

Study Abroad Programme

The module description below is from the 2019/20 academic year and is subject to change, and for the use of study abroad students only.

Module name	Political Change in Europe
Module code	IP3022
School	School of Arts and Social Sciences
Department or equivalent	International Politics
UK credits	15
ECTS	7.5
Level	6
Delivery location (partnership programmes only)	N/A

MODULE SUMMARY

Module outline and aims

The module examines a broad range of social and political developments and changes taking place in contemporary Europe, with a focus on the process of European integration and a range of political actors and institutions involved. It provides a theoretical and empirical foundation for appreciating different types of strategic and diplomatic considerations, organizations and forms of collective decision-making, with emphasis on the nature of and the policy areas covered by the European Union, in its internal and external relations. It also addresses socio-political phenomena that affect individual European states and offers you the opportunity to apply concepts of sovereignty, national identity, transnationalism and regionalism, studied in other International Politics modules, to contemporary social and political developments in Europe. This elective module also complements aspects of sociological and cultural studies, as well as History and Political Economy.

Educational Aims

To give you critical awareness of the ideas, structural factors, strategic choices, and actors involved in the process of European integration

To give you a theoretical and empirical appreciation of contemporary developments in European international political institutions and policy processes.

To introduce you to academic debates on political change in Europe and the effects such change has had and is having on questions of national sovereignty, identity, and transnational forces.

To analytically consider the interests at play, the strategic and diplomatic considerations, and the mechanisms involved in the functioning of international organizations and nation states in Europe

Content outline: the topics covered will include but are not limited to:

- overview of European history from the two World Wars onward
- an outline of the EC/EU institutions
- European integration and disintegration processes
- Europe as an area of freedom, security and justice
- Europe as a global and normative actor
- EU enlargement and its implications
- aspects of and challenges to European identity (e.g. values, religion, gender, migration, multiculturalism, security)
- national and transnational forms of social and political activism

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WHAT WILL I BE EXPECTED TO ACHIEVE?

On successful completion of this module, you will be expected to be able to:

Knowledge and understanding:

Understand and evaluate the contemporary social, political and economic structure of Europe.

Better understand and evaluate future developments in European politics.

Understand different theoretical approaches to political change and the process of European integration.

Develop a critical understanding of the ideas and assumptions that have shaped and that challenge the notion of European identity.

Appreciate the diversity of political cultures, worldviews, perceptions and interests that characterise different European countries and groups of European citizens and inhabitants of Europe.

Relate evidence to theory and evaluate arguments empirically and theoretically.

Skills:

Understand and evaluate complex arguments.

Be able to find and analyse suitable data to address specific questions.

Dissect, compare and contrast the material under observation.

Demonstrate an accurate exposition and presentation of research findings.

Present clear oral and written communication.

Assess the value and relevance of the ideas of others objectively.

Values and attitudes:

Demonstrate tolerance, expressed as respect for the opinions of colleagues, so that orderly discussion in classes is possible.

Be aware of the differences between the value positions of different political actors and of different religious groups and philosophies.

Be able to engage politely in a conversation and also to disagree in a debate whilst keeping a balanced attitude and avoiding aggressive tones.

Produce an essay indicating precisely and honestly what is your own work and what is attributable to others, so that the offence of plagiarism is not committed.

Show curiosity and not fear to engage with worldviews that are different from yours.

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HOW WILL I LEARN?

Acquisition of knowledge and understanding is promoted through a combination of lectures and interactive classes, encouraging the development of oral and written skills through notes taking, argument development, oral presentations, class discussions. You are encouraged to undertake extensive reading and independent study in order to understand the topics covered in lectures and classes and to broaden and deepen your knowledge of the subject. You also receive feedback during your class participation, during office hours meetings where you are encouraged to discuss your preparation for your assessments, and after your coursework, to encourage you to reflect on what you have produced.

Teaching pattern:

Teaching component	Teaching type	Contact hours (scheduled)	Self-directed study hours (independent)	Placement hours	Total student learning hours
lecture	Lecture	10	40		50
Seminar sessions	Seminar	10	90		100
Totals		20	130		150

WHAT TYPES OF ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK CAN I EXPECT?

Assessments

The assessment includes a combination of an essay of 2500 words and an exam of 2 questions in 2 hours.

Assessment pattern:

Assessment component	Assessment type	Weighting	Minimum qualifying mark	Pass/Fail?
Essay (2500 words)	Written assignment	50%	30	N/A
Exam	Written Exam	50%	30	N/A

Assessment criteria

Assessment Criteria are descriptions of the skills, knowledge or attributes you need to demonstrate in order to complete an assessment successfully and Grade-Related Criteria are descriptions of the skills, knowledge or attributes you need to demonstrate to achieve a certain grade or mark in an assessment. Assessment Criteria and Grade-Related Criteria for module assessments will be made available to you prior to an assessment taking place. More information will be available from the module leader.

Feedback on assessment

Following an assessment, you will be given your mark and feedback in line with the Assessment Regulations and Policy. More information on the timing and type of feedback that will be provided for each assessment will be available from the module leader.

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Assessment Regulations

The Pass mark for the module is 40%. Any minimum qualifying marks for specific assessments are listed in the table above. The weighting of the different components can also be found above. The Programme Specification contains information on what happens if you fail an assessment component or the module.

INDICATIVE READING LIST

M. Cini and Pérez-Solórzano Borragán, eds. (2016) European Union Politics, Oxford: Oxford University Press

J. Peterson, D. Hodson and M. Shackleton, (2017) The Institutions of the European Union, Oxford University Press

D. Dinand (2014) Europe recast: a history of European Union, Palgrave

Featherstone and Radaelli (2001) The Politics of Europeanisation, Oxford: Oxford University Press

Zielonka (2006) Europe as Empire, Oxford: Oxford University Press

Checkel and Katzenstein (2009) European Identity, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Geddes and Scholten (2016) the Politics of Migration and Immigration in Europe, Sage