

**Code**

POL3001

ECTS-credits

7.5

Organisational unit

Center for European Studies

Coordinator

M. Heckman

Description

POL3001 - International Relations and Politics in the European Union - Peace, conflicts and human rights

The European Union started in 1951 as an attempt to prevent a new World-war in Europe. No other region has displayed similar willingness to give up important parts of national sovereignty in pursuit of a stronger global competitive positioning.

The European Union keeps pressuring the integration-process at a pace which is too fast for some and too slow for others. This integration has a direct impact on the daily lives of all citizens in Europe. The accession of the new Central and Eastern European Member-States poses new challenges for the EU. The East-West labour migration, which is driven by wage differentials creates both opportunities and problems. The free movement of people, and the current refugee crisis, has strained social welfare-systems in some of the richer Member-States. Political pressures and the credibility of the EU integration system question the present forms of integration. Pressure such as Brexit, the Eurozone crisis and the related high-unemployment figures make national sovereignty more attractive for some voters.

The course offers a comprehensive coverage of the key political and economic policy areas of the European Union with analysis of the different approaches to regional integration throughout the history of the European Union. The course analyses the historical, political and economic bases for the rise of the European Union from its origins in the post-World War II recovery, to its historic enlargement in 2004 and 2007. Most of the present tensions inside the EU directly relate to the economic integration process and reflect on all other fields of European integration.

Further attention is paid to the protection of human rights within the European integration process. A comparison between the European and UN-framework for the protection of human rights will be made and practically applied to specific cases.

The course will give students an in-depth look at the European legal, economic and political landscape. The course contains academic classes around these themes, as well as field trips to a number of relevant institutions.

This intensive 3 week, 36 hour course includes:

- Weekend excursion to Brussels (visit to the European Parliament and European Commission to be confirmed)
- Weekend excursion to The Hague and Amsterdam (visits to the International Criminal Court and to the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia to be confirmed)

Disclaimer trips: trips and visits related to the course are conditional. E.g. Dutch travel advice should be positive regarding the region that will be visited and institutions should be able to accept visitors. In case a proposed trip or visit cannot continue due to circumstances, alternatives may be organized.

Disclaimer ECTS: the number of ECTS credits earned after successfully concluding this course is the equivalent of 7,5 ECTS credits respectively according to Maastricht University's guidelines. Please consult with your home university if these credits will be accepted as part of your programme and, if necessary, converted to the credit system acknowledged by your home university.

Goals

By the end of this course:

- Students will be able to describe the current European legal and political landscape.
- Students will be able to summarize aspects of the history of the European Union.
- Students will be able to analyze the current key issues the European Union is facing today.
- Students will be able to compare the institutions that have jurisdiction over European legal and human rights issues.
- Students will be able to reflect on these institutions strengths and weaknesses.
- Students will be able to discuss cultural differences in Europe.
- Students will be able to understand the economic and political logic behind the EU integration.
- Students will be able to review the EU's legal system and main legal principles guiding the economic integration, and describe the legislative processes.
- Students can understand the political and economic framework of the decision-making inside the EU.
- Students should be able to understand the various forms of market-integration in-depth.
- Students can understand the choice and benefits of the Economic and Monetary Union-concept.
- Students can address the current challenges facing the EU, including the accession of new Member-States.
- Students are able to understand the underlying principles of the Common Foreign and Security Policy.
- Students can address the finer details of the EU policy in the field of Justice and Home affairs.
- Students understand the functioning of the Council of Europe and the legal protection offered by the European Convention on Human Rights.

- Students can evaluate the impact of the development of the inner and outer circle movement in European politics.
- Students can explain the influence of national political processes on major EU projects (e.g. Economic & Monetary Union).

Instruction language

EN

Prerequisites

The course is ideal for students studying international relations, history and politics, but students should note that the course does contain quite a bit of content on economic and legal issues. This means that the course may also be appropriate for economics and business students with an interest in the European Union, or law students in combined degrees with a focus on international relations.

Recommend literature

The main book that is used in the course is: 'The European Union', by Susan Senior Nello (McGraw-Hill 3rd ed). Students also read a collection of articles, websites and original EU Treaty texts. CES students receive their book on loan from CES.

Teaching methods

Lectures • Papers • Working Visits

Assessment methods

Final paper • Mid-term exam • Final written exam • Participation

POL3001 - International Relations and Politics in the European Union - Peace, conflicts and human rights

Course Manual



Center for European Studies
Maastricht University
Maastricht, The Netherlands

Center for European Studies



Introduction

International Relations and Politics in the European Union

The European Union started in 1951 as an attempt to prevent a new World-war in Europe. No other region has displayed similar willingness to give up important parts of national sovereignty in pursuit of a stronger global competitive positioning.

The European Union keeps pressuring the integration-process at a pace, which is too fast for some and too slow for others. This integration has a direct impact on the daily lives of all citizens in Europe. The supranational integration process has unique features:

- The EU can pass legislation, in many cases even if its Member-States are not unanimous
 - EU law is binding and automatically overrules conflicting national law
 - The Court of Justice of the EU can give rulings originating in national courts.
- The Council of Europe is often confused with the EU and deals with one of the most significant international instruments of its kind: the European Convention on Human Rights. It has its own court, the European Court for the Protection of Human Rights and includes the right of individual petition.

The accession of the new Central and eastern European Member-States poses new challenges for the EU. The East-West labour migration, which is driven by wage differentials, creates both opportunities and problems. The free movement of people has strained social welfare-systems in some of the richer Member-States. Political pressures and the credibility of the EU integration system question the present forms of integration. The euro-crisis and the related high-unemployment figures make a further limiting of national sovereignty for some voters unattractive.



Course Content & Structure

The course offers a comprehensive coverage of the key political and economic policy areas of the European Union with analysis of the different approaches to regional integration throughout the history of the European Union. The course analyzes the historical, political and economic bases for the rise of the European Union from its origins in the post-World war II recovery to its historic enlargement in 2004, 2007 and 2013. Most of the present tensions inside the EU directly relate to the economic integration process and reflect on all other fields of European integration.

Further attention is paid to the protection of human rights within the European integration process. A comparison between the European and UN-framework for the protection of human rights will be made and practically applied to specific cases.

The main topics will be discussed in historic order:

- Introduction to the EU
- History of EU/Integration
- International and European Human Rights Law
- The institutional-framework
- The four basic freedoms
- Legal aspects of the Economic and Monetary Union
- The EU competition law
- The Council of Europe and ECHR
- The accession of new member states
- The cooperation between EU Member-States in the field of Justice and Safety
- The future of European integration: EU on the way to a political union?
- EU Common Foreign and Security Policy; cases and analysis
- Coercive and peaceful settlement in Europe
- Multinational Enterprises and Human rights



2013 Map of the European Union, including the newest member state: Croatia. [Source: http://www.nationsonline.org/oneworld/europe_map.htm].

Objectives

By the end of this course:

- Students will be able to understand the economic and political logic behind the EU integration.
- Students will be able to review the EU's legal system and main legal principles guiding the economic integration, and describe the legislative processes.
- Students can understand the political and economic framework of the decision-making inside the EU.
- Students should be able to understand the various forms of market-integration in-depth.
- Students can understand the choice and benefits of the Economic and Monetary Union-concept and the reasons for the present euro-crisis and its impact on national elections.
- Students can address the current challenges facing the EU, including the accession of new Member-States, and the resulting migration of people of East to West.
- Students are able to understand the underlying principles of the Common Foreign and Security Policy.
- Students can address the finer details of the EU policy in the field of Justice and Home affairs.

Assessment

Course specific assessment overview

Your final grade consists of the following components:

Type of Assessment	Main topics	Percent of final grade
1. Mid-term exam – Open essay questions	Topics covered until the mid-term	20%
2. Final exam- Open essay questions	Cumulative (including guest lectures)	35%
3. Final paper 2000-2500 words	Topics to be given during the course	35%
4. Participation	Preparation and active class participation will be graded	10%

1+2 Mid-term and Final exam

The open essay questions should be answered by elaborated answers. Please discuss all the relevant material related to the question. Do not give brief, short answers.

3 Final paper

You will receive a list of topics from your professor during the course. You will be required to find literature which will be listed in a bibliography at the end of the paper.

How to use and refer to the literature

Firstly, you should concentrate on analysing the chosen text and readings. However, you are also encouraged to use additional literature, as available at the University library or from the internet.

If you quote directly (from the text) or indirectly (referring to the contents of a text), you should indicate this clearly, stating author, title, editor, date of print and page-number(s). Additionally you need to list all literature used for your paper (primary and secondary) at the end of your paper.

IMPORTANT: please use the [APA guidelines](#) for quotes and references. Please also refer to the University Library's [Endnote](#) page and [Copyright Information Point](#) for more information on how to avoid plagiarism and the proper use of citations.

All submitted papers will be checked with an anti-plagiarism programme. In cases where (parts of) the paper clearly come from someone else's work and or the internet and are not quoted as such, sanctions will be taken. Depending on the severity of plagiarism, sanctions will go from taking a certain percentage off the final grade to full failure of the course (please also refer to the CES Student Handbook for more information).

Please note: sanctions

An additional 5% of the final grade will be taken off for every 24-hour delay. There is a 10% allowance either side of the word count. Any more or less than 10% may result in further deductions to the final grade.

How to hand in papers

IMPORTANT: Please make sure that your paper adheres to all necessary requirements before handing it in to avoid sanctions. There is an example CES paper template available via the Student Portal for your information.

4 Participation

You are expected to attend all classes and be on time. Part of your final grade will be determined by how well you are **prepared**. You are expected to **actively** engage in the discussions. Only being present is not enough to pass your participation.



Europe Monument Maastricht: Stars of Europe by architect Maura Biava

Resit

Students are entitled to a resit if they receive a failing final grade (5.4 or lower) and have made a significant attempt at all assessment. It is not permitted to do a resit in order to get a better grade if a student has already completed the course with a passing grade. After a resit, the highest grade will be considered the final grade. For example, if a student obtained a 5.3 as their original final grade and then received a 4.7 for the resit, the transcript will list 5.3 as the final grade for the course.

The resit examination is only available for students who have complied with the compulsory attendance requirement. Resits must take place within the same academic year as the initial exam and are made at the discretion of the professor and Board of Examiners. When assessment is incomplete and no grade can be assigned (for example when students fail to do either the mid-term or the final exam), NG (no grade) will be awarded which automatically constitutes a fail.

The resit consists of an extensive take home exam and a paper on a topic to be discussed with the teacher (minimum 3500 words, maximum 4400 words), which will each count for 50% of the final grade. Please adhere to the general CES paper guidelines. The deadline for the resit will be 3 weeks from the day that the student received the assignments.

Please note that the resit can only take place after the final grade is determined.

Attendance rules

Course specific attendance rules

This course is interactive and each class builds on the previous ones. Active participation is a prerequisite for this course and you are expected to be on time. 100% Attendance is required. The professor notes attendance at the start of each meeting. In order to be registered as 'present' students need to be on time and participate in an active manner. Students who are more than 15 minutes late or who leave before the meeting has officially ended will be registered as absent.

CES courses may include field trips. Field trips may contribute to the overall grade of a course and are always mandatory. In case of absence due to illness or other personal circumstances, students are required to email the professor and programme coordinator before the start of the meeting. The written notification should include the students name and a brief description of the reason or cause and the expected duration of the absence.

In case of longer absence, the programme coordinator may require additional proof of the cause of the absence, for example a doctor's note. When the student returns, he/she must report to the programme coordinator during the first day he/she has returned. CES cannot be held responsible if a student fails a course due to long term absence, even if this absence is due to illness or other exceptional personal circumstances.

Make up assignment

Students who miss 1 or 2 hours of class or who have missed a field trip will not have met the attendance requirements of a CES course and can apply for a make-up assignment to comply with the CES attendance requirements. Students who miss more than 2 hours of class automatically fail the course.

The student is required to submit a written request to ces-educationoffice@maastrichtuniversity.nl within 3 days after the missed meeting. The CES Board of Examiners will decide upon the validity of the reasons given. The CES professor determines the nature and volume of the assignment, which will be proportional to the number of missed meetings and the topics discussed. Make up assignments related to missed field trips may require students to do the excursion independently and at their own expense. The assignment must be completed and submitted to the CES professor via email within 10 working days.

The responsible CES professor will grade the make-up assignment with a pass or fail. Students who receive a pass for the make-up assignment will have met the attendance requirement. No final grade can be awarded for courses in which students have not met the attendance requirement. This will result in a 'No Grade (NG)' on the transcript. An NG automatically constitutes a fail and no credit is awarded.

Literature

Main literature

You will receive your book from CES at the start of the course. Please note that this book is on loan for a refundable deposit of €30. You will get your deposit back at the end of the course provided you return the book in good shape, not written in or highlighted.

We will use the following book in this course:

- *EU Law Directions* by author Nigel Foster (2016, OUP, 5th ed).

More about the book:

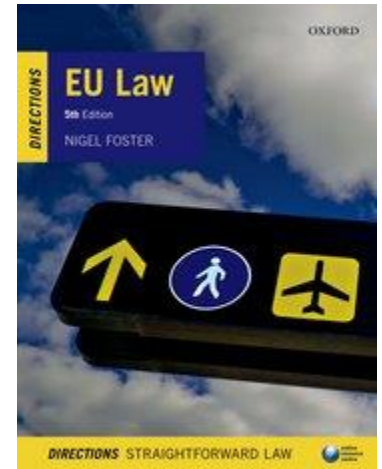
With a readable and modern writing style, *EU Law Directions* clearly explains the key topics and developments in this fast-paced and influential subject area. No previous knowledge is assumed, making this the ideal text for those approaching EU law for the first time. With 30 years' experience teaching and examining EU law, Nigel Foster provides a student-friendly text which is readable without compromising on academic quality.

The text is easy-to-follow with useful features throughout such as case summaries, key definitions and diagrams. Cross-references and end of chapter summaries demonstrate how topics link together and enable students to quickly build up a comprehensive understanding of EU Law. The text is clearly broken down into logical sections, guiding students through institutional, procedural, substantive and competition law. The 5th edition offers reworked and revised coverage of free movement of persons and the UK referendum on Europe.

This text is also accompanied by a **free Online Resource Centre**

(http://global.oup.com/uk/orc/law/eu/foster_directions5e/) which includes the following features: - An interactive timeline showing the key moments in EU legal history - An interactive map illustrating the development of the EU and providing essential background knowledge - Self-test questions with instant feedback - Video clips from the European Commission - Suggested approaches to end of chapter questions - Study and exam tips - Updates to the law - Useful weblinks. Make sure to use it!

The book should be studied in combination with the notes made in class. The exam will be based on both.



Pre-readings and preparation

As an introduction to the course, you are required to read the materials below before the start of the course:

1. Philippe Boillat, The European Convention on Human Rights at 60: Building on the Past, Looking to the Future
2. Tăbușcă Silvia, The Evolution of Human Right Protection within the EU Legal System
3. European Convention on Human Rights, available at http://www.echr.coe.int/Documents/Convention_ENG.pdf
4. Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union, available at http://www.europarl.europa.eu/charter/pdf/text_en.pdf

Treaties of the European Union

Next to the book, it is important to download and –when applicable- read and refer to the text of the main treaties of the European Union:

- the Treaty on the European Union (TEU)
- the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU)

You can find them online by following the links below:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:C:2012:326:FULL&from=EN>

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:C:2008:115:0013:0045:EN:PDF>

Additional online resources

Because the European Union changes rapidly and constantly, just reading the book will not give you adequate information about the most recent developments. In addition to reading chapters from the book, you will be expected to follow EU news and developments on a daily basis.

The following websites are highly recommended:

EU portal site: <http://europa.eu> with information on topics like:

- European history: https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/history_en
- European institutions: https://europa.eu/european-union/about-eu/institutions-bodies_en
- Free European documents: https://europa.eu/european-union/documents-publications/official-documents_en

Other websites with useful news, information and resources about the EU:

- European Navigator (digital library - multimedia references on the history of Europe): <http://www.ena.lu/>
- Euractive: <https://www.euractiv.com/>
- Robert Schuman foundation: <https://www.robert-schuman.eu/en/>
- Eurotopics – selection of news from European newspapers (German website in English): <https://www.eurotopics.net/en/>
- BBC news on Europe: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/default.stm>
- European Magazine “Café Babel”: <https://cafebabel.com/en/>



Robert Schuman (1886-1963) - Founding father of the European Union, the Council of Europe and the NATO

Overview of classes

Overview of topics per meeting

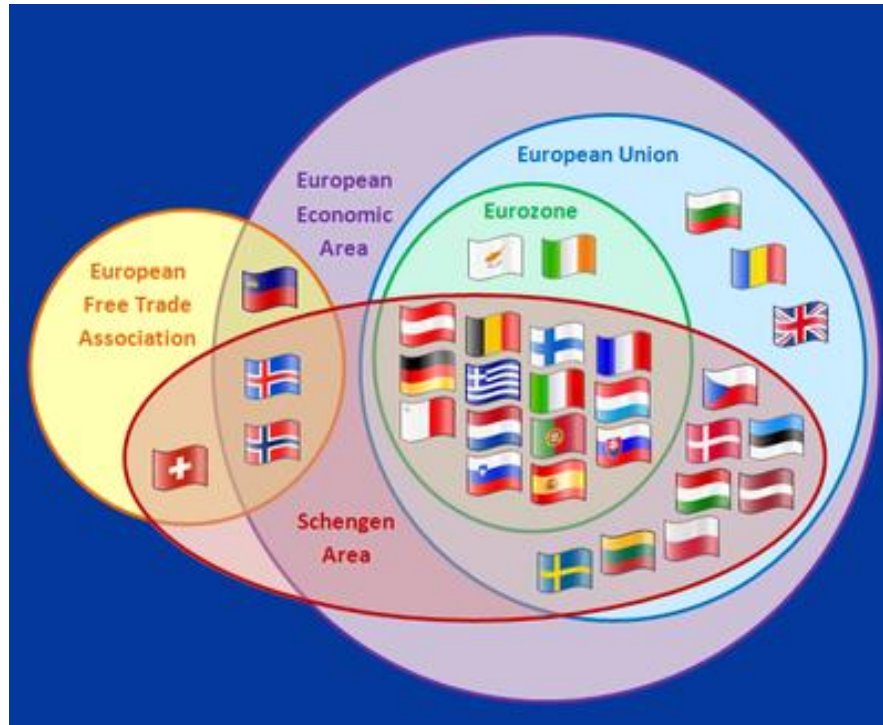
Meeting 1	Introduction to the EU
Meeting 2	History of EU / Integration
Meeting 3	Institutional framework
Meeting 4	Four basic freedoms
Meeting 5	Legal aspects of the Economic and Monetary Union /Competition Law
Meeting 6	EU refugee crisis
Study trip	Brussels
Meeting 7	Case studies
Meeting 8	Discussing / solving cases
Meeting 9	Brexit
Meeting 10	Mid-term exam
Meeting 11	Guest lecture
Meeting 12	Guest lecture
Study trip	The Hague and Amsterdam
	DAY OFF
Meeting 13	Guest lecture
Meeting 14	Guest lecture
Meeting 15	Accession of new member states
Meeting 16	Cooperation between EU Member-States in the field of Justice and Safety
Meeting 17	Discussing / solving cases
Meeting 18	Final Exam

Preparation

Your professor will inform you how you should prepare for each class. You are required to read the recommended chapters before the start of the class. Additional reading is strongly recommended in order to further grasp the presented concepts and enhance understanding of the material presented during the course.

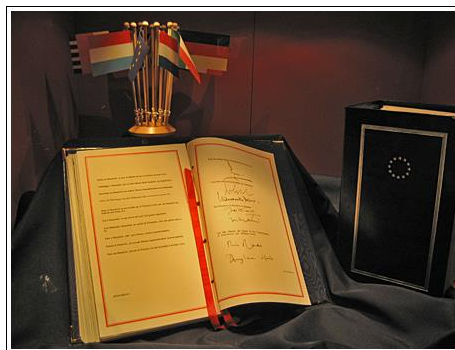
Meeting 1

- Topic: Introduction to the EU
- Discussion points:
 - the difference between the terms EEC, EC and EU
 - how the membership of the EU has changed over the years
 - what we mean by integration, and its various stages
 - what is the 'acquis communautaire'?



Meeting 2

- Topic: History of EU/Integration
- Discussion points:
 - Principal objectives and policies set out in the Treaty of Rome
 - The importance of the 1969 Hague summit
 - The years of euro-sclerosis in the 1970's
 - The Single European Act, the Treaty of Maastricht, the European Neighbourhood Policy, the Lisbon Strategy



Authentic Treaty of the European Union, more commonly known as the Treaty of Maastricht (1992)

Meeting 3

- Topic: Institutional framework
- Discussion points:
 - What are the main decision-making institutions of the EU
 - The tasks and powers of the Commission, the European Council, the Council of Ministers, the EP and the Court of Justice
 - What do we mean by "differentiated integration"
 - The debate of the future architecture of European integration



Flow of Power within the European Union

Please note: Meetings 4, 5 and 6 have an economic focus. Students need a basic understanding of these topics in order to discuss the subjects that follow in later meetings!

Meeting 4

- Topic: Four basic freedoms
- Discussion points:
 - The main forms of non-tariff barrier protection still used inside the EU
 - How important the SEA was in the integration process
 - The difficulties encountered in the liberalization of services in the EU, in particular, in areas such as financial markets and air transport

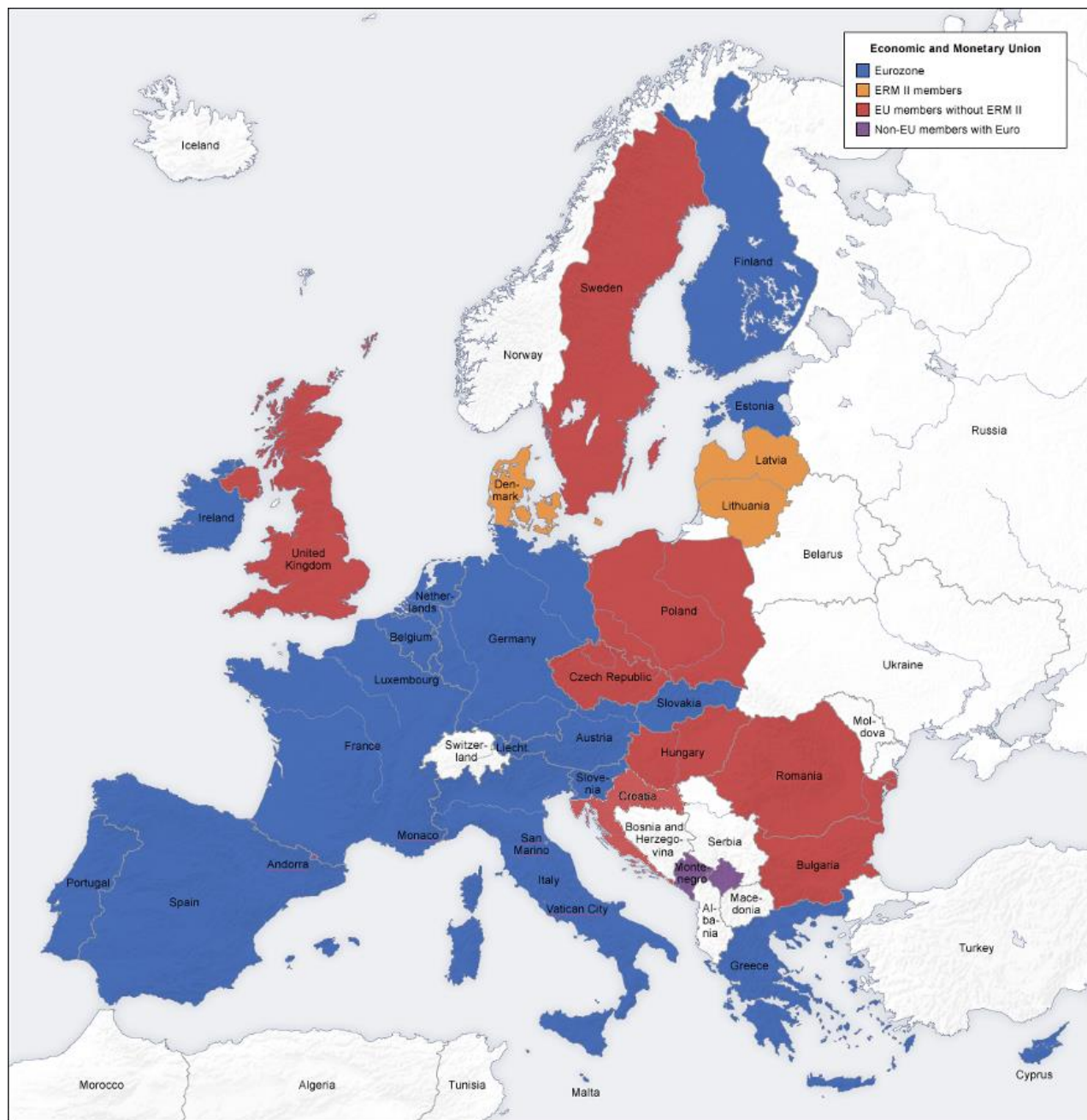
Meeting 5

- Topic: Monetary Integration/EMU
- Discussion points:
 - What do we mean by the “snake in the tunnel”
 - What were the main features of the European Monetary System
 - The Stability and Growth Pact
 - The convergence criteria of the Treaty of Maastricht
 - How is the role of the euro in the international financial system evolving
 - The functioning of hedging by multinational enterprises
 - Present political discussions on the EMU
 - Greece: a test for EU integration
 - Relevant case-study: European commercial banks

- Topic: EU Competition Law
- Discussion points:
 - The ways in which distortions in competition may undermine the integration process
 - The main features of the Community antitrust policy
 - What measures are used by the EU to prevent abuse of state aids on the part of national governments
 - The Community policy on public procurement
 - The reasons for and the evolution of the EU industrial policy

Meeting 6

- Topic: Refugee crisis in the EU
- Discussion points:
 - Discussion of the present challenges of the refugee movement towards and inside the European
 - Inner vs. Outer circle
 - The original frame-work
 - German policy in relations to asylum seekers



European Union EMU map 2013.

[Source: http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:European_union_emu_map_2013_en.png]

Meeting 7

- Topic: Case studies. The case studies will require the students to apply the prior knowledge to specific situations. During the discussion of the case studies, both the content but also the proper way of case-solving and reasoning will be discussed.
- Discussion point: Students have to solve cases during the lecture. The case-studies will be discussed at the end of the lecture

Meeting 8

- Topic: Discussing / solving cases

Meeting 9

- Brexit: The origins and background of the Brexit referendum
- Possible consequences of Brexit in an European and International perspective
- Discussion points: Access to the Single Market, WTO membership and the Most-Favoured Nations Treatment, and the relation between common law and civil law systems.



European Court of Human Rights (L) and Council of Europe (R) in Strasbourg, France

Meeting 10

- MID-TERM EXAM

Meeting 11+12

- Guest lecture
- Topic: Human Rights in Europe

Discussion points:

- The importance of the European Convention of Human Rights (ECHR)
- The role of the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)
- Criticism of the ECtHR
- Case law discussion

Meeting 13 + 14

- Guest lecture
- Topic: Human Rights in the EU and the relationship with the ECHR

Discussion points:

- Evolution of the concept of 'human rights' in the EU
- What tools does the European Union use to protect human rights?
- The role of the Court of Justice of the EU (CJEU)
- What is the relationship between the EU and the ECHR systems of human rights protection?
- Current challenges and future perspectives

Please note: Guest lectures will require additional reading. The readings will be provided to you in advance via Student Portal.

Meeting 15

- Topic: Accession of new member states
- Discussion points:
 - Where are we in the EU enlargement process
 - How the theory of clubs has been used to analyse the question of EU enlargement
 - What measures were introduced by Western countries to assist the transition process in Central and Eastern European countries (CEECs) and with what success
 - The practical consequences for businesses of the accession of the new Member-States
 - Theory of the enlargement-triangle
 - Foreign Direct Investment in the CEEC

Meeting 16

- Topic: Cooperation between EU Member-States in the field of Justice and Safety
- Discussion points: Europol and the future of cooperation in the field of criminal law in Europe

Meeting 17

- Topic: Discussing/solving cases

Meeting 18

- FINAL EXAM