

# **Introduction to the European Union**

## **Online Course**

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The purpose of the course is to introduce the European Union (EU). Originally formed in 1957 by six nations, the EU is currently composed of twenty-seven countries from Western and Central Europe. The goal of European unity is not a recent innovation, having existed at least since the time of Charlemagne, but a commitment to cooperate did not become a priority until after World War II when hesitation about relinquishing certain aspects of national sovereignty was overridden by the war's devastation. The authority of the EU evolved slowly through a series of treaty agreements to encompass a complex network of social, political, and economic responsibilities. In the process, an elaborate structure of institutions developed to manage the EU's expanding range of activities.

Three issues remain unresolved about the EU's future:

- the degree to which political-rather than merely economic-unity will be accomplished;
- the impact enlargement will have on the operation of the EU; and
- the challenge, if any, to the United States that will be posed by the collective strength of the EU's member states.

It has clearly become important for American students to know and understand the EU. The course incorporates historical, political, sociological, and economic considerations in studying the EU in order to appreciate the magnitude of what is being attempted.

### **Outcomes and Goals:**

On quizzes, in graded class discussions, and on exams, students will demonstrate knowledge of:

- the historical origins and development of the EU;
- the EU's governing institutions;
- the EU's policy-making processes;
- current EU policies and issues; and
- EU-USA relations.

Aside from acquiring knowledge about the EU, students will be challenged to sharpen writing, analytical, technological, and communication skills.

### **Grading:**

A total of 1000 points will be available.

- For each of the eight modules, students are expected to read the lectures and complete a timed quiz worth 50 points. (8x50=400).
- Each module will be associated with a discussion board. Participation is mandatory and will be graded. Each discussion is worth 25 points. (10x25=200).
- After Module 4 and before Module 5, students will complete a midterm exam worth 200 points.
- After Module 8, students will complete a final exam worth 200 points.

*LATE ASSIGNMENTS ARE NOT ACCEPTED!*

### **Participation:**

Participation in discussions is absolutely necessary. However, participation must be prefaced with knowledge of the material. Therefore, make sure you know what you're talking about when you post in discussion boards. Do not attack others on a personal level; any person misbehaving in discussion will receive a zero and be barred from further participation in that week's discussion. A second banning offence will result in prohibition from all further discussion boards. Students who are banned from future discussions will be allowed to complete a 4000-5000 word paper for each future discussion from which they are banned.

**Plagiarism, fabrication, and cheating:**

It is university policy that plagiarism, fabrication, and cheating are not allowed. Cheating is using information obtained in forbidden ways during an examination, including furnishing that information to another student. Cheating will result in a zero on the examination. Fabrication is intentionally falsifying facts to support your conclusions. Fabrication will result in a failing grade on the assignment. Finally, plagiarism includes purchasing ghost-written papers and reports, or using ideas and information obtained from another person without giving crediting your course in an essay or term paper.. Further, inclusion of the published or unpublished writings of another person without duly noting these sources according to normal scholarly procedures shall be considered plagiarism.

**If you plagiarize, you will fail this course.**

**Other expectations:**

You are expected to log in to the website before the course begins to make sure your login works, and to introduce yourselves. **THIS MUST BE COMPLETED BY AUGUST 31.**

**Module List:**

For each module, you should:

- complete the lecture
- complete the quiz
- participate in the week's discussion

These should be completed in this order.

Modules must be completed in order. Each has a start date and an end date and ***they cannot be completed early or late.*** The course begins the first week of September and ends mid-November. There is **NO FALL BREAK** since all the system schools have scheduled spring break at different times.

Dates	Module	Due date
September 1 - September 8	One	30 minute timed quiz due by September 8: midnight Ongoing Discussion closed September 8: midnight
September 9 - September 15	Two	30 minute timed quiz due by September 15: midnight Ongoing Discussion closed September 15: midnight
September 16 - September 22	Three	30 minute timed quiz due by September 22: midnight Ongoing Discussion closed September 22: midnight
September 23 - September 29	Four	30 minute timed quiz due by September 29: midnight Ongoing Discussion closed September 29: midnight
<b>September 30 - October 6</b>	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>	<b>90 minute timed midterm due October 6: midnight</b>
October 7 - October 13	Five	30 minute timed quiz due by October 13: midnight Ongoing Discussion closed October 13: midnight
October 14 - October 20	Six	30 minute timed quiz due by October 20: midnight Ongoing Discussion closed October 20: midnight
October 21 - October 27	Seven	30 minute timed quiz due by October 27: midnight Ongoing Discussion closed October 27: midnight
October 28 - November 3	Eight	30 minute timed quiz due by November 3: midnight Ongoing Discussion closed November 3: midnight
<b>November 4 - November 10</b>	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>	<b>2 hour timed final due November 10: midnight</b>