

University: Comenius University in Bratislava	
Faculty: Faculty of Natural Sciences UK in Bratislava	
Code:	Title of course: European Union Politics
Form of study: lectures, seminars	
Number of contact hours:	
per week: 2 hours of lectures / 1 hour of seminar per level/semester: 36	
Method of Study: <i>face-to-face/distance/hybrid mode</i>	
Number of credits: 3	
Semester: W	
Degree/Level: Master	
Prerequisites: -	
Grading (Assessment/Evaluation)	
1. Written exam (test) – 80 points, 20 questions of 4 points each, including 16 questions to mark an option and 4 questions to write an answer.	
2. Essay – 20 points	
The course has a standardized grading system which is identified below:	
A (91-100%): Outstanding, excellent work (exceptional performance with strong evidence of original thinking and obvious capacity to analyze, synthesize and evaluate); B (81 – 90%): Good, competent work; laudable performance with evidence of some original thinking, good problem solving ability, exhibiting a serious, responsible engagement with the course content;	
C (73 – 80%): Adequate, reasonably satisfactory work; fair performance but infrequent evidence of original thinking or the capacity to analyze, satisfies the minimum requirements of the course;	
D (66 – 72%): Less acceptable work; relatively weak performance with little evidence of original thinking or ability to analyze or synthesize course material; E (60 – 65%): Minimally acceptable work; very weak performance with little evidence of original thinking, showing an inadequate grasp of some basic elements of the course. Fx (under 60%): Inadequate work; poor performance that indicates a lack of understanding or misunderstanding of essential subject matter.	
Objective and outcomes:	
Students will become familiar with the latest knowledge in the field of European affairs by applying the theoretical-methodological and application approaches of comparative political sciences. This specific view of the development, current state and future challenges of European integration will allow students to understand the existing connections between the events on the political scene of individual member countries and the decisive social, economic and political topics of the European Union as a whole. Graduates of the subject will become familiar with the development and current state of the integration process of European countries, the institutional framework of the European community, as well as the key EU treaty base. Special emphasis will be placed on the two largest policies in terms of funding (each covering up to 1/3 of the total EU budget) – the Common Agricultural Policy and the EU Cohesion Policy. The European Union Politics module offers a comprehensive view of the issue of European politics, evaluating the historical context of European integration, the key institutions of the European Union, processes and historical events that influenced the set of its practical policies. The graduate of the subject is able to analyse the context of the historical development concerning the formation of the EU and the current events of European politics, as well as areas of specific policies, with special emphasis on the EU common agricultural policy and the cohesion policy.	
Brief outline of the course:	
<i>Integration process of the European Community</i> political and economic incentives for cooperation, the development of the integration process, the establishment of the European Coal and Steel Community, the European Atomic Energy Community,	

the European Economic Community, the emergence of the European Free Trade Association, the stagnation of the integration process, the Merger Treaty and the first waves of expansion of the European Community, the transition from the European communities to the European Union, the process of enlargement after the establishment of the European Union, BREXIT

Institutions of the European Union

European Parliament (presidium, committees, tasks and competences), European Council (composition, meetings/summits, tasks and competences), Council of the European Union (formations, presidency, tasks and competences, decision-making), European Commission (composition, tasks and competences), Court of Justice of the European Union (Court of Justice, General Court, Civil Service Tribunal), European Central Bank (composition, objectives, tasks and competences), European Court of Auditors (tasks and competences)

Common Agricultural Policy of the European Union

historical development and basic principles of operation (definition, goals, historical development, pillars, principles, financing, price instruments, reforms), current state and future - actors, new CAP 2023-2027 - schedule, budget, areas of reform, strategic plan for member states within the framework of the CAP, the relationship to the European Green Deal and the strategy in the field of biodiversity until 2030, the Farm to Fork strategy

Cohesion policy of the European Union

general characteristics of cohesion policy (regional policy) of the EU, role, classification of EU regions (less developed, transition, more developed), general and thematic goals of regional policy, principles (concentration, partnership, complementarity, subsidiarity, programming), funds (European Regional Development Fund, European Social Fund, Cohesion Fund), financing (budget) of cohesion policy, operational programs in the Slovak Republic, allocation and state of implementation of funds in EU member countries

Recommended literature:

Bache, I., Bulmer, S., George, S. Parker, O. (2015). Politics in the European Union. Fourth Edition. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 604 p. ISBN: 978-0-19-968966-8.

Coman, R., Crespy, A., Schmidt, V. (2020). Governance and Politics in the Post-Crisis European Union. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 444 p. ISBN: 978-1108711777.

Hancock, M. D. (2015) Politics in Europe [6th ed.]. Los Angeles: Sage, 794 p. ISBN: 978-14-5224-146-3.

Lielieveldt, H., Princen, S. (2013). The Politics of the European Union. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 313 p. ISBN-10: 0521740118 ISBN-13: 978-0521740111.

MacGregor Pelikánová, R. (2014). Selected current aspects and issues of european integration. Ostrava: KEY Publishing, 187 p. ISBN 978-80-7418-226-6

McCormick, J. (2011). European Union Politics. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 468 p. ISBN: 978-0-230-57707-7, ISBN10: 0-230-57707-5.

Language of instruction:

English

Additional information: The course will be conducted in face-to-face or distance (or hybrid) mode according to current conditions.

Course evaluation

Total number of students evaluated:

A	B	C	D	E	FX
a	b	c	d	e	f

Lecturers/Instructors:

RNDr. Martin Plešivčák, PhD.

Last updated: 21. April 2023

Approved by: prof. RNDr. Ján Buček, CSc.