome (1957), which established the European Economic Community (EEC), is analyzed in detail, along with the motivations of key figures such as Jean Monnet, Robert Schuman, Konrad Adenauer, and Charles de Gaulle.

As the course progresses, students will explore the gradual expansion of the European project, tracing its transformation from a small economic community of six member states to today's complex 27-member political and economic union. Special attention is given to the first enlargement (1973), when the United Kingdom, Ireland, and Denmark joined, as well as the subsequent waves of expansion, particularly the inclusion of post-communist Eastern European states after the Cold War. Students will critically assess the

significance of major treaties, including the **Single European Act (1986)**, the **Maastricht Treaty (1992)**—which formally created the European Union and laid the foundation for the eurozone—and the **Lisbon Treaty (2007)**, which restructured EU governance and decision-making processes.

A crucial component of the course focuses on the economic and political challenges that have shaped the EU. The financial crises of 2008 and 2012, the **sovereign debt crisis**, and the eurozone's struggles with economic disparities between member states are analyzed to understand the limits and strengths of European economic integration. Additionally, the course explores the EU's responses to major contemporary challenges, including the **migrant crisis**, the **rise of populism and Euroscepticism**, and Brexit, which marked the first departure of a member state from the Union.

Beyond providing historical knowledge, the course equips students with practical analytical and research skills relevant to careers in academia, public policy, international relations, and European institutions. Emphasis is placed on **historiographical debates**, **primary source analysis**, and **comparative historical perspectives**, helping students develop the expertise necessary for scholarly publications, teaching, or advisory roles in European affairs. By engaging with original documents, speeches, treaties, and archival materials, students will refine their ability to construct well-supported historical arguments and apply historical knowledge to contemporary issues.

By the end of the course, students will not only have acquired a thorough understanding of the historical trajectory of the European Union but will also be able to engage critically with ongoing debates about its future. Whether pursuing academic careers, roles in government and policy-making, or positions in international organizations, students will be well-prepared to analyze and contribute to discussions about the EU's evolving place in the world.

2. The Aim and Objectives of the Course

The **aim of the course** "*The History of the European Union*" is to provide an in-depth understanding of the historical development of European integration, from its origins after World War II to the present state of the European Union. The course will help postgraduate students analyze the key political, economic, and social processes that have shaped the EU and evaluate its role in the global context.

The main **objectives of the course** are:

- *To analyze the historical prerequisites for European integration.* To examine the key factors that contributed to the creation of the European Union, including political, economic, and security considerations.
- *To study the major stages of EU development.* To explore key events, treaties, and reforms that have influenced the formation of the modern European Union.
- *To evaluate EU enlargement processes.* To assess the impact of EU enlargements on the stability and development of the organization, as well as the challenges of integrating new member states.
- *To examine economic and political crises.* To analyze the 2008 financial crisis, the eurozone challenges, Brexit, and other critical moments in the EU's history.
- *To assess the EU's role in global affairs.* To evaluate the European Union's influence on international relations, economic processes, and global governance.
- *To discuss the future prospects of the EU.* To predict potential paths for the future development of the European Union, including further integration, possible enlargement, and adaptation to new global challenges.

3. Outcomes:

- Gain in-depth knowledge of the historical processes that shaped European integration, enabling them to contribute to academic research in modern European history, political history, and international relations.
- Establish a strong foundation for dissertation research, conference presentations, and scholarly publications related to EU history.

- Utilize historical perspectives to analyze current European political, economic, and social developments, making them valuable contributors to think tanks, policy institutes, and government agencies.
- Engage in comparative historical studies to assess the evolution of supranational governance models beyond Europe.
- Synthesize primary and secondary sources to construct well-supported historical arguments in academic writing and policymaking contexts.
- Gain experience in curriculum development, scholarly publishing, and interdisciplinary research collaboration.
- Acquire expertise relevant for careers in diplomacy, European institutions (e.g., European Commission, European Parliament), and international organizations (e.g., UN, OSCE, Council of Europe).
- Engage in policy-oriented historical research that can inform discussions on EU governance, institutional reforms, and geopolitical strategies.
- Contribute historical insights to debates on nationalism, populism, migration, and economic integration in the context of the EU.

4. Topics:

Topic 1. Origins of European Integration

Topic 2. The European Coal and Steel Community (ECSC) and the Treaty of Rome (1951–1957)

Topic 3. The Early Years of the EEC (1958–1972)

Topic 4. Enlargement and the First Challenges (1973–1985)

Topic 5. The Maastricht Treaty and the Birth of the European Union (1990s)

Topic 6. The Eastern Enlargement and Institutional Reforms (2000s)

Topic 7. The Eurozone and the Financial Crisis (2008–2015)

Topic 8. Brexit and Challenges to EU Unity (2016–2020)

Topic 9. The European Union in the 21st Century

Topic 10. Future Prospects of the European Union

5. Methods

A variety of forms and methods of work: lecturing, conducting seminar classes, organizing independent student work under the guidance of the lecturer, supervising and controlling the completion of creative individual tasks, encouraging students to participate in discussions on problematic issues raised in the practical sessions.

6. Control

The assessment of the quality of students' knowledge is carried out through current and final (semester) control.

Forms of students' participation in the educational process subject to current control include:

- Presentation on the main topic
- Supplementing, asking questions to the speaker, reviewing the presentation
- Participation in discussions, interactive forms of organizing the class
- Analysis of legal acts, historical sources, and monographs
- Written assignments (independent work, analytical work, etc.)
- Scientific research task (project) (written work formatted according to requirements).

A positive assessment of current performance (the cumulative result of the current assessment for the semester), provided there are no missed or unmade seminar sessions, is the basis for admission to the final form of control – the pass/fail assessment.

7. Grade

Grade in Points	Grade on the National Scale	Grade on the ECTS Scale	
		Grade	Explanation
90-100	Excellent	A	Excellent (Excellent performance with only a few minor mistakes)
82-89	Good	B	Very Good (Above average level with a few mistakes)
		C	Good (Generally correct performance with a significant number of substantial mistakes)
67-74	Satisfactory	D	Satisfactory (Not bad, but with a considerable number of shortcomings)
60-66		E	Sufficient (Performance meets the minimum criteria)
35-59	Unsatisfactory	FX	Unsatisfactory (With the possibility of re-taking)
1-34		F	Unsatisfactory (With mandatory re-taking of the course)

8. Recommended Literature

1. Sources:

- The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the EU <https://surl.li/dtkndp>
- Founding treaties of the EU <https://surl.li/cgmyuf>
- Treaty establishing the European Coal and Steel Community (1951) <https://surl.li/qbeprc>
- The Treaty of Rome, officially the Treaty establishing the European Economic Community (1957) <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A11957E>
- Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community (1957) <https://salo.li/16D52C5>
- Schengen Convention implementing the Schengen Agreement (1985) <https://salo.li/f5CA30e>
- Single European Act (1986) <https://salo.li/63a5EcA>
- The Maastricht Treaty - The Treaty on European Union (1992) <https://salo.li/60A62c6>
- The Copenhagen Criteria (1993) <https://salo.li/58a92d3>
- The Treaty of Amsterdam (1997) <https://salo.li/5882349>
- The Treaty of Nice (2001) <https://salo.li/7380B28>
- The Draft Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe (2004) <https://salo.li/3b448a6>
- The Treaty of Lisbon (2007) <https://salo.li/4fcC333>

2. Literature

- Bickerton, C. J. (2012). *European Integration: Theories and Practices*. *European Journal of Political Research*, 51(4), 457-471.
- Bickerton, C. J., Hodson, D., & Puetter, U. (2015). *The New Intergovernmentalism: States and Supranational Actors in the Post-Maastricht Era*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Boulanger, P., & Jordan, P. (2014). *The European Union and the World: The External Relations of the European Union*. London: Routledge.
- Börzel, T. A., & Risse, T. (2016). *The European Union and the World: External Policies and Relations*. *International Organization*, 70(4), 1234-1254.
- Börzel, T. A., & Risse, T. (2012). *The European Union and the Governance of Europe*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Caporaso, J. A. (2000). *The European Union and Forms of Regional Governance*. *Journal of European Public Policy*, 7(4), 442-458.
- Dinan, D. (2018). *A Concise History of the European Union*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers.

- Dinan, D. (2014). *Europe Recast: A History of European Union* (2nd ed.). Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers.
- Dinan, D. (2010). *The European Union's Constitutional Treaty: From Crisis to (Partial) Recovery*. *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 48(1), 175-192.
- Featherstone, K., & Radaelli, C. M. (Eds.). (2003). *The Politics of Europeanization*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Hix, S. (2008). *What Can the European Union Do?* *Political Science Quarterly*, 123(3), 469-496.
- Hix, S., & Hoyland, B. (2011). *The Political System of the European Union* (3rd ed.). London: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Kaiser, W., Leucht, B., & Rasmussen, M. (Eds.). (2009). *The History of the European Union: Origins of a Trans- and Supranational Polity, 1950–72*. London: Routledge.
- Kassim, H., Peters, B. G., & Wright, V. (Eds.). (2013). *The European Union and the Member States*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Leucht, B., Seidel, K., & Warlouzet, L. (Eds.). (2023). *Reinventing Europe: The History of the European Union, 1945 to the Present*. London: Bloomsbury Academic.
- Lynch, D. (2017). *The EU and the European Security Crisis*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.
- Lynch, D. (2006). *The European Union and the Middle East: A Shifting Policy Approach*. *International Affairs*, 82(3), 543-558.
- Moravcsik, A. (1998). *The Choice for Europe: Social Purpose and State Power from Messina to Maastricht*. *International Organization*, 52(1), 153-184.
- Piris, J.-C. (2010). *The Lisbon Treaty: A Legal and Political Analysis*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Risse, T. (2005). *European Institutions and Identity Change: The Integration of Eastern Europe in the European Union*. *European Journal of International Relations*, 11(3), 317-347.
- Schmidt, V. A. (2017). *Europe's Crisis: Europe's Crisis and the Perils of a Post-Liberal Order*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Schimmelfennig, F., & Sedelmeier, U. (2004). *Governance by Conditionality: EU Rule Transfer to the Candidate Countries of Central and Eastern Europe*. *Journal of European Public Policy*, 11(4), 661-679.
- Schmitter, P. C. (2000). *How to Democratize the European Union...and Why Bother?* *Journal of Democracy*, 11(4), 44-58.
- Segers, M., & Van Hecke, S. (Eds.). (2023). *The Cambridge History of the European Union*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Tovias, A. (2002). *The European Union as a Model of Regional Integration: The Cases of MERCOSUR and the African Union*. *International Politics*, 39(2), 213-233.
- Wallace, H., Pollack, M. A., & Young, A. R. (Eds.). (2020). *Policy-Making in the European Union* (8th ed.). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

3. Online Resources:

- Europe's World <https://europesworld.org/>
- Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) <https://www.ceps.eu/>
- European Policy Institutes Network (EPIN) <https://epin.org/>
- Institute for European Studies (IES) <https://www.ies.be/>
- Eurostat <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat>
- Eurobarometer <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer>
- European Social Survey (ESS) <https://www.europeansocialsurvey.org/>
- Official Internet Representations of the European Union Institutions https://europa.eu/institutions-law-budget/institutions-and-bodies_en
- Official Website of the European Union https://europa.eu/index_en
- Official Website of the European Council <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/european-council/>
- Official Website of the Council of the EU <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/council-eu/>
- Official Website of the European Commission https://ec.europa.eu/info/index_en
- Official Website of the European Parliament <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/portal/en>

- Official Website of the Court of Justice of the European Union
https://curia.europa.eu/jcms/jcms/j_6/en/
- Official Website of the European Court of Auditors
<https://www.eca.europa.eu/en/Pages/ecadefault.aspx>
- Official Website of the European Economic and Social Committee
<https://www.eesc.europa.eu/en>
- Official Website of the European Committee of the Regions <https://cor.europa.eu/en>
- Official Website of the Delegation of the European Union to Ukraine
https://www.eeas.europa.eu/delegations/ukraine_en
- Official Website of the European External Action Service <https://www.eeas.europa.eu/>
- Official Website of the EU Neighbourhood Info Centre <http://www.enpi-info.eu>
- Online Resource Guide to EU Foreign Policy <http://www.eufp.eu>
- Official Website of the European Ombudsman <https://www.ombudsman.europa.eu/en/home>
- Official Website of Europol <https://www.europol.europa.eu/>