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| Study Course Title | <i>Fundamentals of the EU</i> |
| Study Course Code | PolZ4004 |
| Credits | 2 |
| European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System Credits | 3 |
| Total Number of Contact Hours | 32 |
| Number of Lecture Hours | 20 |
| Number of hours for seminars | 12 |
| | |
| Course Developer | |
| Dmitrijs Oļehnovičs | |
| There is no prerequisite knowledge required for this course | |
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| Study Course Abstract | |
| <p>The aim of the course is to provide an objective description of the European Union's history, institutions and policies, as well as to provide insight into the post-war concept of the Western development, development dilemmas (globalization vs. glocalization; centralization vs. particularization; NATO vs. Economic Cooperation) and the basic stages of the development of EU. During the course of the studies the information on the EU political systems, regimes and peculiarities is provided, an analysis on the current political situation is carried out; an insight into the operation of the EU institutions is provided.</p> | |
| Course Plan | |
| <p>Lecture topics (20 h):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Realist and idealist conception of international relations and the world order determiners after World War II. The objective factors of the globalisation. 2. The historical course and motives of the European politics and economic integration. 3. The course and expansion of the European Community and European Union contracting. 4. Political and non-political instruments of the European Community and the EU policy-making. 5. The EU's organizational structure and institutions. 6. The EU and the EC decision-making procedures. 7. The EU Council of Ministers and the European Commission. 8. The EU, the European Parliament, the functions and basic principles. Latvian members of the European Parliament. 9. The EU Committee of the Regions and the Economic and Social Committee. 10. The EU and the Western European Union collaboration sphere. <p>Seminar topics (12 h):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The economic and political consequences of World War II for Europe. 2. P.Šīmanis and the "European problem." 3. Robert Schuman's and European visions of the future. | |

4. European Coal and Steel Community.
5. The European Economic Community.
6. The European Atomic Energy Community.
7. The EU treaties and expansions.
8. Schengen and Maastricht treaties.
9. The Treaty of Lisbon.
10. Supranational, national and local policy-making level differences in the EU.
11. The global economic recession.
12. Global economics and the EU.
13. Russia and EU sanction wars.
14. The alternatives for the development of the EU.
15. BREXIT and the Great Britain "issue".

Students' independent work: During the course of the semester the student has to prepare a presentation (duration 30 min) on one of the seminar topics. In some cases the student may suggest any topic of their own choice. During the presentation other students must actively participate in discussions.

Learning Outcomes

Students improve their knowledge on the challenges concerning the development of the EU:

1. are acquainted with the major categories of the comparative political science, EU's development stages and objectives;
2. are able to analytically and critically assess the international and regional political developments, discuss factors of globalization;
3. understand the internal and external factors that influence inner and foreign politics of the EU; 4. are able to discuss the country's development alternatives, the personality poles in politics and the place of an individual in the politics.

Requirements for Awarding Credits

Differentiated test (theoretical) - 50%, participation in seminars, preparation and presentation of presentations- 50%.

Course content

Global and regional organizations. Relations between models. The historical course and motives of the European politics and economic integration. EU institutions and their scope. European integration process of Latvian. EU development challenges.

Compulsory Reading List

1. Ašmanis, M. Politikas terminu vārdnīca. Rīga, 1999.
2. Goodman, S.F. The European Union. Macmillan. 1996.
3. Nugent, N. The Government and Politics of the European Union. Palgrave Macmillan. 2003.
4. Ikstens, J. Politikas pamati. Rīga, 2001. (vai citi izdevumi)
5. Kudors, A. et.al. "Humanitarian Dimension" of Russian Foreign Policy toward Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, and the Baltic States. 2010.
<http://politika.lv/index.php?f=1571>
6. Rokasgrāmata praktiskam darbam ar Eiropas Savienības jautājumiem. Latvijas Republikas Ārlietu ministrija, 2010.gads <http://rokasgramata.am.gov.lv>
7. Fuzunda, K., Aniba, H. European Governman After Nice. London: Routledge Curzon, 2003.

8. Warleigh, A. Democracy in the European Union. Sage Publications. 2003.
9. Latvijas integrācija Eiropas Savienībā. Rīga, 2003.,
10. Janova, K. Lēmumu pieņemšanas process ES. Latvijas iespējas. Rīga, 2003.
11. ŠreTERS, H.I. Eiropas Savienības leksikons. Rīga: Jumava, 2004.

Further Reading List

1. Ābols, G. Kāpēc Eiropa? Rīga, 1997
2. Birkavs, V. Latvija, Eiropa, pasaule: ārpolitikas problēmas, trešo gadu tūkstoši sagaidot. Latvijas vēsture. - 1999. - Nr.33
3. Alternatīva. Politikas zinātnes jautājumi. V. Rīga, 2007.
4. Chernilo, D. A Social Theory of the Nation-State. The Political Forms of Modernity beyond Methodological Nationalism. London: Routledge, 2007.
5. Chesters, G., Welsh, I. Complexity and Social Movements. Multitudes at the Edge of Chaos. London: Routledge, 2007.
6. Grundmann, R., Stehr, N., eds. Society. London: Routledge, 2008.
7. Hayward, J.E.S. Elitism, Populism, and European Politics. Clarendon Press, 1996.
8. Integrācija un etnopolitika / E. Vēbera red. Rīga, 2000.
9. Lane, R. Political Science in Theory and Practice. The Politics' Model. New York, etc., 1997.
10. Latvija eiropēizācijas krustceļos / Ž. Ozoliņas un T. Tisenkopfa redakcijā. Rīga, 2005.
11. Latvija 2020. Nākotnes izaicinājumi sabiedrībai un valstij. Rīga, 2008.
12. Pettigrew, A.M. The Politics of Organizational Decision Making. Oxford University Press, 2008.
13. Scheuerman, W.E. Frankfurt School Perspectives on Globalization, Democracy, and the Law. London: Routledge, 2007.
14. Wallace, H. Europeanisation and Globalisation: Complimentary or Contradictory Trends? // New Political Economy, Vol.5, 2000, No 3, pp. 369–382.
15. Fukuyama, F. The End of History and the Last Man. Free Press, 1992.
16. Fukuyama, F. Our Posthuman Future: Consequences Of The Biotechnology Revolution. International Creative Management, 2002. Pp. 7-12.
17. Gellner, E. Nations and Nationalism. Blackwall Publishing. 2006. Pp.19-34.

Periodicals and Other Sources

Laikraksti: Diena, Neatkarīgā Rīta Avīze, Latvijas Avīze
Žurnāli: Sociālo Zinātņu Vēstnesis (DU SZF SPI žurnāls), Latvijas Zinātņu Akadēmijas Vēstnesis, Acta Universitatis Latviensis, Social Indicators Research, International Politics

ES organizācijas:

1. <http://europa.eu.int>
2. <http://europa.eu>
3. <http://www.osce.org>
4. <http://www.eib.lv>
5. <http://www.eirokustiba.lv>
6. <http://www.coe.fr>
7. <http://www.eiropainfo.lv>

Citi e-resursi:

1. www.politika.lv
2. www.soczin.times.lv
3. <http://www.citapolitika.lv/>

4. www.dialogi.lv

5. www.cvk.lv

6. www.saeima.lv

7. <http://www.globalaffairs.ru/numbers/>

8. <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/> 9. <http://www.mk.gov.lv/>